

The Way of Escape

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

We constantly have to deal with temptation. It is ever present yet different for each of us. My temptations may not be your temptations. But as varied as they are, it is temptation that results in sin. We have faced temptation in the past; we will face it in the future. We have fallen to it in the past; it should be in our hearts to resolve to know victory over it in the future. What is the path to victory over temptation?

Means of Temptation

Temptation is an inward solicitation resulting from an outward test. Life is full of tests.

Temptation wants to overtake you, it wants to dominate you, it wants to take control of you.

James 1:2-3, 13-15

Nature of Temptation

Temptation as to its nature is human, it is common. It is not supernatural, it is not so powerful, it is not so unique that we have no way to resist it. Temptation is common to man.

Extent of Temptation

God knows you as an individual, and He has planned your life to be secure in Christ eternally; therefore He will never allow you to go into any kind of temptation which is more than you at any given point in your spiritual life could handle.

The Escape

There's a final point, you must understand the way out. You must understand the way out of temptation. God will always provide the way of escape. There's always a path to victory.

Escape does not mean avoid. Exit does not mean turn around and go back. The exit is on the far side. You have to go through. The way out of the temptation is to endure it as a trial and never let it become a solicitation to sin, which effects a sinful response. The way out is to take it as a test and a trial, and not internalize it so that it begins to solicit sin.

Draw Near

The Bible repeatedly tells us to come to God and God will reciprocate. And we can do this because of Jesus. We have access to the Father through our elder brother Jesus. Amazing in itself that we have access to the Almighty God, creator of the universe, but we are also told to draw near to him.

When the test comes, you turn to the Word of God, you have that storehouse of Scripture. You turn to God and you cry out to Him to keep this test from becoming a temptation.

Flee/Run Away

I would argue we don't take the admonition of Scripture to flee seriously enough in a real physical sense. We don't run away enough. Running away is often thought of as cowardly. But I think the reason there are so many people caught in ongoing habitual sin is that they do not just get up and physically run away.

Psalm 1:1 says:

*Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*

And the Bible gives us examples of specific temptations that are so dangerous that we are told to flee.

Sexual Immorality

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee youthful lusts. Run away. Don't hang around to see what will happen. It's a test.

Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

God Satisfies

The devil wants us to believe lies. But Scripture tells us the truth.

The devil whispers you are defined by your sin. You are not.

God is truly the one who satisfies the soul.

God will always be better, and every good gift comes from him. He was better in the garden. He was better when the Israelites chose a golden calf to worship. He is better than more money. He is better than fame, pride, greed, gossip, sexual immorality, social media, and anything else that we can add to this list.

God is better, and he has proven himself to be. Sin and idols have proven themselves to fail us again and again. You will be tested. Again and again. Draw near to him and flee from temptation. Those are the ways of escape.

Psalm 107:9

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.