

# Beating Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:6 – 13

## I. Intro

- A. Next area look at this morning as we focus on discipleship (identifying ourselves as Christian, follower of Jesus Christ) – temptation
- B. One thing we all have in common, believers and unbelievers, temptation to sin; difference for believers, we have a way to overcome temptation
- C. The Corinthian believers were people that struggled with temptation – struggle was so difficult that they were gradually lapsing back into the old ways of sin; Paul addresses in passage
- D. **READ 1 Corinthians 10:6 – 13** (comment on *these things*, connection between *play* and *sexual immorality*, and the *Destroyer*)
- E. Summarize temptations and sins Corinthian believers were dealing with: idolatry, immorality, selfishness and pride, testing God, grumbling and complaining; nothing different than any of us have dealt with (**REFER v. 13**)
- F. Verse misstated – *God won't give you more than you can handle*; Truth – God may give you more than you can handle but He'll never give you more than He can handle; He will never allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to overcome the temptation – that ability is found in strength and power of Christ's Spirit in us
- G. **Question:** What is your approach to overcoming bad habits?
- H. **Question:** When you are tempted, do you depend on God or hide from Him?
- I. **Question:** How do you handle situations where you're being tested?

## II. Temptation is Real

- A. Many people who become new believers gain misconception that they will no longer struggle with temptation, or even sin
- B. Even Jesus was tempted: Luke 4:1-2 (ESV)
  - 1 And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness
  - 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. (**no one is immune to temptation**)
- C. So, question isn't whether or not you'll face temptation as a disciple/follower of Christ, the questions are where does it come from and how do you beat the temptation
- D. **1<sup>st</sup> question:** Where does it come from?
  - i. Doesn't come from God – He does not tempt us to sin; James 1:13 (ESV)

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

ii. **Temptation comes from our own desires; James 1:14-15 (ESV)**

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

iii. **As children of God through faith in Christ we all have “enlisted” ourselves in a spiritual battle – we all have become enemies of God’s enemies that exist in the world which are motivated and driven by the enemies of God in the spiritual realm; Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

E. **2<sup>nd</sup> question: How do we beat it?**

i. **Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)**

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

ii. **We have a Savior who has known and faced the same struggles/temptations we face; therefore, we can face temptation with confidence knowing that He can relate – and He overcame**

iii. **Statement: Yes, but He was God! True, but He was also fully human – just as He experienced thirst, hunger, happiness and sadness, pain and suffering He also experienced temptation and could’ve easily given into it – sinned; but His relationship with God the Father was so close He relied on the power of His Father to beat temptation and not sin**

iv. **The power He had access to is also readily available and accessible for us**

### III. **Temptation Beating Tools**

A. **First understand, temptation is not sin; temptation like rocks in harbor – when tide is low everyone can see rocks and see the danger so obviously they’re not going to jump in, but when tide is high and rocks are hidden the danger is hidden and Satan’s strategy in temptation is to raise the tide and hide the dangers of temptation**

B. **6 tools for beating temptation**

C. **Tool 1) To beat temptation, don’t put yourself in the tempting situation in the first place; times when we deceive ourselves into thinking we’re stronger than we are**

i. **Illustration: Little boy in store, standing in front of the counter full of candy, looking like he was thinking about trying to put some in his**

pocket and steal some. Store clerk watch him for a long time then finally said to little boy, “Son, looks like you might be thinking of trying to do something that would be wrong.” Little boy replied, “No sir, I’m trying NOT to.”

- ii. Temptation started when the little boy put his self in the tempting situation

D. **Tool 2) Prayer**

- i. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and the example He used: **Matthew 6:13 (ESV)**

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- ii. Jesus says: **Mark 14:38 (ESV)**

38 Watch (always be on guard) and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Problem – we tend to rely too much on the flesh to beat temptation instead of relying on Holy Spirit within us)

- iii. **1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)**

8 Be sober-minded (think clearly, use common sense); be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

E. **Tool 3) Shun and Run**

- i. **1 Peter 5:9 (ESV)**

9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

- ii. **James 4:7 (ESV)**

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- iii. Remember story of Joseph, wife of Potipher (in charge of Pharaoh’s security guards); told in Genesis, day after day she tried to seduce Joseph; one day Joseph in Potipher’s house, all other men were gone, Potipher’s wife grabbed his clothing tried to force Joseph to lay with her and it says - **Genesis 39:12 (ESV)**

12 ... he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. (shunning and running)

- iv. **1 Timothy 6:11 (ESV)**

11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (fruit of the Spirit)

F. **Tool 4) Immerse in the Word**

- i. **Psalm 119 all about the Word of God and His commands: Psalm 119:11 (ESV)**

11 I have [hidden] stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

- ii. **Psalm 119:105 (ESV)**

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (**analogy earlier about rocks in harbor – God’s Word is lamp and light that will show us dangers of temptations that lie ahead**)

**G. Tool 5) God’s Power and Protection**

**i. Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV)**

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**ii. Talking about deceptive spirits in the world: 1 John 4:4 (ESV)**

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**H. Tool 6) Crucifixion and Death (not saying literally go crucify yourself)**

**i. Galatians 5:24 (ESV)**

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus (**true, genuine disciples of Christ**) have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**ii. Paul’s words: Galatians 2:20 (ESV)**

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself (**who was crucified**) for me.

**iii. As Jesus said: Luke 9:23 (ESV)**

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and **take up his cross daily** and follow me.

**IV. Close**

- A. There are no exemptions, everyone faces temptation but it’s about what we do, how we react when we face temptation**
- B. Promise – (v. 13) God is faithful, He always provides the way of escape; not necessarily “escape” where we won’t have to face the temptation anymore, but the way to endure and beat the temptation**
- C. God has done His part, but it’s up to us to do our part and use the tools God has given us beat temptation and to have victory over sin**