

Dear Church,
Don't Cause Your Brother To Stumble
1 Corinthians 10:12-13
4-4-19
Message Summary

1. A big obstacle the Corinthians faced in so many of their struggles was their spiritual arrogance. It caused them to look down on their fellow believers and caused friction within the body. Paul was concerned about the negative impact these prideful believers could have on their fellow believers, as well as how it could hurt themselves.
2. There can be a fine line between having comfort and security in our faith and becoming prideful and complacent – opening ourselves up to falling to the temptations all around us.
3. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Paul gives 5 examples from Israel's history with God that reminds the "strong" Corinthian believers that they need to be on their guard as they walk in their freedoms in Jesus.
 - a. Israel was under God's guidance and protection, just like the Corinthian believers were through their faith in Jesus
 - b. Israel experienced a miraculous delivery from their captivity and slavery, just like the Corinthian believers through their faith in Jesus
 - c. Israel was united with their spiritual head, Moses, just like the Corinthian believers were united with Jesus
 - d. Israel had received miraculous bread from heaven to keep them from starving. The Corinthians had the bread of life in Jesus.
 - e. Israel had received miraculous water from God to keep them from dying of thirst. The Corinthians had received the living water of life in Jesus
4. 1 Corinthians 10:5-6 Despite all the blessings Israel received, they fell to the temptations around them and God was not pleased with most of Israel and they failed to receive the goal of the blessings – the rewards of the Promised Land.
5. 1 Corinthians 10:7-10 The failures of Israel in their blessings were an example to Corinthians
 - a. Don't be idolaters like Israel- Exodus 32:1-4
 - i. 1 Corinthians 8-10
 - b. Don't engage in sexual immorality - Numbers 25:1-4
 - i. 1 Corinthians Chapters 5-61
 - c. Don't test Jesus - Verse 10:9
 - i. 1 Corinthians 1:18-3:20
 - d. Don't grumble against leaders - Numbers 16:24-35
 - i. 1 Corinthians 1:11, 4:18-19
6. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Temptations (attempts to make you do something wrong before God) are common to everyone; they are not sin. But God is faithful and will not allow you to be "tempted" = "tested" - beyond your ability to WALK AWAY from the temptation. God allows us to be "tested" – He uses it to strengthen us. See James 1:2-3. But he ALWAYS provides the way of escape.
7. What protects us from our temptations and how God gives us our way of escape:
 - a. God's Word - Matthew 4
 - b. Our prayers – Matthew 26:41
 - c. Taking every thought captive to Jesus - 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

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Things To Think About

1. Do you tend to be more focused when you are concerned about something or when you are completely relaxed about something? What are some bad things about being too comfortable in our surroundings?
2. Read Matthew 26:34-35. Peter was confident he would never deny Jesus. How can being overconfident leave us vulnerable to the temptation to run from Jesus when we are challenged in our faith?
3. When you read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11, Paul is reminding us that Israel, God's chosen people, had everything they needed from God, yet when they were tested, continually failed to trust God and remain faithful to Him. Paul was pointing out that just because Israel enjoyed privileges in their relationship with God, did not mean they could use them any way they wanted without consequences. How are these lessons from Israel and God relevant to your relationship with Jesus?
4. How would you put 1 Corinthians 10:12 into your own words?
5. Right after Paul gives the Corinthians the warning in verse 12, he encourages them in verse 13. How does verse 13 encourage you?
6. Notice verse 13 is written as a certainty – God IS faithful. He will NOT let you be tested beyond your ability. He WILL provide you a way of escape. As you read this, what does it tell you in terms of excuses for falling for the temptations of life? Why do you suppose we still fall even though God provides us a way out?
7. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What protected Jesus from Satan's temptations? How much time do you spend in God's Word – studying it, memorizing it, applying it, preparing for temptations that might come your way?
8. In Matthew 26:41 Jesus told his disciples to "watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation". Jesus, teaching us how to pray to God in Matthew 6:13, specifically instructed us to pray "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". Do you regularly pray to be kept from temptation?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. What picture comes to mind when you think about taking every thought "captive" to obey Jesus? When a thought comes to mind that is a temptation, train/discipline, your body (1 Corinthians 9:27) to move your thoughts to Jesus – what He would think, what He would do, how He would respond. How will this help you escape temptation?
10. What areas of life are you most confident in right now? Are you keeping your guard up to avoid falling in this area?
11. What areas of life are you struggling in right now? Are you spending time in God's word, in prayer for God's power and seeking to take every thought captive to living for Jesus?