

# The Faithfulness of God to the Tempted

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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.

1 Corinthians 10:13

This very famous and powerful statement by Paul to the Church here to the Corinthians comes right on the heels of his statement in the prior verse:

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<sup>12</sup> *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

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Paul's point in this part of 1 Corinthians brings to a summation that despite God's grace, several things were true of God's people:

- Israel fell into idolatry, 5, 7, 8 (cf. Ex 32:6; Num 25:1, 9);
- They tempted the Lord, 9 (cf. Ex 17:2, 7; Num 21:6);
- They complained, murmuring against God, 10 (Num 14:2); and
- They were, as a national group, destroyed, 9–10 (cf. Num 25:1–9).
- Verse 8 says 23,000 fell 'in one day' via God's judgment (cf. Num 25:9 which actually yields a total of 24,000 having included the 1,000 Israelite leaders whose execution is recorded in Num 25:4).

The warning against proud self-sufficiency follows all of this, (v12), together with this encouragement to trust God, followed by an injunction to flee from idolatry, 13–14. Finally, we see an appeal being made in verse 15 to a wise course.

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<sup>13</sup> *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

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“No” is an adverb that is essentially used to lend negation to whatever it is attached. Here, obviously, it is connected to the idea of “temptation” and thus gives us the combined idea of “no temptation”.

This word “Temptation” is a common word in the NT. In secular Greek it spoke of the idea of seeking to cause the object to take some action or make some effort. In the realm of thinking through how this addresses our experience in the flesh...we would see this as our flesh and human natures working to cause or direct us to commit sin.

Insofar as Paul intended in our passage (1 Cor. 10:13), his point is that God, due to His nature as our Father and Master, does not allow us to be subject to any temptation that is sufficient to overwhelm us and compel us to violate the will of God.

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There are basically 8 ideas here to consider:

1. Paul’s point speaks to each and every temptation that redeemed man comes to face. “**No temptation has overtaken you...**”.
2. The matter of experiencing and fighting temptations is one that is shared by all men!! “**except such as is common to man...**”
3. Enabling His people to deal effectively with temptation is a function of God’s Faithfulness! “**...but God is faithful...**”
4. God acts for us in a specific way regarding sin... “**who will not allow you to be tempted**”
5. He performs this faithfulness in regard to our individual abilities “**...beyond what you are able...**”
6. He performs this faithfulness according to the limits of our abilities, not in an absolute sense... “**beyond what you are able...**”
7. His **provision for us is two-fold**: guarding us from inability to resist and enabling us to stand and overcome us. “**... beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape**”.
8. His aim is to enable us to remain walking in holiness ... “**that you may be able to bear it.**”

The main idea we wish to get across here is that all of this are a function of the one...God is FAITHFUL, and as a result...all of the rest follows! This is true of much of what we read concerning the nature and actions of God throughout the Scriptures. God is what He is and thus, He does what He does! How very different are men in this regard? Men often violate what they are or want to be. God NEVER dies!! We can be abundantly thankful that this is true!

It was His nature and the effect wrought on His actions that caused Him to send the Lord Jesus to do for us what laid the groundwork for redemption!

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*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
(John 3:16)*

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It was His nature as a gracious and merciful God that caused (and we might add, enabled) Him to send the Lord Jesus! You and I ought to strive, to the best of our ability, to emulate the Lord in this regard!!