

DEALING WITH TEMPTATION (1 Corinthians 10:12-14)

- I. There needs to be proper awareness (vs. 12).**
 - A. Temptation usually adversely affects us at two different moments in our lives: when we feel we are strong and when we are weak.
 - 1. There are times in our lives when we feel we are spiritually strong and can handle anything ourselves.
 - 2. There are times that events have come together to make us weak spiritually.
 - 3. It is at either of these two times when temptation is most effective.
 - B. We need to remember that temptation comes from within (James 1:13:14).
 - 1. The things that affect us come from within.
 - 2. They come from our desire for them.
 - 3. They also come when there is opportunity to fulfill that desire, which the word “enticed” points out.
 - C. When we think we are spiritually strong we tend to believe we can handle things on our own.
 - 1. Our pride kicks in and we forget God.
 - 2. This tells us that we need to be aware of our own sinfulness and inability to ever deal with sin alone.
 - D. We also need to be aware of the areas in which we are weak.
 - 1. Temptation is brought about by our own sinful desires.
 - 2. Therefore, we need to be aware of that which is sinful that really entices us.
 - 3. Each Christian is different and is tempted by different things and an awareness by each individual is vital.
 - E. We then need to be aware of our surroundings.
 - 1. We can't put ourselves in places where we are vulnerable.
 - 2. We need to avoid those places or situations where we will be tempted.
 - F. Temptation serves the purpose of keeping us humble and on guard.
 - 1. James 1:2-3.
 - 2. When handled properly we grow stronger for the next round of temptation.
 - G. We won't handle temptation if we are not aware of our own sinfulness, our weaknesses and our surroundings.
- II. Remember that everyone is tempted like we are.**
 - A. One of our problems at times is that we feel we are the only ones who have had to deal with certain things.
 - B. Notice that inspiration reminds us that there is no temptation we face that someone else hasn't faced.
 - 1. As Solomon once said, there is no new thing under the sun.
 - 2. Those same temptations we face have been faced by God's people forever.
 - C. The reason for that is there are only three avenues of temptation (1 John

2:15-16).

- D. We also need to remember that all face temptation.
 - 1. Jesus faced it from these three avenues.
 - 2. David, Paul, Peter and all that have lived have been tempted from these various avenues.
- E. It may be wrapped with a different bow, but at heart, the temptation comes from one of these three areas.
- F. We aren't special in that we are the only ones who have been tempted by a thing and we need to remember that.

III. God won't allow us to be given more than we can handle.

- A. Aren't the words "God is faithful" some of the most beautiful and encouraging in scripture?
- B. We aren't going to be tempted above what God knows we can handle, He won't allow it.
 - 1. In Job, God is shown to restrict the power that Satan has to tempt us.
 - 2. God told Satan not to touch him and then not to kill him.
- C. This tells us that God knows what we can handle.
- D. We also need to realize that we have responsibility in this.
 - 1. It us that gives in to the temptation.
 - 2. It us, with the help of God, that can overcome it.
- E. He gives us the ability to overcome temptation through His word (Psalm 119:11).
 - 1. We will know what is sinful through a study of God's word.
 - 2. This will allow us to know when something before us is sinful.
- F. This also allows us to know we can overcome temptation.
 - 1. It is not a sin to be tempted.
 - 2. It is sin to give in to the temptation.
 - 3. With God's help, which He promises us, we can deal with it.

IV. There will be a way of escape.

- A. A lot of times we don't escape temptation because we don't look for the way out of it.
 - 1. We give in many times because we simply want to.
 - 2. God can't do anything about this.
 - 3. The desire to overcome temptation must come from within us.
- B. If there is a desire to overcome it, there will be an escape route out of that temptation.
- C. Three words are good to keep in mind when dealing with this.
 - 1. Flight - that is the answer in verse 14.
 - a. Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lusts.
 - b. He also told the Corinthians to flee fornication.
 - c. This is exactly what Joseph did.
 - 2. Faith - a deep-seated belief God will do what is right.
 - a. It is our faith that brings victory (1 John 5:4).
 - b. We have to have faith in God and His word when dealing with temptation as Daniel's friends did.

3. Fight - a willingness to fight back against Satan (James 4:7).
 - a. Use God's word as the sword that it is.
 - b. Satan shrinks back from it and that is why Jesus used it against Satan.