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.
      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.