

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

¹³ 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.

"Getting Through the Rough Spots in the Road" ***1 Corinthians 10:13***

INTRO:

Once again, we stand at the portal to a New Year. What will this year bring? What does the Lord Jesus have for us in the year before us? Unless this is an unusual year, it will bring some tough times. To prepare us for the uncertainty which lies before us, we will look at a spiritual gem Paul provided us in **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Here is the secret to passing God's tests and pleasing Him. We need to understand the basic truth about trials and to remember God's faithfulness in trials.

I. THE FACTS ABOUT TRIALS

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

I. THE FACTS ABOUT TRIALS

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man"
(1 Corinthians 10:13a).

A. The first word in the Greek sentence here is the word for a trial. When a writer of the Scriptures uses the word, he could be talking about one of two things.

1. The first meaning of this word is the idea of putting something to a test with the intention that the thing tested pass the test. It is used in this sense in **James 1:2**.
"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness, persistence, endurance."

James referred to the multicolored tests which push into our lives.

2. The second way in which this word is used is in the sense of tempting someone to sin. This is a test given with the desire for the one being tested to fail. **James 1:13-14** uses the verb form of our word.

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

3. The big question in this passage is, which way is Paul using this word? Was he thinking about tests that crowd into our lives, or was he focusing about temptation to sin? In fact, this verse could speak to both possibilities. If we respond correctly to the test, it becomes a means of growing in righteousness. At the same time, if we respond incorrectly, it can become an opportunity for sin.

B. So, Paul began **1 Corinthians 10** by citing the trials Israel experienced in the wilderness. He included the resources God provided for them (**1 Corinthians 10:1-4**). Despite God’s provision, they failed. We must not do this.

1. The first tool to help us succeed in making it through trials or temptation is an observation. We all have trials. The phrase translated, ***“such as is common to man;”*** is the translation of one Greek word which means, ***“that which relates to the state of being human.”***

2. Trials in life are simply a part of being human. Everyone has them, no one escapes them.

C. The second thing we learn about trials here is not only does everyone have them, the trials that you and I are going through are not unique!

1. God did not dish out an especially difficult situation, one that He has not ever given to someone else. Other folks have been where you and I are right now and they came through the situation successfully!

2. Why is this important to know? First, because it can strengthen us in the midst of the trial! We know we can make it through this trouble because others have gone through before us.

3. It is also important to know because it reminds us of Whose hand we hold in the midst of the trial.

Hebrews 2:18 ***“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted (tried), He is able to aid those who are tempted.”***

Our Lord Jesus knows what it is to endure trial and so He is with us in it, and is able and willing to help us through it.

4. Third, it is helpful because it reminds us of our responsibility to be a resource to others in the midst of their trials.

2 Corinthians 1:4 *“Who comforted us in all our tribulations. That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”*

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

“But God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,” (1 Corinthians 10:13b).

A. Having understood these two facts about temptations, Paul now moves on to the second reality we need to see about trial. In the heat of the trial we must not forget the faithfulness of God.

1. Perhaps the one aspect of the character of God we are most prone to forget when trouble pushes its way into our lives is God's faithfulness.
2. We tend to say things like, *“Has God forgotten about me?” “Why is God letting this happen to me now?” “The Lord is just trying to see how much I can take before I break!”*

B. In such times, the one component of God's nature we must not forget is God's faithfulness. There are at least three facets of God's faithfulness we need to keep centered in our minds when the waves of trouble and trial hit.

1. We can trust God's Word. He will not fail to keep His promises. We read in **Isaiah 40:8** *“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”*

2. We can also trust His intentions. God will never do us wrong!
Genesis 18:25 *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*
Yes, He will!

3. We can trust His compassion.
Psalms 103:13-14 *“As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”*

C. Paul points out two ways in which God's faithfulness is expressed when we are in the fiery furnace of trouble, **(1)** God is faithful therefore He will not allow us to be tried above what we are able to bear. He knows our weaknesses and strengths. He knows how much we can bear, how much He can put our spiritual muscles under stress before they break down. He will never let us reach the point where we cannot bear up under the trial with His help. **(2)** Second, God is faithful. So, in the midst of the trial He provides ways to endure it.

D. When troubles intrude in our lives we need to keep in mind two realities. **(1)** When the test involves temptation to sin, He provides doors through which we can flee! Remember Joseph! **(2)** When the test is to help us grow in righteousness and spiritual maturity, the way out is frequently a way through to the other side of the valley!

Hymn #415 *He Giveth More Grace*