

I Corinthians 10:12-13

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

I. Watch out! It happens to everyone.

At a time when you think all is well, "Be careful." Watch out. Don't be taken by surprise, but be forewarned. "You will be tempted." Becoming a Christian does not make you immune to temptation.

II. We are all the same.

Our temptations are limited to those common to all mankind. "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind."

Satan tries to make us think that our particular temptation is so hard, it can't be dealt with. Nobody else has ever had it this hard. The fact of this scripture says, that where your temptation is concerned you are not special, but in common with all other mankind.

Just look at all the other Christians around you and think in your mind of them being tempted in the same way you are, so you should not be afraid to share your struggles with others.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

III. God is Faithful.

God can be depended on. You can trust God. God will not fail you.

In the middle of this overcoming temptation verse of scripture we see God inserting a definite character trait of His. He says, "This is what I'm like. I'm faithful." This trait never changes. Faithful to do what?

IV. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

What does this verse say to those who claim the following statements?

"I can't take it anymore." "I'm going to lose my mind. The pressure is too great."

V. A way out.

As if these things are not enough to overcome and to go through victorious:

- A. A warning that temptations will come
- B. That our temptations are limited to those common to all mankind
- C. That God is characteristically faithful
- D. God will not permit us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear

God then adds one more 5th and final temptation overcoming plan:

- E. A way out

In the midst of your temptation you will always see the way out, but like all other decisions, the choice is yours to make.

At the moment before you choose to sin there will be an out. Take it.