

# Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

## I Corinthians 10: Israel's History Speaks Volumes



This chapter begins with a warning, so we all may want to listen up! *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant...”* First, the term ‘moreover’ refers the reader back to the previous chapter. Paul is our example, so he teaches: *“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”* (I Corinth. 9:27) Even the Apostle Paul was at risk to the attacks of the Adversary and to give up in despair, unless he yielded his life in subjection.

Israel had a long history of returning to the ungodly ways of the nations, being rebellious toward God’s instruction. Verses 5-10 detail their lusting after evil things, being idolaters, committing fornication, and murmuring. Paul cautions us, *“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”* (I Corinthians 10:11)

The saints at Corinth desperately needed this advice, but so do we. That’s why he warns us not to be ignorant. Meditate on I Corinthians 9:24-27, along with Chapter 10 to recognize our similar condition. We can be puffed up to think ‘we are doing just fine.’ This is a natural reaction to reproof, so the next verse addresses our attitude: *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* (vs. 12) We have the very same sin tendencies as Israel. The counterfeit religious system is subtle and can easily deceive us. In addition, the sinful flesh can be much stronger than we realize.

Sin refers to living apart from faith and convictions in the Word. *“...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”* (Rom. 14:23) While believers have a righteous standing, God cares about our choices: *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* (Ephesians 4:30)

A typical question at this point is: “How can I keep a holy walk unto God with this relentless fleshly thinking ever bombarding my thoughts?” The answer is...YOU CAN’T! Follow Paul’s example. He humbled himself, knowing only Christ in him could produce life. So, *“yield yourselves unto God...”* to live your resurrection life. (Rom. 6:13/Gal. 2:20)

## Is There Profit to Meditation?

Understand what Israel’s history has to teach so it does not become irrelevant data and you repeat their mistakes. Meditate on sound doctrine: *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...are of good report... think on these things.”* (Phil. 4:8) **To Do:** Read and meditate on Chapter 10, along with the referenced passages from the Old Testament.

Meditation means to focus your mind on a particular section of Scripture or topic to understand and have clarity and peace. It’s looking at the Word from various points of view, turning it over in your mind for consideration, yielding to God in prayer.

Who created meditation? Contrary to common thought, it is NOT a Buddhist creation. Nor is it just an ungodly practice related to Yoga. It was created by God and was first documented in Genesis: *“And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide...”* (Gen. 24:63) God commanded it of Israel: *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night...”* (Joshua 1:8)

What was the purpose? Joshua continues: *“...that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* Paul also directs Timothy: *“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”* (I Tim. 4:15) God desires you to do this also. There is great value!

**To Do:** Consider how meditation profits believers today. What are the benefits of meditation in the Body of Christ (Phil. 4). Are they similar to those listed by Joshua?



Search it out!

Living As Who You Are In Christ

## I Corinthians 10: Avoiding Satan's Tactics to Live Unto God

Examine verses!



I Corinthians 10 was designed to teach saints how to avoid the deceptive tactics of Satan, using Israel's history as a practical example. It's fully applicable to us today.

I Corinthians can be divided into 3 sections:

**Chapter 1-4:** Satan's attack can be effective against God's wisdom/power, and affected the Corinthian's view on justification and their sanctified walk.

**Chapters 5-10:** This is corrective doctrine to help saints understand being dead to sin, dead to the law, and dead to the flesh, (Rom. 6-8) but alive unto God to acquire godly thinking and living.

**Chapters 11-16:** Instruction to labor with God, motivated in grace with selfless love to prefer others.

Chapter 10 completes Section two, above. Examine this Chapter to discover application:

**1. Read to find the topic:** Skim through Verses 1-10 to determine the main subject of these verses. Why is Paul reviewing Israel's history here? Is this necessary for the Corinthians and us? How can it help?

**2. Notice repeating words:** Paul uses 'now' twice to

start a verse. What does it indicate to the reader? Do these two verses have anything in common?

**3. Notice when Paul begins a chapter with a key phrase:** "I would not that ye should be ignorant" was used more than once in Paul's epistles as a warning. The issues alert saints to common misunderstandings that can derail an unaware or unprepared saint. Use a concordance to look up this phrase and research the topics in each. (Are any of these problems for you?)

**4. Dissect difficult passages and define terms:** a) Read Verses 15-22 to notice repeating or similar words, and then define. (i.e. Verses 16 & 17: 'Communion' and 'one.')

b) Who does the term 'we' refer to in the verses? c) What is the warning in Verses 21-22? Does this apply to you?

**5. Locate the summary verse:** In some chapters there is a verse that provides a synopsis of the teaching being addressed. Read Chapter 10 to find it. Think about the attitude that God is addressing. (Hint: the summary verse is often toward the end of the chapter and can also be the transition verse into the next chapter.

*\*Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.*

### All Things Are Lawful... But All Things Are Not Expedient, Nor Edifying

Consider this fleshly, immature response by a saint who feels convicted by the Word: "I'm given grace, so I can live as I want!" While it is true that we're forgiven and under grace, spiritual maturity would develop a fervent desire to return the love of Christ, living unto God, not serving 'I.' If we do not have a desire to serve our God and Father, then we may be focused on 'self' and physical things more than God and His Word. Exalting one's own flesh, fears, and problems, as if God's power in us isn't enough, may show a need for growth in trust and understanding. "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my grace is made perfect in weakness..." (II Cor. 12:9) **To Do:** Think...are you relying on 'self' or God.

Do you 'sit on the fence,' professing to be a Christian, but live as an unbeliever or contrary to what you have learned? Sometimes we do this without realizing it, other times we choose the easy way. Awareness and conviction come as we read and think on verses, seeking to apply it in our lives. God desires that we live as who He made us in Christ, not exalting other things: "Ye cannot drink of the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?" (I Cor. 10:21-22) Paul would say, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7)

Though today we live under the wonderful system of grace (Rom. 6:14), we now belong to God. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20) We have important choices: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient..." We do have great liberty to live as we like, but not everything is wise, nor profitable. "...all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." (I Cor. 10:23) While we are not forced by a law, God left us on earth as a living sacrifice to minister and edify others in love, not to serve our flesh. **Think on this!**

## What is Idolatry? We Don't Do That, Do We? (I Corinthians 10:14)

*"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."*

Exalting anything above God or His Word will steal our heart from Him. Idolatry is worship; an extreme love of a person or a thing. Most of us don't worship carved images, but instead, have unwise thinking or habits, such as an over-focus on entertainment, traditions, money, status, looks, etc. We may elevate man's wisdom, using our time & energy on Google, news, books, etc. Anything can become idolatrous.

Beware, there is a spiritual battle, *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."* (II Cor. 2:11) Idolatry leads us to depart from God and sound doctrine to esteem and believe other things. It sends us down a road to be self-absorbed and self-righteous, exalting religious systems, politics, or the world, rather than God. Satan so desires to distract/derail us. **Examples of his attacks:**

-Justification: We have been saved from the eternal consequences of our sin, by simple faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Faith alone is how we become just with God. (Rom. 1-5) When given an opportunity, Satan interferes with developing a confident knowledge of this Truth, obstructing a saint's spiritual establishment. (Satan designed the world to distract saints from reading Scripture and to exalt other things i.e. social media, sports, or staying too busy to study/pray. They can begin to doubt their eternal security.)

-Sanctification: It is a privilege to glorify God in our body, yielding to live (Christ) the Word. This is our sanctified, holy walk before God. When we worship and serve God, valuing what He values, it's an affront to Satan. His evil design is to prevent us from being educated to live as spiritual adults. (Rom. 6-16.) Satan wants to keep saints as spiritual babes: distracted, confused, without hope, immobilized, and ignorant. (i.e. Saints can be sidetracked to exalt religious books or things that 'replace' studying the Word.)

Many remain in idolatry. Avoid Satan's tactics and stay focused, worshiping and living for God, knowing Christ will soon deal with Satan. Romans 16:20 states, *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."* **To Do:** Read and study the Word, don't be diverted. Start in Romans as it establishes.



Let's examine this: *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

There are two main issues to consider as students meditate on I Corinthians 10:13. What is the meaning of 'temptation' and what's the topic being addressed in the chapter (the context of this verse can help us gain clarity).

**1) Define temptation.** Stop here to look up the term yourself. This writer found it to be a desire to do something wrong or unwise, being lured by lust. Use a concordance; how is the term 'temptation' used in the New Testament? For example, James 1:14 explains: *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."* Many saints read the word temptation to mean suffering or challenges in I Cor. 10:13. How did the dictionary define it?

**2) Skim through I Corinthians 10 to find the theme of the chapter.** Two examples of what this writer found: a) Vs. 6-10 records Israel's ungodly history. b) The directive in Vs. 32 is not to sin: *"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God."* The general topic in I Corinthians 10 seems to be 'sin.' This gives the context of Verse 13. (Study can adjust our views as we are open.)

What does this teach us? I Corinthians 10:13 is about being 'tempted to sin' and is not at all about 'sufferings.' We're able to bear any enticement as God perfectly provides an escape to avoid falling prey to our flesh. Our responsibility is to read, yielding to the Scriptures, led by the Spirit. Sound doctrine is our escape & armor to enable us to be steadfast and focused above. (Rom. 13:12-14/Eph. 6:10-20)

**What about suffering?** God is also our perfect provider in the pain and affliction of living in this world. II Corinthians 12:7-10 unveils God's way in how to 'bear' any tribulation or suffering: His grace is sufficient! God teaches us to trust Him and His power. We can endure any difficulty we may encounter. In addition, God works them for our good, (Rom. 8:28) as we yield unto Him. (Topic continued on next page.)

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**To:**

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**



Suffering is distress or hardship, either physical, emotional, or spiritual; a state of undergoing pain. Seems it should avoided at all costs, but what is God’s view? Though suffering is grievous to the flesh, God designed problems/affliction to work with the Word in us, helping us to grow. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)*

**God’s way is for us:** Practically, when a believer (who loves God and is called according to His purpose) suffers, he may not see the good being produced. However, Romans 5:3 teaches that challenges will ‘work’ to produce spiritual fruit: *“...knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

**God’s glory:** While in the suffering, God stirs the doctrine to teach us how to trust and apply the Word, enabling us to mature; this is glory. Others see Christ in us, which is another aspect of glory. There is also the glory that will be revealed at the Judgment seat of Christ, when we receive rewards. (1 Cor. 3:14)

As problems pass, we can look back to realize we’ve grown, others have been affected by our witness, and what we learned can also be used to help others in the future. So then, we can be at peace to ride out challenges, as we remember: *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be*



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*compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Rom. 8:18)* God has fully provided.

To conclude, the Spirit uses suffering, together with the doctrine residing in us to produce glory. The simplicity of this is that Christ lives in us: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...” (Gal. 2:20)* Thus, we can learn to embrace tribulations. God designed them to be **great opportunities** to grow and produce glory. **To Do:** Next time you go through suffering, reflect on how God can work it for your good!