

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

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

Theme: Application of I Cor. 10

The Bible is a History Teacher

History is one of many subjects taught to us in the Scripture. It often details godly examples, yet can also point out sin patterns to be avoided. *I Corinthians 10* is a warning: *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant..." (vs. 1)* Learning from mistakes can help us be more aware and live our lives more pleasing unto God.

Israel was created to be a vessel to show the Lord's power and wisdom unto the world. However, many Jews didn't listen to God and instead yielded to sin. Examples in *Chapter 10*: lust (vs. 6), idolatry (vs. 7), fornication (vs. 8), tempting Christ (vs. 9), and murmuring (vs. 10). Israel's history is a reminder for us to read, listen, and yield to God's training, using it to learn how to make wise choices.

These Old Testament examples are an admonition; that is, advice to us, with an earnest rebuke. Will we personally heed to this wise counsel in our life? As believers, our spirit is quickened the moment of salvation i.e. the old man is crucified (*Rom. 6:6*) and we are a new creature (*II Cor. 5:17*). However, the flesh did not change and is strong; we can still sin. These few reminders can help us focus:

1) Satan is the "god of this world." (*II Cor. 4:4*): He has devised many ways to lure us into sin, which can sidetrack us from walking as who we are in Christ. *"Ye cannot drink 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."* (*I Corinthians 10:21*)

2) We are unable to consistently resist sin: Without Christ's work in us, we will naturally live ungodly. We try again and again, but stay frustrated: *"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."* (*Romans 7:19*)

3) The Godhead is our provision: When we yield to 'Christ the Word' deposited in our inner man, the Spirit leads us (*Rom 8:14*) to do the will of our Father: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* (*Galatians 2:20*)

We can avoid Israel's mistakes by meditating on & learning what God instructs, thinking about key characters throughout the Bible. Paul's epistles teach the Body of Christ how to live by God's provision, the Word. As we allow the Word to dwell in us richly (*Col. 3:16*), God quickens our mortal body to live unto Him acceptably. (*Rom. 8:11*)

Highminded Thinking... Me?



I Corinthians 10 makes it clear that Israel largely had a rebellious testimony: *"But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness."* (vs. 5) Yet, how does knowing this help us? It is a warning to the Body of Christ, especially because the end of this time of grace is not far away. (vs.11)

God's advice: *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* (verse 12) We also can become high-minded in our thinking, believing that we are better than the Israelites and would not "fall" into these type of sins.

We're encouraged to become living sacrifices, transformed by reading the Word, yet Paul warns: *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."* (*Rom. 12:3*) Sober-minded means to be clear-headed with a serious attitude, living out our faith with good judgment. Are 'we' personally doing this?

Notice above that "every man" is being warned. Why? It is a saint's natural tendency to have high-minded thinking. The advice continues in *I Corinthians 10:14*: *"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."* When we think more highly than we ought to, we believe we can't fall into sin. This is being puffed up and is a form of idolatry; exalting ourselves over God and what His Word says.

Reflection: Every saint has the same flesh, inherited from Adam. While Christ paid for all our sin and our old man was crucified with Christ (*Rom. 6:6*), the pattern of sin thinking remains, along with fleshly desires and feelings. We're to make wise choices using what we have learned.



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

Study Methods: An Expository Approach

Examine verses!



The expository approach teaches a new way to examine Scripture. Look on p. 31 of “Exploring the Bible Using Study Skills,” available on Amazon or free on our. (see top of p.1)

Expository method: A study technique which teaches us to notice and investigate details, such as words, context, punctuation, and Bible characters.

1. **Reflect:** Read a section in *1 Corinthians 10* slowly, then meditate on the verses. Think about aspects of what is being taught: who, what, where, why, and how.
2. **Dictionary:** Use this resource to understand the depth of unclear words, then think on the definitions.

3. Other viewpoints on Scripture: First, do your own personal study to come fresh to the section, allowing God the Spirit to teach and lead you. After you do your own examination, consult other resources, such as a commentary or Bible teacher to gain additional insight.

4. Context: Look at the verses and chapters before and after the passage being studied. Think about how they relate and set the stage for what is being taught.

5. Words: Find key words, phrases or themes that are repeated and determine how this helps understanding.

6. Punctuation: The Bible often contains long verses, which can be difficult to understand. The punctuation clarifies the content of what was written.

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

Temptations of a Saint

Let us consider *1 Corinthians 10:13*: “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.” Temptation to sin is something that happens in our mind, luring us to think about or do particular things. Being tempted is having an urge to do something that is wrong, unwise, or typically undesirable. It is a choice to be self-aware and know that we have options; we can sin or live godly. Man naturally yields unto temptation, but, as believers, we can embrace God’s way of thinking. If we are unaware of our thought life, we may not realize when we are being tempted or led by the flesh, nor how we ended up in sin.

God does not tempt anyone; we are tempted of our own selves: “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*” (*James 1:14-15*) Sin usually begins with being lured with a thought, which is then empowered when a person gives it ‘a place in their mind,’ and ‘time’ to consider the possibilities of the temptation. The more we feed sin with these two resources, the stronger it becomes. A sin thought can then transition into a behavior of sin. An example may be helpful:

A child sees his favorite candy bar in the store. The next day, he goes back to look at the treat, and begins to think more and more about how good it would taste. He goes home and thoughts progress. He visualizes eating the chocolate and starts to entertain the idea of how unfair it is that he can’t afford to buy it. He then justifies taking the candy and thinks how he can subtly do it. The following day he steals the treat. (He was increasingly tempted as he chose to feed his lust.)

As long as we have this earthen body, we will all experience temptations because we are kin to Adam. “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*” (*1 John 2:16*) As we become more aware of God’s Word, our thoughts, and our new identity in Christ, we will be flagged when we are acting contrary to who we are. As a saint, it will not feel right to steal, knowing Christ paid for each sin by His blood. However, our conscience can become defiled or even seared if we push down godly thoughts to engage in sin. We are to remember we’re dead to sin and alive unto God: “*...yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*” (*Romans 6:13*)

By Erin Alexander



Humbly Glorifying God

The average human life can be very stressful, and we, as saints, are definitely not exempt from that. How many of us go through life waiting for each day to end? We may have troubles at work, at home, or there may be events transpiring in our lives that are difficult. The Holy Spirit can help us during times like this. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26)*

We can also work to change our overall attitude on the events in our lives. Negativity is a human emotion that will never completely go away, but remembering who we are in Christ, and what our job is can help. Our job is to glorify God. *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)* If we take our jobs, families, and work as if we are doing it all for the Lord, this can greatly impact how we deal with things. *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” (Colossians 3:23)* It can also show the rest of the world that we are so much more than what our humble lives may seem. *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)*



Our Not So Quick Escape

Stop for a moment to read *1 Corinthians 10:13* for yourself, as this passages can be easily misunderstood. Many believe that this verse explains how God will not push us past our limit with suffering and difficulties. However, the context of the chapter refers to a believer being tempted with sin, not the tribulations experienced when living on earth. Nevertheless, God provides all we need to negotiate any problem or temptation: *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*

Life is not always what we think it will be, nor is it easy to understand and apply verses to life situations; God uses the Word to teach and mature us: *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Phil. 2:12-13)*

Scripture is not a ‘quick pill’ or a ‘personal genie’ that zaps away problems or sin issues. Applying the Word to the details of life often takes time and experience. It is similar to a baby learning to walk; it takes practice as he tries, falls, gets up again, and pushes forward to learn. We grow in an area as we think about and observe how something is done, try it, adjust to what worked and what didn’t, and keep practicing until we are able to do it. God desires for us to meditate on Scripture, yield, apply it, and allow God to renew our mind.

Our escape from temptation usually does not happen by just trying hard, praying, or reading a few verses. It is a maturity process: experience obtained by practicing how to apply what God the Spirit is teaching us. We start as a spiritual babe learning to apply basic verses (milk), then progress to more advanced doctrine (meat) to deal with weightier challenges, attaining spiritually adult thinking & living. *“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Heb. 5:13-14)*

Reflect: God desires a humble attitude to please Him. Growing in Christ requires meditation to understand what God desires, thinking on how to apply verses, then trusting Him to walk by faith. A baby wouldn't try to run in a race before he learns to walk. So too, we ought not to wait until big challenges come to apply Scripture. Instead, daily live Truth.

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Stamp

To:

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

Are All Things Really Lawful For Us?

Under grace, we're not in subjection to the law, nor required to live by rigid standards. We're free to function as we choose. However, it is in our best eternal interest to yield and be led by the Spirit. Godly counsel is found in Paul's teachings, *Romans thru Philemon*, written 'to us' as members of Christ.

If we desire to please God, we need to consider His instructions 'to us' and use them to make wise decisions. What would this look like? We would yield to Christ and "work out" the verses to live them in our Christian walk. As we learn, the mind of Christ is our guide for making decisions. (*Phil. 2:15-16*)

Consider *I Corinthians 10:23*: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." In this passage, the goal is to edify others, not to please ourselves. We are free to walk after the flesh, but the result will be bondage, never pleasing God, and is not profitable, nor edifying. This lifestyle brings the fruit of the flesh and great sorrow. Read about the consequences of serving Satan and the lusts of your flesh in *Galatians 5:19-21*.

We are in a time of Gentile grace and live without condemnation from God. It is not expedient (wise/fitting) to live after the flesh. God warns us early in our walk as a new believer: "... Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God Forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (*Rom. 6:1-2*) All things are lawful under grace, but sin serves the course of this world, giving momentary fleshly pleasure, but reaping destruction. (*I Cor. 3:15*) In every moment we have choices. The question is, will we be led by the Spirit or flesh?

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