

SPIRITUAL LIMITERS

1 Corinthians 10:13 ... "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..."

Passenger buses, such as those operated by the Yellow Bus company, are equipped with devices that keep drivers from exceeding a certain speed limit. The device is called a "speed limiter." The government is planning to require all public passenger vehicles (vans, Jeepneys, taxis and busses) to be equipped with such devices. Big tanker trucks that haul gasoline are supposed to be equipped with speed limiters. In fact, most gasoline engines on motorcycles, chain saws, grass cutters and more, have limiters to protect the engine from exceeding their designed rotations per minute (RPM).

What about your life? What is keeping you from disaster or destruction by rushing into sin? First of all, God gives you free will to choose destruction if you prefer it. Second, if you are a born-again believer, God has given you his own Holy Spirit to guide you daily and warn you when you are speeding into a bad decision. The speed limiter on a bus or truck simply refuses to allow the vehicle to go faster, even if the driver stands on the accelerator with all of his might. God does not forbid you from speeding into sin, but he does warn you, and he does provide a way of escape, as today's verse explains.

One advice I give young people who find themselves in tempting situations, is to walk away before they are dragged into it. This is easy and simple advice that all of us can use. If you and your buddies go somewhere to eat after a long work week, and they begin to get liquored up, leave. You do not owe them any explanation or apology for refusing to follow them into a sinful situation. If your boyfriend says that "tonight is the night" to have sex for the first time, walk away....or run away. God, through his Holy Spirit is telling you it is wrong, so listen and obey Him. If a co-worker is systematically stealing from your employer, distance yourself from that person; do not follow him or her to jail and hell.

The Holy Spirit is your guide, your advocate, and your helper. But he cannot perform those vital roles if you ignore him. God promised that you will not face any temptation you cannot bear, and he will give you an escape route away from that temptation. Your friends may ridicule you if you do not follow them into trouble and sin, but God will bless you for making the right decision and your faithfulness to God may eventually encourage your friends to also follow Jesus.

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