

## **PROTECTION FROM TEMPTATION**

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 temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Much of what we say in our prayers is really a reminder to us of God’s power over our circumstances. When we praise God in our prayers that serves as our offering of love to him. And when we pray on behalf of others, that serves as one way in which we serve God. But people often pray for things that God already knows about. We ask him for something or plead our concerns to him, often forgetting that God already knows. He sees our hearts, knows our needs, and reads our thoughts before we pray. It is certainly okay to pray in that manner. In fact, Jesus tells us to take everything to God in prayer, even the things he already knows about.

Today’s verse is a reminder that followers of Christ have the Holy Spirit to protect us from harm and guide us away from temptation – if we let him. No other person has that protection; it is only true of believers; committed followers of Christ. When the verse states: “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,” it is speaking of the Holy Spirit. God intervenes in our lives and protects us through His Holy Spirit. Of course, you can deny the Holy Spirit that influence in your life and choose the wrong path if you insist, but it is a mistake to do so and you may pay dearly for it later.

The second part of today’s verse reads: ‘but with the temptation will also make the way of escape.’ God allows satan certain freedom to try us and tempt us. It is part of God’s training course for all believers. We are all tempted, but we all have the Holy Spirit ready and willing to show us the way of escape.

Fire departments often set fires to old buildings for the purpose of training their crews to put them out. You cannot teach that skill only in a classroom. God teaches us the proper way to live through his Word, the Bible. But there are certain skills that require hands-on training and real-world experience in resisting evil, to make us fully-trained and competent servants of Christ.

Do not go through life fearing temptation. If you are a genuine follower of Christ, you carry within you the best protector and guide available. But if you shut-down the Holy Spirit in your life, you have everything to fear, because you are submitting control of your life to the devil.

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