

Standing Up Under Temptation
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

'What a picture that is of the privileges of the child of God today: no matter how weak and ineffective, how poor and isolated and useless we may feel, all of us are under His guiding hand. We have all been delivered out of bondage of sin by the blood shed at Calvary. We have all be baptized into our Moses, into the body of Christ. All of us have been sustained by the manna from heaven and by the river of life from the throne of God. You notice Paul says in his Old Testament illustration, 'that Rock was Christ.'

These tremendous ties bind us one to another in Jesus; the deepest things in our lives we share together. We are not left to be an unruly mob of individuals, unguided and unprotected. We have had the cleaning of His blood, the forgiveness of our sins. We have experienced baptism into the fellowship of the body of Christ. We have known what it is to feed upon His Word, and to drink of the living water from heaven. We are all being sustained by the grace of God, and we have done nothing to deserve it all.

Then the question coming to mind at once is this, 'If that is so, how can such a people ever fail?'" Alan Redpath

- I. God makes it very clear to us that we are all blessed in the same way through Christ. He gives us everything we need for life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**). He nourishes us through his Spirit, his Word, his empowerment, and through his love, grace, mercy and tender care. Our responsibility is to make sure that we are satisfied to keep drinking from **His** living water so that we may finish well. To drink from our own desires, is to drink devastation into our spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing.

1 Cor. 10:1-4

1 Sam. 7:12

Psalm 145:17-20 17The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. 18The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. 20The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

- II. Paul uses the example of what happened to the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land, to warn us against falling away from an intimate and appreciative relationship with Christ. The Israelites lost their enthusiasm, awe, respect and reverence for God. They stopped loving him, they failed to see how well he was taking care of them, and they stopped trusting him by turning their backs on his grace. They failed in that they could not say “no” to their own desires. We need to be careful that we don’t fall into the same heart attitude of self over Christ.

1 Cor. 10:5-12

Exodus 32:1-6

Num. 25:1-3

Num. 21:4-9

John 3:14

Num. 16:1-3

2 Cor. 5:17

- III. God knows that our fickle hearts are prone to wander away from his righteousness toward the pleasure of sin. He wants to protect us from the being dragged away by our own evil desires and enticed by what this evil world system freely offers. The only way that this is possible is to believe that he will do what he says no matter how strong the temptation may be. The question is, do we want what he wants more than what we want? The answer is seen in the choices we make.

1 Cor. 10:13

James 1:12-18

πειρασμός peirasmós [temptation], the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy, an enticement to sin, temptation, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances, an internal temptation to sin, of the temptation by which the devil sought to divert Jesus the Messiah from his divine errand, of the condition of things, or a mental state, by which we are enticed to sin, or to a lapse from the faith and holiness, adversity, affliction, trouble: sent by God and serving to test or prove one's character, faith, holiness. Strong's Concordance

“Barclay say the word for a way of escape is really a mountain pass, with the idea of an army being surrounded by the enemy, and then suddenly seeing an escape route to safety. Like a mountain pass, the way of escape isn't necessarily an easy way.” Guzik