

## TEMPTATION

## Part Four of Four

In I Corinthians 10:13 the Greek word for escape means “an exit.” You may have never noticed in this verse that Paul tells us exactly what the way of escape is: God “. . . will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” The way out is through. The way out of the temptation is to endure it as a trial and never let it become a means of evil. You have been wronged. You have been falsely accused. You have been treated unkindly. Haven’t we all? James would say, “My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers [various] temptations;” (James 1:2).

We look for a quick easy route of escape from temptations. However, God’s plan for us is different. He wants us to count it all joy, and let patience have her perfect work in us. That we may be perfect and complete [fully developed], lacking nothing. God uses trials to bring us to maturity. Most of the heroes of faith endured incredible trials. It has been said, “If our faith is genuine, it will enable us to withstand whatever trials the Lord permits us to encounter.”

Hebrews 11 talks about the great heroes of faith, and their common characteristic was faith. Of Moses, the writer of Hebrews says, “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27). He endured, just as did Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Rehab. They all ran the race that was set before them by faith.

If you think your own trials are severe listen again to what the writer of Hebrews had to say concerning the heroes of faith: through faith subdued kingdoms, stopped the mouth of lions, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, received their dead raised to life again, others were tortured, others had trial of cruel mocking and scourging, bonds and imprisonment, stoned, sawn asunder, slain with the sword, wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, and tormented. Yet, the writer said that “the world was not worthy” of such people.

Scripture: King James Version: I Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2-12; Hebrews 11:1-40.

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