

TEMPTATION

Part Three

Paul said, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: . . .” (I Corinthians 10:13). In other words, temptation is human. It is not supernatural. It is not a force so powerful that we are at a loss regarding how to deal with it. Temptation is common to humanity. The temptations that we face are the very same ones everyone else faces. The temptations that come to you are the same temptations that come to me. We may be particularly vulnerable or susceptible to different temptations. But we all get hit with the same basic temptations.

God knows your individual limitations. He will never allow you to face any test that is more than you at any given time in your spiritual life can handle. Jesus illustrates this principle on the night of His betrayal. He said to Peter, “. . . Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted [turned back to me], strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32). Peter refused to believe the words of Jesus. He stated that he was ready to die, or even go to prison if that is what it would take. However, we all know that Peter was mistaken; he did as Jesus said he would do.

Jesus orchestrated all the events of the disciples to make sure that they were not tested beyond their ability to withstand. Peter failed, but his faith did not fail. He was forced to look into his own soul, and learned some valuable lessons that night. One lesson I feel sure that Peter learned, was the lesson of his own weakness.

Whatever level of spiritual growth we are at, our Lord Jesus will never allow us to go through any temptation beyond our ability to handle. If we are true Christians, we cannot fall away. Jesus will see to that.

Scripture: King James Version: Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 6:37-40; I Corinthians 10:13.

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