

ESCAPE ROOM

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

REFLECTION

Have you ever played an Escape Room? This is a game of imagination and innovation in which a group of friends enter a themed physical space, such as a pirate ship, a dungeon, a castle, a mad scientist's laboratory, etc. In this immersive environment, players work together to find clues and solve puzzles within a fixed amount of time, with the aim of unraveling the mystery, and escaping the room.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, the Bible speaks of God providing a "way of escape" – an exit way. Just as in an Escape Room game, there is always, without a doubt, a way out. But unlike in an Escape Room, we don't need to rack our brains, solve riddles, or complete challenges to access the exit way. For Scripture affirms: God himself will provide this exit way out of temptation.

Notice the Bible doesn't promise that we will be spared from being tempted. In this passage, Paul was speaking primarily about the temptation for Christians to join in the pagan temple feasts, which were ubiquitous in Corinth. In their context, participating in such feasts had become almost a social or cultural obligation. Those who did not join in would be regarded as strange or eccentric, as outsiders. The temptation to 'just fit in', to be part of 'respectable society' was ever-present. So were the excuses: 'Everyone's doing it' and 'God will understand'. Sound familiar?

Today, we too aren't spared from the temptation of giving in to socially-acceptable sins. We can easily think of expressions of falsehood, pride, greed, aggression, and fear which are normalised in our context. We have phrases like 'white lies', 'if you've got it, flaunt it', and 'greed is good'. Like the Corinthians, some 'idols' are so much a part of our culture, that we hardly even recognise them as temptations.

No, we Christians certainly aren't spared from being tempted. But the good news is this: God will not let us be tempted beyond our ability. God always provides an exit way. Jesus has already unlocked the door of the Escape Room. We simply need to look intently at Jesus, follow closely after his lead, and pass through his exit way.

PRAYER

O God, we daily face so many temptations in our journey in life. Traps and landmines lurking around the next bend, potholes and quicksand just down the road. Father, we thank You that it's not by our problem-solving skills, by our iron wills, or by our clever techniques that we escape these temptations. It is all by Your grace, Lord, for You have made the way. When we feel powerless to resist, grant us Your surpassing strength, O Mighty King. Matchless God, grant that we might look to You with such intensity and love, and to follow close behind You, our Living Way. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Take some time to reflect: Have you ever subconsciously desired evil? (1Cor 10:6) If the Lord brings to mind such a recent incident, confess it before Him, accept His forgiveness, and receive His strength to reject and turn away.
- Are you facing certain temptations in your life? Don't simply try to resist them by sheer force of your will or resign to their beckoning. Instead, bring them before our gracious God, ask for His enabling strength to escape and overcome them. Do you need help in standing firm and resisting temptations? Do you have someone whom you can confide in and turn to for accountability? Ask the Lord to show or provide you one.
- Do you know of a family member or friend who is struggling with temptation? Pray for him/her and ask our faithful God to grant assurance of His grace and way of escape.
- Pray that God will open our eyes to the socially-acceptable sins around us, and grant us all the grace and strength to reject them, and to follow only Jesus, the Master. Pray for the church and believers to be strong in the Spirit, to stand firm and resist the voices, both from within and without, that seeks to lure us away from God.

*In the greatest temptations,
a single look to Christ,
and the barely pronouncing his name,
suffices to overcome the wicked one,
so it be done with confidence
and calmness of spirit.*

John Wesley,

"A Plain Account of Christian Perfection"

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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