

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken

you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a

way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

God Makes A Way



Brother Wayne Hafley

The Faithfulness of God

I am glad that God knows all our ways. In Job 23:8-10 Job said: "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Verse 13 of our Scripture text lets us know that no temptation is uncommon to man. When you realize that others have gone through the same trials that you face and that they were victorious, that is an inspiration. No doubt, many have gone through more than you and I are going through, and their fruits and labors live on.

A lady once said, "I'm a pilgrim passing through, but this journey is not all smooth." It is a sweet journey when God walks with you, because He can make a way when the road gets dark and lonely. He is the light at the end of the tunnel, and He will take you through all your trials and tests. No problem is too hard for God to solve. There is not a mountain that He cannot tunnel through or a river that He cannot dry up. He is still God.

God will make a way for you, friend. If some would get out of the way, God could make a way for them. I do not want to hinder God if He is working with me and giving me what I need for each trial and test. I want to listen to God and obey Him. If you will obey God and not allow other spirits to get hold of

you, you can be more than a conqueror. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in every situation! He will take care of His own if His own will let Him.

I appreciate God. He has helped me in so many ways, and I know He will help me again when I call upon Him. Saint, God understands your every mistake, and He understands every trial you are going through. He also understands your feelings and desires. God is faithful, and He is a present help in the time of trouble.

You can read in the Bible of God's faithfulness to the Prophets and the Apostles. He brought them through many trials and persecutions, and He will do the same for you. Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have

finished my course, I have kept the faith." At times Paul had to stand alone. In 2 Timothy 4:14 he said, "Alexander . . . did me much evil." In verse 17 Paul said, "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me." If the Lord is for you, who can be against you? Paul said the Lord stood with him. The Lord encourages His people. The devil will bring discouragement whenever possible. You may go through times of discouragement, but do not lose heart. The devil likes to put people in a discouraging state. Unbelief and doubting God can cause you to turn to the world and other things, but you do not have to do that. God can bring you through.

The Victory Is in Being Obedient

After the death of Moses, Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel, and God encouraged Joshua. In Joshua 1:5 He said, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee. . . ." Christian friend, you need to be encouraged. You might have a rough road ahead of you, but it will not be too hard for you if the Lord is with you. Joshua knew that the Lord would be with him and that He would take him through.

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Canaan land, they came to the city of Jericho. God said He would give the city to them. The walls of Jericho were no trouble to God. He told Israel to march around the walls of the city once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. When they obeyed Him, He brought down the walls. Romans 8:37 states that "we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." The walls were a big obstacle for Israel in conquering Jericho.

Dear one, you will not get victory without a battle. You will have to fight Satan all the way. You may come up against some high walls, but God will make a way for you. He gave Israel the order to

march around the city and to keep silent. That was a difficult order, but they obeyed it. That might have seemed foolish to them, but God saw that it was necessary for them to obtain victory. The victory is in being obedient to the One who made the plan.

As Israel marched around the walls of Jericho the seventh day, they were commanded to sound the trumpet. The sound of the trumpet was the only thing blasting against the walls. Many people try to battle the enemy with their own hands, but they need to leave it where God ordained the church to have victory. If you will be still and hear what the Spirit says, you can go through any problem or trial victoriously.

Friend, if you are going to make it, you must line up with God's Word. God's church is marching on with the Truth, and I intend to march with it. God's people never lose their thrill for the sounding of the trumpet. If you lose your love for the Truth, you will lose the victory. Sometimes you may not understand when God leads you in a certain way, but God tells the church how to march and how to keep the victory.

God had a purpose when He told Israel to march around the walls and not to speak or make any noise. They could have said, "God, why don't You just let us walk around one time?" In my own experience, sometimes my head has said no, but my heart said amen. When it comes to living the Bible standard, the flesh may not want to submit, but your heart ought to say amen to the will of God and obey. You do not want to lose your submissiveness to the will of God. I believe that God wanted His people to look at the greatness of those walls. They did not allow unbelief to overtake them.

Friend, when God commands you to do something, it will work. Some things might look impossible to the natural eye, but nothing is impossible with God. You might have some walls in your life, but God can bring them down. If you

will obey the Lord, He will be right there with you and see you through. When you come to a Red Sea in your life, just be still, and God will bring deliverance. When things look impossible, you need to remember that with God all things are possible.

God Is Faithful

God was faithful to Abraham. He promised Abraham a son, and that promise was fulfilled in Abraham's old age. God can work beyond the realm of nature and human understanding. With God all things are possible. What a mighty God we serve! Many problems may hinder the work of God, but we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ. Solomon wrote in Song of Solomon that the church is a lily among thorns; that shows the beauty of God's church. Child of God, God is mindful of you and of whatever stands in your way.

Paul had a thorn in the flesh and was buffeted by Satan, so he prayed three times for God to take it away, but instead of taking it away, God gave him the grace to bear it. God wants to take you through difficulties to give you His glory. If you are not careful, you will get to the place where you want life to be too easy. If you are going to be a part of the Church of God, some people are not going to be with you. Nevertheless, God will be with you, and He will take you through. God makes a way through His grace.

God told Paul that He was going to give him the grace to bear the thorn in his flesh. The greatest resource you have in the midst of trouble is God's grace. His grace is sufficient for every need. When you pray and problems do not move, the devil will try to cause you to doubt God and then become discouraged. However, if you will pray to God, you can claim the victory, and God will exalt you in due season. God will hear your prayers, but He may not bring deliverance right away. If you will keep praying and keep trusting, God will see you through.

He will not fail you; He is faithful. Also, the people of God will not let you down when you are distressed or discouraged. A child of God will lift you up and pray for you. Church, we are to bear one another's burdens. If you cannot help someone bear a burden, you are not where you ought to be with God.

When Amelek fought against Israel, Moses stood on top of a hill and held up a rod. As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed, but when his hands came down, the enemy prevailed. So Joshua and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands. God would stop the whole universe to win the victory for His people. He can calm the storms in your life.

You will have many battles to go through. Sometimes the battle is in the mind. That is the reason God wants you to set your affection on things above and not on earthly things. We serve a mighty, risen Lord, and He is faithful to the Church of the Living God. God is faithful to His people. Child of God, He will supply your needs, and He will never leave you.

Hindrances to Your Soul

Many people have problems with self. If you are not careful, you will want to quit the battle. When God's army moves, we all must stick together, encourage one another, and uphold one another in prayer. A child of God does not want to sit in the wilderness. He will get the fullness of the power of God and endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. The wilderness must be conquered for you to be victorious, child of God.

Joshua and Caleb had another spirit. Some people have a spirit, but it is not the right spirit. I do not want to be guilty of having a wrong spirit. You should not have a rebellious spirit or a spirit that wants to put others down. You should want to help others. I am not going to sit on the sidelines and become lukewarm or dead.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:7-9: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." You may be cast down, but you will not be forsaken or destroyed. God will deliver you.

The city of Jericho was a hindrance to the children of Israel going into Canaan land. Today the church has its walls of Jericho. The Church of God has had to war against paganism, papalism, and Protestantism. God brings His people out of false religion, and thank God, they come out victoriously. The church has victory over the beast, and she does not bear his mark. Once there was a wall there, but God has brought it down.

False religion works against the Church of God. Your kinfolk who are in false religion may be a hindrance to you. They may try to pull you away from the Church of God. False religion is an enemy to Christ, and it is still an enemy to God's church. Babylon's doctrine is not the doctrine of God. The mark of Babylon is to scatter God's people.

It is bad enough when sectism divides God's people, but it is worse when those who claim to be God's people work division. If you cause division, you are killing the two witnesses, the Word and the Spirit. Romans 16:17 says, "Mark them which cause divisions . . . and avoid them." God broke down the middle wall of partition between the Jews and the Gentiles, and made us one body. Today people are building that wall back up.

Friend, you might have some walls in your life that you have not conquered yet. You might have a problem with measuring to the Bible standard. You may be self-centered or have a rebellious spirit. If you have a rebellious spirit, you are rebelling against what God wants you to do. You might have some things in your life that you know without a

doubt are contrary to walking in the light. Perhaps you walk in the light for a while, but then you begin to back up on what God has revealed to you. That is a wall that needs to come down, because it is a hindrance to your soul. You need to tear down those walls on the inside that are problems to you. You need to put self on the altar and let God move in completely.

A pastor has less trouble with sanctified people than with carnal-minded people. Carnality is an enemy to the Church of God. Child of God, you should not want your own will; you should seek God's will. As a child of God, you must die out to your own will and submit to God's will in your life. Some have come to that place in their experience and have gone back instead of going on.

Take Heed Lest You Fall

When the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho, they had to rule out self-confidence and trust in God. Later, their self-confidence caused them to lose the battle at Ai. Saint, you can be highly favored of God, but you must heed His Word lest you fall. You can become careless or lax in your living. God's Word says to take heed lest you fall. You must heed that warning until the day you die. You need to examine yourself and pray as David did in Psalm 139:23-24 when he said: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me. . . ." God's Word is a resource that you can draw from.

James 1:2-5 reads: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James admonished in James 2:13-14: "For he shall have

judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" God will not tempt you to do evil against a brother or a sister. You should not blame God for that temptation.

Many people become involved in things, and because they feel good about them, they think God does not condemn them. That is a deception from the devil. Living after the flesh can cause you to feel good, but it will destroy your soul. Rock 'n' roll music can cause you to lose your salvation. That is the reason you need to set your mind on things above and quit allowing your mind to be filled with worldly allurements. You need to get it off earthly things. With every temptation God will make a way for you to escape; He will supply the grace. Some people misuse the grace of God by thinking they can live for self for a while and then seek God at a later time. On the contrary, He sets the times and the conditions. You may wait too long and be like Samson, not realizing that the Lord has departed from you.

If you are not true to what God has shown you and you refuse His correction, He will send you a strong delusion and cause you to believe a lie and be damned. To continue to transgress and rebel and not confess your wrong is a dangerous state. Proverbs 28:13 says that he who confesses his sins and forsakes them shall have mercy. That is where the mercy of God is found. Refusing to confess and forsake your sins is where the trouble is. The devil will use all his power to keep you in bondage, but God will make a way out if you will meet His conditions.

"Wait Upon the Lord"

Sometimes God will not come to your rescue immediately but will test you. During those times, you need to be patient and possess your

soul. God uses problems to strengthen you. You need to wait on God in patience. Isaiah 40:31 reads, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." The word *faint* means to be disheartened. Saint, do not get disheartened. Lift up your head and keep pressing on. You may be discouraged or disappointed, but you will never be disappointed in God. Christian friend, you do not have to lose out in a trial and give up. God said with every temptation He would make a way to escape. He will not put more on you than you can bear. He is not unreasonable. His purpose and plan is to build your faith. He wants you to have more confidence and trust in Him, and then you can help others who are going through trials. You can receive wisdom from God. James 1:5 reads, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

When you go through hard places, you may feel that it is unfair. In times such as that, you can ask in wisdom for the promise. The devil likes to work on you to try to put you down. He will try to bring fear upon you, and fear has torment. Proverbs 29:25 states, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." Some people know what they ought to do, but they have a fear of man. The fear of man will bring a snare and put you in bondage. God said not to fear man who can destroy the body but to fear Him who can destroy both soul and body. You can be more than a conqueror through Christ who strengthens you. If God be for you, who can be against you? You ought to give God glory and praise for what He does. You should not take the resources of God lightly. We get wisdom when we are tried by fire. Friend, persecution has never stopped the progress of the church. Perseverance during

persecution will bring out the very best in you.

Psalms 125:1-3 states: "They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity." God is in the midst of His people to take care of them. He is all around spiritual Jerusalem.

When Elijah was in a time of famine, God told him to abide by the brook Cherith and the ravens would bring him food. Elijah did not question God; he was obedient. After a while, the brook dried up, so God sent him to a widow's house. She was gathering sticks for a fire to make a last meal for herself and her son to eat, and then they were going to lay down and die because of the famine. Elijah told the widow woman to bake a cake for him first, and then the Lord would supply meal and oil for them until the famine was over. She honored God and God's man, and God supplied her need.

In the Old Testament you can read of Hannah. She could not bare children. Her husband tried to comfort her, but he could not help her. To be barren was a reproach to a woman in that day. Hannah wanted a child so much that she held on in prayer, but God did not answer immediately. Nevertheless, she kept on praying. Her unanswered prayer did not hinder her hope. She prayed on until the answer came. She was persistent, and her trust was in God. Finally, God opened her womb, and she promised that child to the Lord. God can work above nature.

A lady in our congregation wanted a child so much. The doctor told her that she could never have any children. She and her husband kept coming to church and were saved. She was zealous, eager to learn the Bible truths, and full of good works. One day she went to

the altar and prayed that God would open her womb so that she could have a child. One morning she came to church shouting praises to God and said, "I'm going to have a child!" If you trust and obey God, He will bless you and give you the desires of your heart according to His will. What a mighty God we serve! That little girl has dedicated herself at the altar to be a missionary.

Shun the Appearance of Evil

Sometimes you may be tempted to become self-centered. If you are not careful, you will think of no one but yourself. Being self-centered and not carrying a burden for others is the wrong kind of spirit; it is not the Spirit of God. If you do not get victory over that, it will lead to your having a rebellious spirit. In the Old Testament, King Saul wanted to reserve some things for himself despite what the man of God told him to do. He had a rebellious spirit. The spirit of rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. My friend, being rebellious or self-centered will cause you to let down on the Bible standard. The Bible says to dress modestly. The standard of modesty in this country has gone down, but the people of God still dress modestly.

Young person, you must flee youthful lusts or temptation will overtake you. God will help you through temptations if you ask Him. Pornography will mess up your mind and cause you to become lustful. James 1:15 states, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." David lusted after Bathsheba and brought much sorrow upon himself. Parent, you ought to watch your children and pay attention to the kinds of clothes they are wearing. You ought to notice what kind of blouses and dresses your daughter wears. You need to uphold the standard of modesty so that ungodly apparel does not begin to creep in.

Other things may try to creep in, such as body piercing, tattoos, and

strange hairstyles. Do not tell me those things do not affect the young people. Many of them dye their hair green or some other color or shave part of it off, and sometimes their parents think that is cute. You and your family should be a good Christian witness.

Child of God, the evil forces of the world are all around you. In schools the teachers and ungodly students may mock you and make fun of you. If you are measured to the Bible standard, they would like to see you deny that standard. They want you to be as they are. The Church of God is separate from the world. The Bible says to shun the very appearance of evil. Do you look at pornography on the Internet? Do you have some walls on the inside that need to come down? Peter warned against becoming entangled with the world.

Be Strong in the Lord

Christian friend, you need to learn from things that have caused you problems in the past and quit letting them come back in. Proverbs 26:11 speaks of a dog returning to its own vomit. In other words, it has taken in again what made him sick. You may take a hog out of the mud hole and give it a bubble bath and put perfume all over it, but when you turn it loose, it will go back and wallow in the mud, because its nature has not been changed. When God saves you, He makes you a new creature. Yielding to temptation comes if you fail to stay strong spiritually. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:16, ". . . though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Friend, it pays to be strong in the Lord. Many people have fallen by the wayside because they failed to resist the devil. Again, the Bible says to flee youthful lusts. To stay saved, you need to attend the church services as much as possible, study the Bible, and pray. God's grace is given so that you can be victorious. His grace will not cause you to think

of yourself more highly than you think of others. You can lose the grace of God.

Some people think they can lose out with God and go back to God anytime they choose, but they cannot do that. When you come to God in true repentance, you must be ready to make changes in your life. The grace of God is available only when you truly forsake all your sins. God will give you strength to overcome every problem, and the grace of God will be there to help you.

Luke, Chapter 18, tells of two men who went into the temple to pray. One spoke of how righteous he was, and the other, a publican, humbly said, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." The publican got the grace of God.

When the prodigal son came to himself and owned his true condition, he went back ready to be a servant. Some people go to the altar just because they have gotten caught, but they do not have godly sorrow. They will not receive the grace of God that way. God hates disobedience, self-righteousness, and pride. He cut off the Jews because they would not accept His way and admit to their wrongs. He left their house desolate. If you do not do better than that, you will be cut off too.

Sinner friend, you must be willing to forsake all your sins to obtain God's grace. If you come to the Lord in true repentance and godly sorrow, He will forgive you and make a way of escape from all your temptations. However, you must come to God with the right attitude and in humility. When you know you have done wrong, you need to be honest and come to God. May God help you.

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