

**God's Answer to the Three Excuses for Handling Temptation
(1 Corinthians 10:13)**

Definition of Temptation: An enticement presented to lead one into sin against God;
The enticement comes in various forms according to the lust of one's heart.

I. Things to Consider about a temptation:

- A. Every temptation you encounter exposes desires of your heart that have become lusts of your heart. (James 1:14)

- B. Lusts of your heart are desires you believe you cannot do without being satisfied and you are willing to sin to obtain and sin when you do not obtain them; It could be a desire: (James 4:1-3)
 - 1. To be in control that has become a demand
 - 2. To be loved by others that has become a demand
 - 3. To be accepted by others that has become a demand
 - 4. To be understood by others that has become a demand
 - 5. To never be hurt or disappointed by others that has become a demand
 - 6. To be respected by others that has become a demand
 - 7. To be served by others that has become a demand
 - 8. To have personal preferences accommodated at all times that has become a demand
 - 9. To be viewed as competent by others that has become a demand
 - 10. To be approved of by others that has become a demand
 - 11. To belong to someone that has become a demand
 - 12. To be held in high regard by others that has become a demand
 - 13. To be significant to others that has become a demand
 - 14. To be fulfilled by others that has become a demand
 - 15. To be satisfied by others that has become a demand
 - 16. To be valuable to others that has become a demand
 - 17. To maintain a favorable position with others that has become a demand
 - 18. To be secure/safe with others that has become a demand
 - 19. To never be alone that has become a demand

- C. Your in- the -moment response to a temptation exposes whether you are controlled by the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Self. (Galatians 6:7-8)

- D. The more you yield to the temptation the more you are exposing a life ruled by the kingdom of self resulting in complicating your life through sinful choices. (Galatians 6:7-8)

- E. The more you resist the temptation and walk in love for God and love for others you are exposing a life ruled by the Kingdom of God resulting in stabilizing your life through godly choices.
(Galatians 6:7-8)
- F. The condition of your life is impacted by your response to temptations. (James 1:14-15, 1Peter 5:6-11)

II. God's Answer and the Three Excuses (1 Corinthians 10:13)

- A. **Excuse #1** No one can understand or know what I am going through.

Response: No Temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man.

- a. There is nothing we face in life that is original or new.
- b. Every thing we face is common to human experience.
- c. Our temptations are not special or different from anyone else.

- B. **Excuse #2** This is too much for me to handle; I can't deal with this.

Response: God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

- a. God is faithful in that He will always empower us to obey Him in times of temptation
- b. God is faithful in that He will not allow your temptation to exceed beyond your ability to obey Him.
- c. God is faithful in that He will not allow any person, place, thing or situation to tempt you above your ability to resist sin and obey Him.

- C. **Excuse #3** There is no way I can obey God in this situation surely He understands.

Response: With the temptation will provide the way of escape also that you will be able to endure it.

- a. God will provide a way through the temptation
- b. God will provide endurance in the temptation
- c. God's way will be suitable for your situation

(Adapted from the teachings of Jay Adams)