

STRENGTH FOR THE STRESSES

“How Strength is Made Perfect in Weakness”

Study Number Six – “The Fear of Failure” – 1 Corinthians 9:27-10:13

We call this series of studies “Studies to Strengthen” and we’ve talked a little bit about LOVE in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 for three sessions, and then we spent a session on TRIUMPH IN SUFFERING—how we can face triumphantly suffering that comes into our life as a Christian.

Then we talked about the keys to CONTENTMENT—how we can be a contented individual. In this study we will talk about FEAR OF FAILURE.

Many times there are people who have grown up in Calvinistic circles. Calvinistic are those people who hold to the eternal security of the believer. For further definition, they believe that once we come to know Jesus Christ as Savior, we’re saved eternally.

If someone has a different opinion, that’s fine. When we get to glory we’ll discover who was right.

There is an interesting thing that happens to people who hold to this position. Oftentimes they become extremely

complacent.

After they become a Christian, receive Christ as Savior, they sort of settle down because the big issue is already settled. They kind of get the feeling of lethargic lukewarmness.

Sometimes we find in this group of people some very undermotivated people. We also find some people who are very selfish. They're more interested in just studying about what the Bible has to say, rather than really moving out and sharing their faith with others.

Now on the other side, people who hold to the position that we can have our salvation and then we can lose it, depending on what our condition is, these people are extremely motivated. Terribly so sometimes.

Why are they? Well because the big deal's still at stake. And they're concerned about it so they're very motivated in spiritual things.

They're motivated in giving, they're motivated in church activity, they're motivated in evangelism. And so this person has a tendency to be more motivated than the other.

There's a very real possibility that failure can be a part and parcel of our experience. And that's why we have called this subject "The Fear of Failure."

1 Corinthians 9:27-10:13

But I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me lest when I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified. For I am not desiring you to be ignorant brethren, that our fathers all of them, were under the cloud and all passed through the sea and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ. But God was not pleased with the greater part of them for they were struck down in the desert. Now these things have been made examples for us so that we should not desire after evil as they desired, neither be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. Neither let us be practicing sexual immorality even as certain of them practiced sexual immorality and there fell in one day, twenty-three thousand. Neither let us be putting the Lord to the test even as some of them tested Him and by means of the snakes were perishing. Neither let us be murmuring even as some of them murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things were happening to them as examples and they were written for our admonition to whom the end of the ages is imminent. So that the one who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall. No temptation has taken you that is not common to man but God is faithful who will not permit you to be tested above that with which you are able to cope, but along with the temptation also make a way out in order that you may be able to bear up under it.

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In this letter Paul is writing to the Corinthian Christians.

This church is the most problem-plagued church that the apostle writes to. First of all, they're very immature spiritually. They're still babies. They haven't grown up. There are all kinds of disorders in the church. They're fussing with each other and so they're divided in different directions.

There's immorality in the church. They're going to law courts against each other. There are marriage problems in the church. There are doctrinal problems.

We almost get the feeling that Paul reaches the height of frustration when he gets to chapter 9 and he decides that "The one way I could really solve my problem is to show these people by personal illustration of what it means to be committed to Christ. What it means to really be sold out 100% to Him."

So he gives his own personal illustration in verses 24-27. Then he amplifies that illustration by using the children of Israel as an illustration, further of what he's trying to teach.

v. 27 But I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me lest when I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

"But I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me lest when I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified."

Now what we notice in this particular passage of scripture is that the apostle Paul says in that twenty-seventh verse, “I’m treating my body roughly and making it serve me, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”

Now what does he mean by the term “disqualification?”

Now at this point he does not mean salvation. He is talking to some Corinthians, carnal Christians, and the subject of salvation is nowhere in his language here. And so it wouldn’t be salvation that he’s talking about, because that issue’s settled and he’s writing to Christians already.

Now there are several things that we can point out what he means.

1. It doesn’t mean the loss of salvation, but it is referring to something that can happen because of their carnal condition. In other words, they are Christians who are living in the flesh rather than in the Spirit.

2. This disqualification to the apostle Paul, means the loss of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ as a Christian. In other words, he had this horrible fear and anxiety that when it came time for the Judgment Seat of Christ, he’d be disqualified from reward. It’d be like running a race and failing to run it properly and being disqualified.

The apostle could feel in a sense what it would be like to live a

Christian life in view of the fact that there would be reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ, that Bema, when Christ—the One who’s made it possible for us to be there—is going to be dispensing rewards, and to have to be disqualified or asked to stand aside. “Sorry, no rewards for you on the basis of the life you’ve lived as a Christian.”

That would be a devastating experience. And the thing that motivated the apostle Paul probably more than anything else was to hear, “Well done, though good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys I’ve prepared for you.” That was the super exciting anticipation and possibility for him.

Rather than teaching anything with regard to the subject of salvation in verse 27, he’s talking about the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Christians hold to the position that God has given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son, and that it’s God’s reputation at stake to get us to glory. Remember there is the possibility that we’ll be rejected of reward which can be a terribly embarrassing and devastating experience as a Christian.

To the person who isn’t holding to this position about salvation, they also have the same feelings of being rejected at that time.

To those who hold to the other position of the eternal security of the believer, they have to realize that it could be an

embarrassing experience to have to face the One who made it possible. That they didn't care enough to live the kind of life that would be pleasing to the Lord Jesus.

And we can see that illustrated. There are three principles now in chapter 10:

I. Advantage Does Not Guarantee Achievement—verses 1-4

In verses 1-4 notice that these children of Israel had five advantages. And you would think when we see the advantage of the children of Israel in these first four verses, how in the world could they ever fail. Listen to them again as we go through them.

10:v.1 For I am not desiring you to be ignorant brethren, that our fathers all of them, were under the cloud and all passed through the sea

“For I am not desiring you to be ignorant brethren, that our fathers all of them, were under the cloud and all passed through the sea”

What was the first privilege? They had the privilege of His presence with them—visible presence. He was a cloud by day and He was a pillar of fire by night.

Here he's using the illustration of history to show us what it'd be like to be rejected at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The first advantage they had:

1. The presence of the Lord.

Exodus 13:21, 22

And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them in the way; and by night in a pillar of fire...

Now the second advantage is:

2. They all passed through the sea.

Exodus 14:29, 30

The children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea...

What is that advantage? That's the advantage of being a witness of God's power in performing a miraculous feat for their deliverance.

They not only had the promise of His presence—visible presence with them—but they had a manifestation of His power overruling natural forces in order to deliver them.

Now the third advantage is seen in verse 2:

3. “and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the

sea.”

v. 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

“and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”

What that means is that the children of Israel, once they went through the sea, had a prize to look forward to. While they were still in Egypt, they didn’t have anything to anticipate other than slavery. And once they passed through the sea, and they were identified with Moses, what did they have to look forward to?

They were heading toward their prize. They were heading toward the Promised Land. They were anticipating the day when they were going to have the privilege of possessing all that God had promised them.

Now the fourth advantage is in verse 3:

4. “And all ate the same spiritual food.”

v. 3 And all ate the same spiritual food

“And all ate the same spiritual food”

And then the fifth advantage is:

5. “They all drank the same spiritual drink.”

v. 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ.

“and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ.”

They all had provision from the Lord.

See these wonderful things which God provided His advantages to?

He promised His PRESENCE,

they saw His POWER,

they saw the PRIZE that was before them of the Promised Land that He promised them, and

He PROMISED to meet their every need—their physical FOOD and their DRINK.

Wouldn't you think that with all of those advantages, they could not lose? Wow.

This is a sad picture:

v. 5 But God was not pleased with the greater part of

them for they were struck down in the desert.

“But God was not pleased with the greater part of them for they were struck down in the desert.”

That’s the great understatement of scripture.

How many of those Israelites came out of Egypt? Somewhere around one and a half million. How many ever got in? Only two—Joshua and Caleb.

What happened to the rest of the nation? When it came time to come up to the Jordan River and across from Kadesh-Barnea into the land, what did they do? They took one representative from the twelve tribes and said, “Okay boys, go over and check it out and we’ll go in.”

They went over and checked it out. The majority came back and said, “Friends, we ain’t going in.” Joshua and Caleb, the minority, said, “We can go in because God has given it to us.”

All the people refused to listen to Joshua and Caleb and refused to go in. And because of their unbelief, the Lord let them walk around in circles in the wilderness until the whole generation died off.

Why did that happen? Simply because they failed to trust God to believe His promises and to act upon them and to find God faithful.

That's why the writer of the book of Hebrews says: "You better take heed lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." (see Hebrews 3:12)

They failed to trust God so they weren't allowed to go into the Promised Land.

It's hard to believe that only two of them ever got to go into the Promised Land out of that whole nation. The statistics are probably going to be startling in glory of the people who are going to be rewarded because of their faithfulness and their walk with Jesus Christ and their willingness to trust Him 100% in every area of their lives.

Our advantages are just as great as theirs. The only difference between our advantages that are available and theirs is they had a visible presence and we don't.

Jesus said to Thomas, "Thomas, you had to see Me to believe Me, but blessed are those who exercise faith and who don't see and still believe." (see John 20:29)

1. We have a promise of His PRESENCE.

He says, "My presence shall go with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you." (see Hebrews 13:5)

2. We have the promise of a PRIZE ahead.

Paul says, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high

call of God in Christ Jesus.” (see Philippians 3:14)

We have an inheritance lying ahead of us if we’re a Christian. God has it all staked out for us. It’s a fantastic thing we can look forward to with great anticipation if we’re His child.

3. He’s promised us His PROVISION.

4. He’s manifested His POWER already in our life in changing us from a creature of His hand into a child of His heart.

He’s taken us out of one family and put us into His as a result of our faith in Jesus Christ. We have all these advantages.

What are we doing with the advantages?

ADVANTAGE does not guarantee ACHIEVEMENT.

Bill Glass describes some pro football players. He says, “They’re muscular mountains of indirection, running in circles and trying to score.” (source unknown)

Many times this is the picture of carnal Christians. They’re running around in the flesh in little circles. They don’t have any goals or purpose or direction in their life. They haven’t learned to trust God yet and so they still try to keep God on the map.

And they’re just fussing and fuming and flying all over the

place. And they're accomplishing absolutely zilch for the glory of God.

Advantage doesn't guarantee achievement.

These Israelites are evidence of divine disqualification through disobedience. All without exception shared these great privileges, but those privileges were advantages but they didn't take advantage of the advantages they had.

FAILURE on our part to appropriate our advantage will lead to ASSUMPTION and not ACHIEVEMENT.

We can have the finest school in the world. We can have the best administration. We can have the greatest teachers. We can still flunk.

And the same thing is true in this Christian life. We can flunk. We can flunk if we are not individuals who are exercising our lives like the apostle did in verse 27.

He says, "I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me, lest when I've preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." (see 1 Corinthians 9:27)

It is the function of the Holy Spirit to discipline us as a child of God so we do what we need to do, rather than what we want to do oftentimes.

It is the function of the Spirit of God who dwells within us, as

a Christian, to give us the right attitude when the crisis comes into our life so that we submit to the test instead of struggling against it.

It is the function of the Holy Spirit whose power is within us to give us victory when we face temptation, to compromise our stand in the teaching of scripture.

It is the function of the Holy Spirit to create within us an appetite so we'll daily read His Word and be found studying it.

It is the function of the Holy Spirit within us to love the world through us, with an impartial love.

And it is the function of the Holy Spirit within us to produce fruit, which is a manifestation of our faith.

And it's a function of the Holy Spirit within us also to control our tongue so that we speak the words which are pleasing to Him.

And we can go through it again and see that as we are more and more possessed by the Spirit of God, we become a person who under His control begins to take advantage of the advantages which we have been given. Ultimately that will lead to spiritual achievement.

Now the second principle that we are going to look at in this passage is:

II. Affection Determines Attitude—verses 6-10

First, advantage does not guarantee achievement—verses 1-5.

Secondly, affection determines attitude—verses 6-10.

Now whereas they had a five-fold advantage—the children of Israel—when we come into verses 6-10 we see the five steps to disqualification.

Want to know how to be disqualified from reward? Here are the five steps that guarantee disqualification with regard to reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The first one is in verse 6:

1. “we should not desire after evil as they desired,”

v. 6 Now these things have been made examples for us so that we should not desire after evil as they desired,

“Now these things have been made examples for us so that we should not desire after evil as they desired,”

Many times in the experience of the children of Israel, they desired things which were not pleasing to the Lord.

For instance we read in Numbers:

Numbers 11:18

Moreover, giving the following instructions to the people. Cleanse yourselves for tomorrow because you are going to eat meat.

They'd been griping and complaining over the fact that all they had was manna out there. And they were desiring meat more than anything else. And finally the Lord said, "I'm fed up. You're going to eat meat. You're going to eat it until you're so sick of it you aren't going to be able to stand it."

They desired after evil. Many times in our stubborn little ways, we clutch our toys because we cannot see that God has the big picture. And when we do that, it says that "He gives us our requests but He sends leanness into our souls." (see Psalm 106:15)

The Lord sometimes takes something very dear and very precious away from us. We have to struggle and fight and fuss with the Lord over what He's doing. Only to discover way too late that He was only trying to get that away from us so He could bless us in an abundant manner.

Now, what he's saying is that if we just follow our natural desires it's going to lead to disqualification. In fact, if we spend our whole life on sleep, sex, steaks and socializing, we can plan on that leading to disqualification.

If that's all we live for, that's all we spend our life trying to be

comfortable as a Christian, living in the flesh rather than in discovering the thrill of living in the power of the Spirit, we can plan on disqualification at the Judgment Seat of Christ, with regard to reward.

That was strong.

The second step is:

2. “neither be idolaters as some of them were.”

v. 7 neither be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

“neither be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

Now what happened when Moses went up on the mountain to get the Ten Commandments? Aaron and the people formed the golden calf, didn't they? They became idolaters.

When we have a wrong desire, it's going to lead to wrong worship. Ultimately when we have that wrong desire, we're eventually going to worship that wrong desire. And this leads, of course, to disqualification.

What is a wrong desire, but a love of a substitute? And what is worship, but bowing down for that thing? Making a decision on the basis of that wrong desire.

2 Timothy 4:10

Demas hath forsaken me because of his love for this present world.

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hold to the one and despise the other.” (see Matthew 6:24)

The hymn writer put it this way:

Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly whole,
I want You to forever to live in my soul,
Break down every idol, cast out every foe,
Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
(source unknown)

Now the third step to disqualification is:

3. “Neither let us be practicing sexual immorality even as certain of them [did]”

v. 8 Neither let us be practicing sexual immorality even as certain of them practiced sexual immorality and there fell in one day, twenty-three thousand.

“Neither let us be practicing sexual immorality even as certain of them practiced sexual immorality and there fell in one day, twenty-three thousand.”

See the progression to disqualification? There's a wrong desire, which leads to a wrong worship, and that leads to a wrong union.

And of course, this wrong union is just on the way down as part and parcel of the steps to disqualification.

The fourth step is seen in verse 9:

4. “Neither let us be putting the Lord to the test as some of them tested Him and by means of the snakes were perishing.”

v. 9 Neither let us be putting the Lord to the test even as some of them tested Him and by means of the snakes were perishing.

“Neither let us be putting the Lord to the test even as some of them tested Him and by means of the snakes were perishing.”

A wrong desire leads to a wrong worship. Wrong worship leads to a wrong union, and then what happens? The wrong guy gets put on trial.

Ever watched a wrong relationship develop? There's a husband and wife and then an illicit relationship develops between that husband and another woman. And as this relationship begins to develop with this other woman, you can almost hold your breath and brace yourself for what's going to come.

And as this relationship develops over here, who goes on trial? This poor, innocent woman who's been the wife of his youth. She's the one that gets put to the test.

“After all, you're not like you used to be. You've really changed. I don't love you anymore. In fact I hate your guts. And the less I see of you the better.”

And all these ugly things start coming out. Why? Simply because he's found a new love and the wrong woman goes on trial. An innocent bystander in the situation.

Our society is saturated clear to the hilt in this kind of a situation and it's pretty ugly and pretty devastating. But that's the progression to disqualification.

Then how about the next one?

5. “Neither let us be murmuring as some of them murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

v. 10 Neither let us be murmuring even as some of them murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer.

“Neither let us be murmuring even as some of them murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

Why do we murmur? The murmuring comes as a result of, “Well God, really Your laws and regulations, they just don't

make that much sense. After all, Lord, You're really too strict. You need to be a little bit more broadminded in the way You handle things. After all, You've got to get updated with society."

And there are little murmurs going on. This is exactly what the children of Israel were guilty of doing. They had an evil desire, which led to a wrong worship, which led to a wrong union.

And instead of them accepting the responsibility for what was going on, they put the wrong man on trial. God was the one put on trial for what He was doing. And then there's this "murmur, murmur, grumble, grumble, murmur, murmur, grumble, grumble." Every time they didn't have water, what'd they do? Same song, second verse, a little bit louder and a whole lot worse—"murmur, murmur."

Who did they murmur against? Moses and God. "Awe man, we don't have meat"—"murmur, murmur, grumble, gripe."

"Oh, if we could only be back in Egypt. What'd you do? Bring us out here in the wilderness to kill us! This is devastating. If we'd only stayed in Egypt where we could have had our leeks and garlic!"

They're griping and complaining at God. These are divine steps to disqualification.

Affection determines attitude.

What has first place in our life?

Does our relationship to Jesus Christ serve as the most important thing in our life over everything and everybody else?

Our affection determines our attitude. And Paul spells this out here quite clearly:

Advantage doesn't necessarily guarantee attainment.

Affection will determine our attitude, because if He is not first place in our life, there's something else that is—and that's an evil desire.

The Lord demands first place in the life of His children. Total and complete 100% devotion.

Next we're going to look at a **THREE-FOLD ADMONITION** that will lead to **ATTAINMENT**.

We don't want to just talk about the negative side of the picture. Paul doesn't either. And so in these last three verses he gives a three-fold admonition that will lead to attainment at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Let's look at them for just a minute.

v. 11 Now these things were happening to them as examples and they were written for our admonition

to whom the end of the ages is imminent.

“Now these things were happening to them as examples and they were written for our admonition to whom the end of the ages is imminent.”

The primary motivation toward our attainment ought to be the fact that the Lord Jesus is going to come pretty quickly.

James describes the Lord as being at the door. Prophetic scripture lines up so beautifully to the fact that we can get excited about the fact that He’s going to come.

Now if He’s going to come, and if He should come before we die, that too ends our opportunity to be in a position of attainment at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Right?

So it ought to be an awfully powerful means of motivation to us that our life could be interrupted and that the Lord Jesus could come back again to take us to be with Himself.

The truth from the Word of God is He’s promised to come and to take us to be with Himself. The Word is filled with references with regard to that.

The apostle Paul says, “Occupy till I come.” Jesus says, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day. Don’t say there are four months and then come harvest. Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look!” (see John 4:35) It’s coming. He’s coming again to receive us to Himself.

And so we must realize the fact that there is a sense of urgency in what we're doing, if we're moving toward attainment.

Romans 13 is a great passage to put here with this eleventh verse.

Romans 13:11-14

Why all the stress on behavior? Because I think as you have realized, the present time is of highest importance. It's time to wake up to reality. Every day brings God's salvation nearer. The night is nearly over and the day is almost dawned...

We should be Christ's men, from head to foot, and give no chance to the flesh.

Now notice verse 12, because here we have the second principle toward attainment.

v. 12 So that the one who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.

“So that the one who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.”

What he's saying here is, that when we think we stand, we become comfortable and complacent.

“take heed lest you fall.”

As Christians we have to be careful that we do not become comfortable in our commitment to Jesus Christ.

The apostle says, “take heed lest you fall.”

Take heed lest we are disqualified at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

See the progression? Back in verse 27 he says, “I’m treating my body roughly and making it serve me lest when I preached to others I myself should be disqualified.”

The Lord was not pleased with the greater part of them. They were struck down in the desert—verse 5.

Verse 12 comes the warning—“take heed lest you fall.”

And if we’re awfully comfortable in the fact that we’re a Christian and we love the Lord and He loves us and we’re looking forward to glory, friend that isn’t all there is. There is a Judgment Seat of Christ—there’s a Bema. There’s a time when we’re going to be evaluated on the basis of how we ran the race from the time we joined the family, until we met the Lord.

going to

We’ll always find a person who is comfortable that they’re very seldom taking heed. They’re very seldom concerned about

what they're doing of significance for Jesus Christ.

Now first of all, he's talked about His return. We ought to be motivated by that.

Secondly, he's talked about this matter of our lives. We ought to "take heed."

First His return, secondly our lives ought to be characterized by restraint. We ought to be careful about how we live.

And then thirdly, notice in verse 13, there's some comfort in the fact that we have a responsibility to be a winner.

v. 13 No temptation has taken you that is not common to man but God is faithful who will not permit you to be tested above that with which you are able to cope, but along with the temptation also make a way out in order that you may be able to bear up under it.

"There is no temptation taken us but such as is common to man. God is faithful. He will not allow us to be tempted above that with which we are able to bear, but were with the temptation also make a way to escape that we may be able to bear it."

There are three things that can be of great comfort that no matter what comes into our life, these three things are true.

1. There is “no temptation” that’s going to be coming to us that’s “not common to man.”

Isn’t it kind of a cool comfort to know that nothing we face in our life is unique to us? The coolest thing about it is that we faced it. We’re facing it, but somebody else has already faced it and been victorious. Right? That’s fabulous motivation for us to be victorious in that temptation or difficulty, isn’t it?

Years ago there was the thought that nobody will ever break the four-minute mile. And then Roger Bannister completed the impossible task. It was amazing. It made all the newspapers.

How many people have broken the four-minute mile since then? Hundreds. Why? Because one guy did.

And the apostle Paul says, “When you’re facing temptation and difficulty in your life, don’t sweat it friends. Somebody else has already been the way before you and they’ve been victorious over it. That ought to serve as great comfort to you when you face some of the same problems and some of the same difficulties.”

“As you’re taking heed, lest you fall,” remember nothing’s going to come to us that is unique, that is going to keep us from having or finding an excuse for being victorious.

Now the second thing he says is:

2. “God is faithful.”

He knows the limits of our endurance and He’ll not allow temptation or difficulty to go beyond our capacity to handle it.

And the third thing we notice in the temptation:

3. He provides in the midst of it “a way to escape so we’ll be able to bear up under it.”

Now we’ve looked at three principles here:

1. ADVANTAGE DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACHIEVEMENT. Privilege doesn’t presume the prize.

2. AFFECTION DETERMINS BY ATTITUDE,” and

3. THE ADMONITION THAT LEADS TO ATTAINMENT—we are admonished by His return that our manner of life ought to be one of restraint.

We have a responsibility of being victorious over temptation so that we can attain and not be disqualified—verse 13.

How does forgiveness relate to the subject of disqualification? There’s not a problem with forgiveness. Once we come to Christ as Savior, we’re forgiven of our past sin, our present, and any future sins that we commit.

Forgiveness is a settled issue at the Cross when we receive

Christ as our Savior.

Now, we don't know how the Lord is going to handle the Judgment Seat of Christ. That we receive the things done in the body, whether it be good or bad, according to what He hath done. We don't know how that's going to be implemented or how the record is going to be called forth when it's all been forgiven—as far as sin is concerned.

The whole subject of biblical forgiveness is that way. He has washed the slate completely clean when we come to the Cross of Christ. And it's as though it had never been as far as He's concerned. So, it could be that it will be with regard to how we relate to His plan for our lives, rather than the things which are failures.

He will not allow temptation to go beyond our capacity to handle. He is assuming that we're facing that temptation in the power of the Holy Spirit again.

He does not tempt. James chapter 1 says: "God tempts no man." (see James 1:13)

Temptation comes from Satan, bent on our destruction. He's got an ugly plan for our lives, which is meant to destroy us. That's his whole purpose.

And so when temptation comes, the Father has the prerogative as a sovereign Father to put limits on how far that temptation can go in the life of the child of God.

And so yes, sometimes it comes awfully close. And it causes us to realize that when we face it, we need to be more and more dependent upon the power of His Spirit to face that temptation that's hit us.

Every time we face a temptation and we're victorious we are made stronger and we've learned something of God's sustaining grace to meet us in that situation.

When we yield to a temptation, there is a breaking of our will. If we want to see a tragic, tragic situation, just go on some of these university campuses. These dear precious kids whose wills have been broken in the area of morality. Their wills have been broken in the area of the drug culture. And those poor kids don't have a thing to look forward to because there's been a process of the breaking of their will to the point that they say, "Well, who cares anyway?" So there's a complete submission.

But as we're victorious over temptation, our will becomes stronger. We become individuals who are strengthened by overcoming each temptation that comes our way.

The apostle says in Philippians 4: "I'm ready for anything through the strength of the one who indwells me." (see Philippians 4:13)

So there's going to be total adequacy in Jesus Christ to face that temptation if we only avail ourselves of it. There's all the

strength we need. A lot of times the problem with temptation is our willingness to avail ourselves of His strength.

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STRENGTH FOR THE STRESSES

“How Strength is Made Perfect in Weakness”

Study Number Six – “The Fear of Failure” – 1 Corinthians 9:27-10:13

Notes

v. 27 But I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me lest when I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

I. Advantage Does Not Guarantee Achievement—verses 1-4

10:v.1 For I am not desiring you to be ignorant brethren, that our fathers all of them, were under the cloud and all passed through the sea

v. 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

v. 3 And all ate the same spiritual food

v. 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ.

v. 5 But God was not pleased with the greater part of them for they were struck down in the desert.

II. Affection Determines Attitude—verses 6-10

v. 6 Now these things have been made examples for us so that we should not desire after evil as they desired,

v. 7 neither be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Notes

v. 8 Neither let us be practicing sexual immorality even as certain of them practiced sexual immorality and there fell in one day, twenty-three thousand.

v. 9 Neither let us be putting the Lord to the test even as some of them tested Him and by means of the snakes were perishing.

v. 10 Neither let us be murmuring even as some of them murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer.

III. Admonition Leads to Attainment—verses 11-13

v. 11 Now these things were happening to them as examples and they were written for our admonition to whom the end of the ages is imminent.

v. 12 So that the one who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.

v. 13 No temptation has taken you that is not common to man but God is faithful who will not permit you to be tested above that with which you are able to cope, but along with the temptation also make a way out in order that you may be able to bear up under it.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: The Lord will not allow temptation to go beyond our capacity to handle, assuming we're facing that temptation in the power of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON #2: "God tempts no man." (ref. James 1:13)

LESSON #3: Temptation comes from Satan. He has an ugly plan for our lives which is meant to destroy us.

LESSON #4: The Father has the prerogative as a sovereign Father to put limits on how far temptation can go in the life of the child of God.

LESSON #5: As we face temptation, we need to be more dependent upon the power of His Spirit.

LESSON #6: Every time we face temptation and we're victorious, we are made stronger and we've learned something of God's sustaining grace.

LESSON #7: When we yield to a temptation, there is a breaking of our will that takes place.

LESSON #8: As we're victorious over temptation, our will becomes stronger.

LESSON #9: There's total adequacy in Jesus Christ to face temptation if we only avail ourselves of it. That's all the strength we need.