



## ***St. Paul Evangelical Community Church (SPECC)***

**Worship Address :** Cerritos High School Auditorium  
12500 E. 183<sup>rd</sup> St., Cerritos, CA 90703  
(Enter at Bloomfield, across Heritage Park)

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February 14, 2010

### **Theme: God Is Faithful in Temptation**

### **Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

We have been reflecting upon the faithfulness of God and the fact that He is our Friend. Last week we thought about God's faithfulness in difficult times. Today, we will think about God's faithfulness in temptation. Our theme verse will be 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation will seize you except what is common to man. But God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." This verse tells us that we can expect to be tempted. No one is exempt. It is part of the human experience of living in a fallen world.

In the first five verses of this chapter, Paul refers to the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt and applies it to the lives of the Corinthians and to us. Four times in those five verses he writes that "all" the Hebrews experienced something supernatural and miraculous. They were "...all under the cloud..." God led them through the desert with a pillar of cloud in the daytime. In the Bible, clouds are often a reference to the supernatural presence of God. All the Hebrews experienced this presence. All of the Hebrews walked on dry land as God parted the Red Sea. All of the Hebrews ate the manna which was miraculously provided by God. All of the Hebrews drank the water that came miraculously from a rock. Even though all of the Hebrews witnessed these miracles and many more, a whole generation of them died in the desert because they failed to trust God to lead them into the Promised Land.

Paul then lists five temptations which are examples of the temptations that are common to the human experience. The first is the temptation to lust. But Paul is not describing the temptation to sexual lust here. He gives the example of the Hebrews, who lusted for the food they had eaten in Egypt. They thought that gourmet meals were more important than God's Salvation. When we long for anything more than God's salvation, we are sinning. Next Paul mentions idol worship. We don't worship statues of gold, silver, stone, or wood. But idolatry is still very much with us. We are guilty of worshipping and idol whenever we depend upon something other than God for our security or contentment. The third temptation that Paul mentions is sexual immorality. This includes the physical act of sexual intercourse that occurs outside of marriage, but according to Jesus it also includes sexual lust that occurs in the heart.

The next two temptations are closely related to each other. They are the temptation to unbelief and the temptation to grumble. At several points in their journey through the desert the Hebrews became weary. When they would become weary they would speak out or grumble against Moses and against God Himself. On one occasion they spoke out



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against God and Moses by asking why he had brought them out of Egypt to die in the desert. Then when they were ready to enter the Promised Land, they cried out in fear because of the stronger military power that the residents of the land possessed. We must consciously choose for faith rather than unbelief. We must also be very careful about what we say so that we do not find ourselves grumbling against God or against His people.

Finally, I want to mention to purposes of temptation. The first is to reveal human weakness. This is important because if we are not aware of our weaknesses, we will rely upon our own strength rather than God's. When we do this we will surely fall. When believers fall into sin, they of course, fail to bring glory to God. In fact unbelievers actually criticize God when believers fail. The second purpose of temptation is to reveal God's character as being faithful. When we say that God is faithful, we mean that we can count on Him to keep His promises. In this passage He has made two promises: (1) First, he has promised that He will never permit us to be tempted beyond what we can handle with His help. (2) Second, He has promised to provide us with a way out. That we out is through trust in His own power which He gives us by the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we become victors over temptation rather than victims of temptation.