

D. L. Nicely Ministries
Teaching Newsletter
Secret place
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Issue 7...God's Promise of Deliverance

Have you ever flown on a plane trip? After you are seated what is the first thing the flight attendants talk to you about. Not how quick your flight will be, or how smooth the flight will be, or even how pleasant tasting your beverage will be as you sail the great blue skies. No they talk to you about what to do if the plane crashes. They show you how to put your seat belt on and how to tuck your head between your legs should the plane crash. Then to make matters worse they tell you that your seat can be used as a flotation device should the plane decide to crash in the ocean. Boy that just makes me want to sit back and relax. As a matter of fact you may even be tempted to exit the plane through the door they talked about getting out of in case of an emergency.

Speaking of temptation that is what we need to talk about today. You see temptation comes in every believer's life. None of us are immune from the devils' temptation, but I'm sure I didn't have to tell you that- for I'm sure you found that out all by yourself. But what you may not have found out is where the exit door is. Just like on every plane there is an exit door to escape in an emergency. God promises to give us an escape route in every temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

In those few reassuring words God promise deliverance from sin. An "exit sign" if you wish. So just as we look at the seat belts, floating cushions and the exit sign on an airplane as good things we should also view temptation as a good thing. It simply is an opportunity for us to reaffirm and strengthen our faith and trust in God.

Also here's another important fact that we should never forget. It is not a sin to be tempted.

Remember Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are yet he was without sin. So when you are tempted never view yourself as some vile creature lower than a snake's belly, but instead that makes you equal with all the rest of the men and women of God the bible talks about. Temptation just allows you to strengthen the faith muscles that are lying in desperate need of exercise in the spirit world.

And never forget that God is your "spot man" should the temptation be too much for you to lift.

Now let's briefly look at how the promise of deliverance works.

1—Deliverance is all about the character of God...When temptation comes we should never despair or get discouraged. We should never think that we have been singled out and that we are in this thing all alone. But we should focus on the fact that the bible tells us that God is faithful. By his very nature he will never leave us alone. But instead he is present with us as we face the temptation and he is there helping us overcome it. All we have to do is ask for and draw from his power.

2—We also must remember that deliverance does not remove temptation from our lives...Facing temptation and remaining strong when we are tempted is one of the hallmarks of Christian maturity. But remember that God promises that any one temptation will not be used to destroy us. All temptation can be resisted for God says that you can endure it.

3—Deliverance is the way of escape...

Whether we escape or endure we are actively resisting temptation. One thing that you have to remember about escaping temptation though. Sometimes the way of escape is harder than to just endure it and let it take its course. That's why so many people just give in to temptation. It's easier than waiting for the way out. What will the way out look like? It's different in all times. Let's look at a couple case studies that describe both venues.

First the man that failed to resist temptation...

2 Samuel 11:2 - 4 (NKJV) ²Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

What should David have done? He should have cried out to the Lord for strength and the way of escape, but instead he didn't look he just gave in to it.

Now let's look at a man who successfully resisted temptation...

Genesis 39:7 - 12 (NKJV) ⁷And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. ⁹There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" ¹⁰So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. ¹¹But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, ¹²that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

Even after being tempted day after day he was about to draw from God's power and resist the temptation. And remember as I said in the beginning all are tempted even two of God's most powerful leaders in all the scriptures. King David and Joseph the ruler. Now I'm going to give you nine exit strategies that you can use to employ in the face of temptation.

- Realize** that temptation confronts everyone.
- Recognize** that it is often disguised as a shortcut.
- Remember** to avoid compromising situations.
- Run** from all your areas of potential weaknesses.
- Rely** on God's help and pray to escape.
- Read** God's word for resistance.
- Reason** through the consequences by asking the questions of how this action will affect those around me and me.
- Recruit** other Christians who can support you when you are tempted.
- Rejoice** that temptation can be resisted and celebrate when you overcome.

Always remember that God is the Great Deliverer!!!!

Continued Next Month