

Pastor Dave Patterson
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 10: The Way of Victory

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

God has designed your life. Jesus has gone before us and done everything necessary, for us to walk in victory.

[2 Corinthians 2.14]

*"Now thanks be to God who **always leads us in triumph in Christ Jesus**" ("...in Christ's triumphal procession") and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

[Romans 8.31]

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"

God is always for you! Don't buy into the lie of the enemy that tries to convince us otherwise.

[1 Corinthians 10.1-14, NIV]

*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. **Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.** Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them **as examples** and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And 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 endure it.*

Three Ways to Look (in order to walk in victory):

1. Look Back = in order to move forward in wisdom with thankfulness!

[1 Corinthians 10.1-2]

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

When we identify with Christ as our deliverer and we go down into the waters of baptism, we come up in resurrection power.

[Psalm 105.39]

*The LORD spread a **cloud above them as a covering** and gave them a great fire to light the darkness.*

In the wilderness, Jesus is walking with you.

[1 Corinthians 10.4]

And all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ!

Just because we KNOW better, it doesn't necessarily mean that we DO better. We should LEARN from each other.

[Proverbs 22.3, NLT]

A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions (refuge). The simpleton (fool) goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

[1 Corinthians 10.5-7]

*God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. **Do not be idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." (orgies and drunkenness)*

Idolatry = anything or anyone that replaces Jesus as the center of our lives

Idolatry always produces spiritual death, and eventually, physical death.

[1 Corinthians 10.9]

We should not test Christ, as some of them did---and were killed by snakes.

[Numbers 21.4-9]

*Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. **But the people grew impatient with the long journey**, and they began to speak against God and Moses. "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" they complained. "There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And **we hate this horrible manna!**" So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people came to Moses and cried out, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!" So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!*

Just because I have the ability to choose the sin pattern, it doesn't mean that I can choose the consequences that follow.

2. Look up = to receive the transforming power of the Cross

[John 3.14-15]

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

The cross works like this: Jesus alone. Jesus plus nothing saves us, heals us from our brokenness, and cleanses us from the venom of sin. The shed blood is the same cure today!

[1 Corinthians 10.12-14]

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.

And 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 endure it.

[2 Corinthians 1.8-9]

*We do not want you to be ignorant (uninformed), brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, ***far beyond our ability to endure***, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. ***But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.****

[1 Corinthians 10.13b]

"And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear"

[1 Corinthians 10.13, NLT]

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow ***the temptation*** to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you ***a way out*** so that you can endure.*

3. Look out = in order to avoid the traps of temptation

Temptation = anyone or anything that distracts and delays us from God's purpose in our lives

[Hebrews 4.15-16]

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who ***has been tempted in every way,****

just as we are--yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What have you learned from your history? ("Experience doesn't make us wise; it just makes us experienced.") What have you learned from the history of those around you?**
- 2. What are ways that we can recognize the blessing of God, even while being in the middle of the "wilderness?"**
- 3. How can we demonstrate Jesus at the center of it all, in our lives? What are some idols, or areas of compromise, that we need to personally eliminate?**
- 4. Based on the example of the Israelites in the desert, what does testing Christ look like? How have you seen impatience with the long journey sometimes lead to compromise?**
- 5. What does the snake bite and the serpent represent, if we look into it?**
- 6. What are some examples in the Bible that debunk the misquoted Scripture that "God doesn't give us more than we can bear?" Why might He actually give us more than we can handle? (Consider 2 Corinthians 1.8-9)**