

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Examples from the Past

Good morning...

Last week the pastors and I went to a Pastors Conference in Diamond Bar.

And usually the Old timers get up there and talk about all that God has done in their churches, and what they have seen.

Now there are many great stories, inspirational stories. But there is also a new generation slowly emerging onto the scene.

And there are one of two responses from this newer generation, they hear the stories, and they think that they are awesome, and they talk about those stories, and use their stories to motivate others.

But for me, I am from another group, not content in hearing other people's stories, I am not satisfied with tales from the old days.

Personally, I want to experience these things for myself, they worshipped and lived for the same God as we do.

Why do stories of revival have to be from back then? I want to believe them for today.

A while ago, I read Tozer in his book Voice of a Prophet something that really challenged me as a PK, who has

been inundated my whole life with stories of what God did.

In the last ministry I served in under my father, there was talk about me becoming the Senior Pastor when he retired.

I would have inherited a thriving ministry, one built upon the great faith of my father.

I would have inherited all the stories of old that it took to get that ministry to that point.

Tozer said this in his book, in a section called, "Like Father, Unlike Son"

"I believe one dangerous factor today is the sons of the prophets. This seems to be where our generation has come. The prophets are in the background, but the sons are in the forefront. Even though these sons have a connection with the fathers, they do not seem to be like their fathers.

Every generation seems to drift a little further away from the vision of what God has for the church.

These sons of the prophets, who have a vague, if any connection with the past, are now running the Church. Today it is quite popular to distance yourself from the past. If someone sees in you some connection to the past, you are ridiculed to the point of turning your back on the past.

When the church turns her back on the past, she has no sense of her future. She is like a ship without a rudder, floundering in a vast sea of uncertainty.

Several characteristics about these sons of the

prophets concern me, and because of my love for the church, I need to speak out."

The past is important, we have to know where we came from to know where it is all heading, we do not want to detach from the past altogether.

But on the same token, we cannot stand solely upon the past.

I am incredibly grateful for two conversations with my father in this life, that at the time, I was incredibly fearful when I heard what he had to say.

It was very difficult for me as a son.

The first conversation was when my father sat me down when I was 18 years old, and told me, "Son, you are living in rebellion, and in contrast to the way I run this home, you need to move out and start your own household."

Although I felt terrified at what my father was telling me, it was the first time that he talked to me like a man.

He had trained me since I was a pre-teen how to work, and that I could do, he had prepared me to be a man. I moved out, and started my life, and looking back it was the best thing he could have done for me.

The second conversation was when he called me into his office, I was his assistant pastor with the idea that I would be his replacement.

He said, "Son, there is a hurting church down the way, and they need a pastor and I want to send you."

Once again I was terrified, because my own family was growing with lots of kids, the elders at the church that I served at took good care of us financially, and we were stable and secure.

The church he wanted to send me to was a hanging on by a thread and there was no security guaranteed, and it seemed impossible to bring the church back to life.

But he sent me out, and God brought a team of us here all of us came in faith, uncertain of what our futures entailed.

And because of this we got to see God move in impossible ways, similar to the stories of Old that we hear at these conferences.

I was able to experience the God of my father in a way that I would not have while under his ministry. He sent me out to experience God's faithfulness.

My family never missed a meal, and although the story is still being told, we are still at it here 6 years later, and God is faithful to add to His Church weekly.

I wonder sometimes if we "sons of the prophets" would do better if we were not protected and coddled so much, left to be content on what the older generation had sacrificed so much to give them, and given these successful ministries, and instead sent out to experience what our father's experienced when they pioneered this movement?

I know for the team that God has sent here, we have experienced incredible things so far, and I don't believe God is done yet.

My son Freedom keeps telling his sister Daisy, "God is not done with you yet Daisy." Jess and I have no idea where he got that from.

I asked him "who taught you that saying?" And he replied, "My head taught me it."

But I heard him say it, when I was stuck in deep thought about this ministry, about all of you, my family, and all that was weighing on me heavily, and I took it as a Word from God, "God is not done with us yet."

Those examples from the past are great and inspiring, but I am grateful my father gave me the boot not once but twice, so I could experience God in new and exciting ways.

Anyway, this morning, the Apostle Paul is going to use some lessons from history to teach the Corinthian Church.

He will use these examples as a point of inspiration for them, for them to adjust their lives, so they too can experience God in new and great ways.

Let's pray...

Turn to 1 Corinthians Chapter 10 this morning.

Just a quick review here...

Now, remember back in Chapter 8, Paul begin with this concept of Christian Liberties.

There are many doctrines within the Christian faith that we are to be immovable on.

Things like the doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ alone, and by Grace alone.

We are immovable on the validity of God's Word.

We believe there is a heaven and hell.

We believe that mankind is fallen, sinful and in desperate need of a Savior.

However, there are some things within our faith that are a bit of a Grey Area, that Christians have debated for years, and there are varying opinions on.

These things have been historically referred to non-essentials, and fall within this category of Christian liberties.

And Paul has dealt with this subject at length, and will continue to do so in this chapter and the next.

Obviously, this is a very important matter for us to consider.

It really comes down to how we treat one another, and that is a very important, and sometimes an overlooked matter in the Church.

We naturally lean to self-centeredness, and primarily like to prove our rights or claim our freedoms.

Some even go to the other extreme and want to prove their spiritual superiority over others by imposing legalistic mandates upon others.

So, we need to hear this, to bring balance, and health to the Church.

Paul has dealt with it now from different angles to make it very clear.

Again, using meat as one example, and even bringing his own life to the forefront as an example.

He first proved his rights as an Apostle, and his right to be supported in the ministry.

And he showed that he lived out this teaching, by laying down his rights as an Apostle.

He laid his own needs aside for the sake of the Gospel.

And we ended with this last time...

1 Cor. 9:26-27 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Paul showed how a Christian must be willing to give up some things, even good and right things in this life for the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We lay our rights down for the sake of winning this race that God has set before us, otherwise we will might become disqualified.

So let's go to verse 1 of our reading, and see now as Paul here pulls from the past, to bring into focus our present reality.

10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, **2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

Paul here connects this section with the previous by using the statement, “Moreover, Brethren.”

Paul is still dealing with the subject that we ended with last week.

Paul made it known that he was striving for his heavenly reward that he would receive at the Bema Seat of Christ.

Paul dealt with the need to finish what God has set before us, and how dangerous it can be to hold onto our own rights instead of sacrificing for the greater good.

And here he points them to some lessons from Israel’s history.

First he mentions how their fathers passed through the Cloud, the Cloud being the Shekinah Glory of God, which overshadowed Israel from the time they left Egypt, all the way into the Promise Land.

Remember this, during the day time the Cloud protected them from that unrelenting desert heat, and during the night it burned as a Pillar of Fire.

They had a continuous reminder of God’s Presence and Glory in their midst.

They were led by the Lord, when the Glory Cloud moved, they moved, when the Pillar of Fire moved, they packed up quickly and moved with their God.

It is an everlasting reminder that God will direct the steps of His people, and we need to continually be looking to Him.

Ps 37:23-24 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Many of God's Children are making decisions in their lives apart from seeking God's Will for their lives.

It is vital that we step with Him, in sync with His Will.

When we are in His Word, seeking Him in Prayer, He is faithful to guide us...

Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

And we can learn from the Examples from the Past, in order to win the race that is set before us, we need to take our direction from God, and step out in faith, often times into the unknown.

I don't know about you, but for me, God calls me to step out in faith, to take a venture of faith, to move into uncharted territory, and we do, and we see God's faithfulness and it is incredible, but no sooner

do we see God's faithfulness, that He calls us to the next venture of faith.

Imagine the children of Israel, making camp, getting comfortable in this new place God led them too, and no sooner do they get comfortable, did that Glory Cloud move, calling them to move on as well.

This is the race we are called to from faith to faith, we move on through this world.

The next example Paul mentions here, is that "All were baptized into Moses" that is all of Israel came through the Red Sea and saw God's faithfulness and His miraculous Power as He held up the walls of the sea so that Israel could cross over on dry ground.

And at the same time the water was released to destroy the powerful Egyptian army that was pursuing the Children of God.

It was a demonstration of God's infinite power and His incredible love for them.

It served as a picture of Baptism as well, as they passed through the water.

All of Israel was identified with Moses, by this passing through the water.

Our Baptism today as believers identifies us with Jesus Christ, as it symbolizes us identifying with His death, burial and resurrection to new life.

Israel marched on into their own new life...

So the next lesson here in verse 3...

3 all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. **5** But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

Israel in the wilderness was sustained by God's miraculous provision, He provided both food and water.

We are told in the Psalms that God, **Ps 78:24-25**

24 Had rained down manna on them to eat,

And given them of the bread of heaven.

25 Men ate angels' food;

He sent them food to the full.

Manna meaning of course, "What is it?"

And "What is it?" was provided daily to them by God, this heavenly food.

The manna ultimately pointed to Jesus.

Jesus claimed in **John 6:48-50** I am the bread of life.

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. **50** This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

Paul also mentioned that they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

In Exodus the people began to murmur against Moses and the Lord, for the people were thirsty and they contended with Moses to give them water.

Ex 17:4-7 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink."

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

But something happened shortly after Moses' sister died, once again the Israelites were out of water, and complaining, Moses no doubt emotionally exhausted and he made a grave error that actually cost him entrance into the Promise Land, because he tainted this picture of Christ.

Once again God called Moses to take his rod to the rock, but the instructions were different this time.

Num. 20:8 Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water;

But this is not how Moses handled the situation, he handled it, probably how I would have handled it, Num. 20:10-11 And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water

for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

And because Moses disobeyed, the picture of Christ being struck only once was tainted, God did not allow him to bring the assembly into the Land.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross finished the redemptive work of mankind, and there is no more that needs to be accomplished.

Moses' anger under pressure cost him greatly.

Now, Jesus in the New Testament encountered the Samaritan women by the well.

Remember He asked for a drink, and the women questioned Him on this, her being a Samaritan should have had no dealings with a Jew.

In John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Interesting here, Jesus mentions this living water.

Jesus said in John 7:37-38 "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

This living water or water of life flows from Jesus.

Jesus further explained to the Samaritan woman in John 4:13-14 "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst

again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

This is something to write over the pursuits of your life.

What are you pursuing this morning, a man, a woman, is it more money, more success, more comfort, all of it will leave you thirsting for more?

Jesus offers us water, satisfaction like nothing this world can give.

For Israel the Rock in the wilderness that supplied their water was a picture of what was too come.

And despite all these blessings and the great spiritual privileges that Israel had in the wilderness, unfortunately they still did not please God.

Simply out of an abundance of thankfulness they should have lived obediently toward God, but they rebelled.

Paul claims there in verse 5 that God was not pleased with most of them, which is greatly understated.

In reality only two of that generation were able to enter into the Promise Land, Joshua and Caleb.

The bodies of that rebellious generations instead were buried, or as Paul says here scattered throughout the wilderness that they roamed.

A month journey was turned into 40 years of wandering aimlessly in the desert.

Even with the great blessings God afforded to them, they never entered into all that God desired for them.

Unfortunately today, still many within the Family of God still come up incredibly short of all that God had called them too.

By choice instead of taking in all of the Promises of God, people instead choose to walk aimlessly in the wilderness.

Jesus offers us abundant life, a satisfied life, and God has so much planned for us, much of which we have to take by faith.

And too many simply settle and choose comfort instead of pressing in.

Paul teaches next, in verse 6...

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Understand the first 5 verses of this chapter were given to illustrate the liberty that the Israelites walked in as a nation.

And here in this next section, we see that Israel abused their liberty.

And Paul speaks of the application here.

He says this all happened to them to be an example to us.

It was written for the Corinthians and even for us today.

Paul claims that the Israelites used their liberty to lust after evil and wicked things.

Remember they wanted to go back to Egypt, where their backs were whipped and they were enslaved, because their taste buds desired leeks and onions instead of the loathsome manna, the heavenly bread.

They were not satisfied with the Lord's miraculous provision, and lusted after things that appealed to their fleshly demands.

Paul said in **1 Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.**

Paul warns against lusting after the things of this world.

Of course if we are not walking in the spirit, we can get hung up by the same cravings as the Israelites.

We have them as an example, and we can learn from their failure.

I think all of us at one time or another have gotten in trouble because of the power of our flesh.

Oh to learn contentment in the Lord.

Paul is going to go on now and lay out a few more examples from Israel's history for us to learn from.

Verse 7 now...

7 And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*"

Israel seemed to always be pulled in the direction of idolatry, because of this, they were enticed into the false worship, which included often sexual sin, as they rose up to play.

Almost immediately after the Israelites came across the Red Sea, Moses stopped off to be with the Lord, and to receive the Ten Commandments.

And Aaron, even after God had miraculously saved them from Egypt, Aaron led the people into idolatry, they had an orgy around a golden calf.

It was only the beginning of Israel's longing for this exotic and intoxicating worship of idols.

So Paul continues on here in verse 8...

8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

It is not shocking to understand that the Corinthians were struggling with sexual immorality, Paul dealt with it many times in his letters to them.

This of course is something very relevant to our culture today as well.

Paul very clearly states here not to commit sexual immorality as Israel did, there were enormous consequences for them, and of course there are still enormous consequences today.

Paul refers to these 23,000 dead in one day.

Remember when the Moabites failed to curse the incoming army of Hebrews through Balaam's sorcery.

Balaam so wanted his money, yet knowing he could not circumvent God's protection over them.

He taught Israel's enemies how to get them from within.

They had to get Israel to compromise and rebel themselves against God.

So they sent beautiful young Moabite women into the camp of Israel to tempt them.

The tactic worked, Israel was no match for their beauty, and they were joined to the pagan worship of the Moabites through sexual rites.

You remember they even brought this detestable worship to the Tabernacle, and that is when Phinehas rose to fame, bravely taking a javelin and piercing the Jewish man, and the Moabite woman who were participating in this perverted worship.

God punished the Jews severely for their sins, 23,000 dying in one day, 24,000 over the course of the whole plague were killed.

Of course the Corinthians would have understood Paul's point clearly here.

Much of their own idol worship was sensual involving prostitution and sexual immorality of all types.

God does not go lightly on those who are His children, and still engaging themselves in idolatry and sexual immorality.

Our culture being sexually free today, there is a direct warning to us as well, God will not put up with us

perverting what He has only permitted to the marriage bed, and between one man and one woman.

Look now at verses 9 and 10...

9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; **10** nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Paul now alludes to their murmuring.

Of course, we know something about murmuring today.

It is common even among God's people today.

But back in Numbers Chapter 21 verses 4-9 we have an incident that Jesus even referred to Himself.

The people complained once again, and in response to their lack of faith and their disobedient hearts, God sent what is described as fiery serpents to torment and kill the people.

There were grave consequences for murmuring.

They were self-centered and more concerned about their own desires rather than God's Glory.

People still to this day, murmur about all kinds of things, Churches divide over color of paint on the walls, or the type of carpet put in.

Murmuring kills the work of the Spirit, and the Joy that comes by serving our God.

If you are a negative Nancy, or a downer Dave, be mindful of the destructive nature of your words and murmuring.

God surely does not bless a murmuring and complaining people.

Look now at verse 11...

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

This verse here is your answer if you ever wonder why we have committed our Wednesday evenings to studying through the Old Testament.

All of the lessons Paul mentioned and many others, these examples from the past, are there for our learning today.

These things were written and recorded for us to learn from, many of which hold within pictures and types of things to come.

Then he goes on to say this in verse 12...

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The Apostle Paul has given many examples here of areas of human weakness.

Idolatry being one, sexual immorality, murmuring.

All of us are subject to fail at these at some point in our walk.

We should not walk in this life like we are above these things at all.

We are not immune to this.

The Bible teaches in many places that Pride comes before the Fall.

When we read of Israel's sinfulness, sometimes I find myself thinking, "What in the world are they doing, how could they be so ignorant?"

Then God simply puts a mirror in my face, and reminds me of what I am capable of.

I most definitely have my own ignorant moments.

Gary's selfishness is just as prone to taking me in terrible directions.

Sometimes I am guilty of choosing my own way over God's way, and there is always a cost.

Thankfully in these times, God's Word speaks, and says things like...

**James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."**

The key here, is to stand in Humility and in His Grace, and to be mindful of ourselves.

We are tempted to police other people's lives to the neglect of our own walk with the Lord.

First, worry about yourself.

I am always worried when we become focused on other people's failures.

Take heed lest we fall, is the instruction here.

And Paul will keep the encouragement going here, and this will be the verse we end with this morning.

Verse 13, has been a go to in my life, this is one of the first verses I memorized as an addict coming to salvation.

Sometimes daily I had to quote it, and all throughout the day.

Check it out, verse 13...

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*.

Now, first thing we need to do here is deal with the misconceptions of this verse.

The prosperity crowd will sometimes misquote this, and say things like, “God will not give you more than you can handle.”

I am not convinced that is a Biblical statement.

Paul is definitely not communicating this here.

There are things in this life that are overwhelming for us as humans, and things that are just too much.

This is not a verse about trials and tribulation.

Please if you tell people that God will not give them more than they can handle, it might be wise not to say that any more.

The modern Christian has developed this belief that life is supposed to be easy and comfortable.

But a life of faith is anything but that.

I had another Pastor this week talk with me about the kids we are adopting, and I don't get to talk to many people about it.

So I made the mistake to be vulnerable with him and opened up about some of the hardships, and I regretted it almost immediately.

He slapped me on the back and said, "You cannot save them all."

And had a "God will not give you more than you can handle" kind of attitude, in his advice.

And walked away from me.

I am noticing that those who don't want to get uncomfortable themselves deal with you this way.

A slap on the back and give you a silly humanistic slogan.

"God loves you too much to put you through too much difficulty."

Understand that kind of talk only works in our culture.

Christians suffering in Nigeria and in Sudan and other brutal countries, cannot understand that at all, because it is not truth.

Pressing trials and pressures in this life are guaranteed as believers, they push us closer to our God, as self is emptied, and our need for Him is magnified.

I would say that most of the Christian life we can expect pressure that is beyond us and our capabilities.

Paul will say in 2 Cor. 1:8-9 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

James our Lord's brother said this... James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

A life of faith is a tested life, and we should be prepared as believers to stand under enormous amounts of pressure and hardships.

Don't be a slap them on the back Christian, telling people that "God will not give them more than they can handle."

God promises us His Helper through times that are just too much for us.

Jesus promised in John 16:33 "In the world you will have tribulation"

Be ever prepared for tribulation, and it is evident that the days ahead will become even more difficult.

Our faith is under attack like never before in our culture.

So, we dealt with what Paul was not saying here, let's end with what he is saying...

He is clarifying temptation.

The temptation to sin has been common to man since the first man, Adam.

The Corinthians had allowed their liberties to cloud their judgement and their selfish ideology actually led them to sin.

They were indulging in sexual sin, drunkenness, robbery, lying and many, many other sins.

These things still plague many of God's people today.

These temptations are common to man.

The promise is this, you Christian man or Christian woman, God has provided a way of escape for you.

You do not need to be ensnared to the temptation.

Your situation is not unique, it is common to all man.

Don't even toy with sin, run if necessary, God always provides a way out, you must choose to take it.

J. Vernon McGee says here...

One of the reasons we yield to temptation is that we are like the little boy in the pantry. His mother heard a noise because he had taken down the cookie jar. She said, "Willie, where are you?" He answered that he was in the pantry. "What are you doing there?" He said, "I'm fighting temptation."

My friend, that is not the place to fight temptation! That is the place to start running.

Don't tempt yourself in places that will cause you to fall.

Listen, sometimes it is not so cut and dry.

When I gave my life to Jesus, He saved me from a life controlling meth addiction.

Now, there was a huge problem here, because my boss was actually my dope dealer.

I had to go to work with him every day.

And this verse was my most needed promise at that time.

I learned to look for that promised way of escape.

There were days I wanted to quit because the temptation was unbearable.

I would be in tears of frustration.

I remember one day, it was just too much for me, I don't know if you have ever dealt with meth, but the statistics are not pretty.

I believe it is something like 90% of meth addicts after getting clean will fall again.

Of course my chances were higher, because it was right there in front of me every day.

I remember one day, I just had enough, I was broken, I didn't think I had it in me to do it anymore.

I was a couple months clean, by the Grace of God, but I figured it was only a matter of time.

I was on the roof throwing plywood around sheeting the thing, I called Jess to tell her I needed to quite, I suggested that she start looking for places to live back in California.

She seemed so confused but said, "Okay."

I went back to throwing sheet of plywood around.

I turned on my trusty DeWalt radio, and Charles Stanly was on.

And the first words that I heard were, "Maybe you feel like running, maybe you feel like quitting and giving up?"

Then he said something like, "If you do, you will miss out on all that God is going to use you for."

"Stay put, and watch God move in your life."

First, I said "No way, not listening to you Charles, this is coincidence."

But then that still small voice spoke to my heart, and I knew that message was for me.

I called Jess, it was only five minutes later, and told her that God just spoke to me, and we were staying put for now.

She was even more confused, but I could hear the relief in her voice.

But from that day, knowing that God had spoken on the matter, I knew He would give me strength, and I simply learned to find His way of escape from the temptation.

And over time, it was incredible, we began to understand why God had us stay put, over time, we baptized five of my co-workers, and some of their ladies.

God moved in and through us, and as time went on, things got easier to overcome.

It was incredible, even that drug dealer, before Jess and I moved out here years after that promise, just before, even Don gave his life to the Lord.

Listen, these lessons that Paul brought forth here, these examples from the past, are helpful to us today.

We can seek God's direction for our lives.

We can experience that satisfying living water that Jesus brings to our lives.

We can avoid the consequences that Israel faced, by living obedient to what God asks of us.

We can be humble, taking heed lest you get caught off guard.

And when you are tempted, because temptation will come, look for the promise way of escape and run to the Lord.

If you are struggling this morning under the weight of immense temptation, or you have fallen to temptation, make sure you come up and get prayer.

Cling to God's Grace and His Promises this morning.

Church learn to see that way of escape that the Lord provides when Temptation comes your way.

I want to say this to end with, our God is very real, I have known the depths of His love and strength in my life.

Understand your life does not have to be lived off the faith and great stories of others, God wants to use your life, He wants to work in your life.

Maybe for some time He has been distant to you, you have kept Him at a distance.

This morning, press into to all that He has for you, live your life expecting Him to bring you through impossible circumstances, live your life with great faith.

Don't be content with stories from other people, step out and experience God in your own life.

Listen, maybe you have gotten off track this morning, I want to encourage you to come up and get prayer, to seek God on this, let Him know you are ready and willing to walk with Him, and experience Him in New Ways as you walk in obedience to Him and His Word.

Let's pray...