



STANDING FIRM IN A DECAYING WORLD

“Instructions Included”

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

January 15, 2011 PM Service

Privileges Provided Vs 1-4

- ✓ Supernatural Guidance
- ✓ Supernatural Deliverance
- ✓ Supernatural Leadership
- ✓ Supernatural Food
- ✓ Supernatural Drink

Lessons Learned Vs 5-11

An Example Vs 5-6a, 11

- ✓ A Warning Against Wicked Wants Vs 6b
- ✓ A Warning Against Wicked Worship Vs 7,14-22
 - Run Vs 14
 - Remember Vs 15-18
 - Refuse Vs 18-21
 - Result Vs 22
- ✓ A Warning Against Wicked Works Vs 8
- ✓ A Warning Against Wicked Ways Vs 9
- ✓ A Warning Against Wicked Words Vs 10

Lessons Applied Vs 12-13

- ✓ Be Careful Vs 12
- ✓ Be Aware Vs 13
 - Your Perspective
 - It's an Opportunity
 - It's Ordinary
 - Your Resource – Your Heavenly Father

- He is Faithful
- He will Provide
- We Can Prevail

Our Response:

1. Who or what are you building your life on tonight? Be certain it is Jesus Christ. If it is not, would you make Him your Foundation tonight? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss of your life) for the rest of your life!
2. You also need a solid foundation in a church home. If you are not a part of a church, would you consider Bethsalem? You can step over the line and join tonight if the Lord has called you to do so.
3. Also, in being an obedient follower - have you been baptized to identify with Christ and a church family? If not, make that right today and come and make it public and schedule your baptism tonight!
4. Spend some time identifying in your own life those “privileges” that He has provided to you – write them down and thank Him. Be reminded of them when you are facing those difficult days
5. Also write down those times in the past where you can identify your wants, worship, works, ways, or words that you know you learned some valuable lessons. Don't forget them! Thank God for them. Remember what you learned from them and apply that to your life.
6. Perhaps there is a time that you gave in this past week and sinned, confess that now to Him.
7. May we be careful of pride in our lives that think we are above or beyond the reach of sin in our lives! We will be tested and we will be tempted – guaranteed – be ready!
8. Be reminded of our Resources as you face those trials and temptations this week the most important of which is crying out to your Father and diving deep into His Word!

STANDING FIRM IN A DECAYING WORLD

“Instructions Included – Lessons Learned”

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

January 15, 2011 PM Service

We will make a direct tie in from this morning’s message to tonight’s LifeTraks to tonight’s message – for some of us I pray that this will be a huge light bulb that goes off in your heart and mind! Love it when the Lord does it this way – wasn’t planned this way to start with!

ILLUS: Instructions to something – I hate them, despise them – too much time, too complicated, too detailed, wrong language etc. We don’t read them, and great headaches occur – try a swing set or a trampoline, whatever – disaster – so grateful God has given me Rebecca to read them!

However, cannot do that with these instructions – God’s Word

The Lord gives us instructions – In His Word and we can learn from the New Testament and as we talked about during LifeTraks the Old Testament provided not only examples to the New Testament Believers but to us as well.

Privileges Provided Vs 1-4

The Israelites were blessed, the lessons that they had learned they too could benefit from as well – in fact they have these very same lessons to teach them the same truths. The Corinthians had wondered of course and Paul was giving them instructions on how to walk in the right way. So to help them, he reminds them of the past and what they had and what they too have to help them. The positives we see first- we learn by what they did right.

- ✓ **Supernatural Guidance** Cloud by Day / Pillar of Fire by night
- ✓ **Supernatural Deliverance** Parting of the Red Sea
- ✓ **Supernatural Leadership** Moses
- ✓ **Supernatural Food** Manna
- ✓ **Supernatural Drink** Water from the Rock

Lessons Learned Vs 5-11

An Example Vs 5-6a, 11 Then we learn and see what they did that was wrong and a great warning for them and also for us today. Things that

they were told to avoid and didn't and the same is true for the Corinthian church and for Bethsalem too!

✓ **A Warning Against Wicked Wants** Crave Evil Things **Vs 6b**

Numbers 11:4-6 They wanted to go back to Egypt. They wanted to go back to their old way of life, lusted after it – the manna wasn't enough. In other words, God wasn't enough – it is why we then crave evil things, and even pursue them instead of the Lord! Many were going back to their old way of living, instead of living that new life!

✓ **A Warning Against Wicked Worship** – Idolatry **Vs 7,14-22**

Exodus 32:6 The Golden Calf

Paul goes into greater detail here about idolatry and it's great danger – in particular that of who is behind – Satan himself and all his demons. This was a huge problem – the idols and the meat were not the real problem, but instead what was behind all of that idolatry.

- Run - Flee, run far away from it! **Vs 14**
- Remember the Connections (Lord's Supper) Compare **Vs 15-18**
- Refuse to Associate at all – don't compromise **Vs 18-21**
- Result – God's wrath will be poured on those who do! **Vs 22**

✓ **A Warning Against Wicked Works** – Immorality **Vs 8 Numbers**

25:1-9 Worship of Baal – tricked by Balaam, and King Balak of Moab – involved cultic prostitutes – we have our same evils today and this immorality existed in Corinth as we talked about in earlier messages. The warning is crystal clear.

✓ **A Warning Against Wicked Ways** – Trying the Lord **Vs 9** – Question Him **Numbers 21:5-19** The 1st time God had acted patiently with them, but this time they had gone too far and God's judgment fell! Yet even in this as we will talk in a few weeks, God provides mercifully and gives our first clear picture of the cross in the Old Testament! We should never try the grace and mercy of the Lord which is what the Corinthians were doing by their ways and their words

✓ **A Warning Against Wicked Words** – Grumble (Rebellion) **Vs 10**

Numbers 16:41; 17:5,10 Exactly what the Corinthians were doing, grumbling, complaining and criticizing each other.

Lessons Applied **Vs 12-13**

- ✓ **Be Careful** Vs 12 Our pride and self-confidence will be our downfall. But for the grace of God go any of us!
- ✓ **Be Aware** Vs 13
 - **Your Perspective** – That changes everything!
 - It's an Opportunity
 - It's Ordinary
 - **Your Resource** – Your Heavenly Father
 - He is Faithful
 - He will Provide a way of escape – to go through it!
 - We Can Prevail

Overcoming Temptation

1. Refuse to be intimidated

Many times Christians are frightened and demoralized by tempting thoughts, feeling guilty that they are not beyond temptation. Feel ashamed just because they are being tempted.

You and I will never ever outgrow temptation.

We need to think the exact opposite, really temptation is a compliment.

A fact that Satan hates you, not that we are weak or worldly. It is normal part of being human and living in a fallen world.

The Bible says not if you are tempted, but when

The closer we grow to God, the more Satan will try to tempt you.

ILLUS: Making a decision to change, know that Satan will be after you more than ever. Don't be surprised.

ILLUS: Praying, stupid thought comes in your head, don't let it stop you, it's what Satan wants to do, instead just refocus back on the Lord.

2. Recognize your pattern of temptation and be prepared for it

There are certain situations that make us more vulnerable to temptation than others.

We need to identify these areas, places, situations in our lives because Satan surely knows them.

Ask yourself some questions. When am I most tempted? Where am I? What day of the week? What time? Who is with me? How do we feel when we are tempted?

We need to make wise plans to avoid temptation.

Don't put yourself there, we'll I need to see if I can handle it! NO! It won't bother me this time, just this one more time, etc.

3. [Request God's help](#)

Call out to Him. Help! Lord I'm in trouble. He simply is waiting for us to call. He says it over and over in His Word.

Jesus understands, he is has been there and faced it already.

Why don't we ask Him to help us more often?

- We want to give in to the temptation even though we know it is wrong.

- We're embarrassed because we keep giving in to the same temptation over and over again. But God doesn't get tired of us coming and asking Him for His help. He has incredible patience!

Remember too, temptation keeps us dependent upon Him. When we stand firm with His help, we become more like Jesus.

Remember too, God will not allow Satan to put anymore on us than we can handle, nor will He allow us to be overcome.

However, we do have to do our part.

4. [Refocus your attention on something else.](#)

We are not told to resist temptation, but just to resist the evil.

Instead, we need to refocus our attention on something else because resisting doesn't work. It only intensifies our focus on the wrong

thing and strengthens its allure. By resisting, we actually reinforce it.

Often what Dobson says to do with children, instead of telling them no repeatedly, focus them instead on doing something else.

Ignoring a temptation is far more effective than fighting it.

The battle for sin is won or lost in our minds. Whatever gets our attention will get us.

To reduce temptation, we need to keep our minds occupied with God's Word and other good thoughts. We defeat bad thoughts by replacing them with something else. The principle of replacement.

Satan cannot get our attention if our mind is preoccupied by something else. Be focused on Jesus, fix our eyes on Him.

We must manage our mind and monitor our media intake.

5. [Reveal your struggle to a godly friend or support group](#)

We talked about this last week, but just to hit it one more time, because it certainly something that Satan does not want you to do. Just as we need someone to help us when we are dealing with sin, an addiction, a habit, we need someone to help us when temptation comes knocking in our lives.

Don't let pride get in the way of letting somebody in to your life, and revealing who you are and any struggles you may be dealing with. No doubt is humbling to admit our weakness to other, but a lack of humility is the very thing that keeps us from getting better.

6. [Resist the devil](#)

The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that after we have humbled ourselves and submitted to God, then we are told to defy, resist the devil. We are to fight back.

We are in a battle that rages every day all around us even when we don't even realize it or know it.

How do we resist the devil? Put on the spiritual armor of God.

We accept Christ. If we are a believer, Satan cannot force you to do anything, he can only suggest.

We need to use the Word of God as our weapon. We need to memorize God's Word. Don't try to argue with the devil, he's better at arguing, just quote the Word of God.

7. [Realize your vulnerability](#)

Know where your weak points are. Don't get overconfident or cocky, it is only a recipe for disaster. We must not let our guard down ever. Know the places, situations, areas in our lives that are weak and don't put yourself there.

[“Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.”](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:12 \(Message\)](#)