



# TAKE HEED

## LEST WE

# FALL

**I Corinthians 10:1-13**



TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL



To IGNORE warnings is foolish,  
and VERY DANGEROUS!





THE EXAMPLES  
RECORDED IN THE  
OLD TESTAMENT ARE  
THERE FOR A  
REASON

(Romans 15:4)

TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL



# 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.



# 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. <sup>7</sup> 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.*” <sup>8</sup> Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; <sup>9</sup> nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; <sup>10</sup> nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.



# 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> 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*.



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**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

Paul WARNS the Christians in Corinth of the danger of falling away from the Lord and being destroyed by citing the example of the Israelites whom God saved from slavery in Egypt. (1 Cor. 10:6,11)

**The danger of falling is just as real for us as it was for the Israelites and Corinthians!**  
(Hebrews 3:12-4:11; 2 Peter 1:5-10; 2:20-22; Galatians 5:1-4)



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**I Corinthians 10:1-13**

TYPE	ANTITYPE
EGYPT	WORLD
PHARAOH	SATAN
MOSES (Deliverer)	JESUS (Deliverer)
ISRAEL	THE CHURCH
MOSES (Law Giver)	JESUS (Law Giver)
CLOUD & SEA	BAPTISM
WILDERNESS	CHRISTIAN LIFE
CANAAN	HEAVEN



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## A WARNING TO CHRISTIANS



**I Corinthians 10:1-13**

- This chapter is a warning to the "strong" among the Corinthians who were arguing that they had the right to attend the feasts held in an idol's temple. (8:10)
- Picking up the subject from chapter 9 - those who fail to exercise self-control, even in things morally indifferent, will fail to obtain the prize (9:24-27)



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## A WARNING TO CHRISTIANS

### 1 Corinthians 10:1–4 (NKJV)

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- Their “fathers” were ALL saved from Egyptian bondage (10:1; Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19-30; Numbers 14:14; Psa. 105:39)
- ‘Were all baptized unto Moses’- ‘The passage of the Red Sea led Israel to fully accept Moses as their master and leader under God.’ (Exo 14:30,31)’ (McGarvey p. 98)
- As they had been baptized “unto” Christ - thus saved. (12:13; Acts 18:8; cf. Ac 2:38; Ro. 6:3-4; Ga. 3:27)



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- The baptism of the Israelites accomplished a deliverance from the land of bondage like our baptism accomplishes a deliverance from the bondage of sin (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)
- Baptism is an act of faith. Entering the parted Sea took a lot of faith (He 11:29). Likewise, our baptism is “of faith” in the Lord (Ac 2:41; Ro 10:14-17; Ga 3:26,27)



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- “All ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink” — God provided them with the necessities of life miraculously (Exo 16; 17:1-7; Ps 78:35; Num. 20:2-13) [*The imperfect tense denoting continued action — Christ was the source of the water . . . as he is the source of supply for us today.*] (Robertson p. 152)]
- The Corinthians, (and all Christians), have Christ who provides spiritual life and sustenance (Jn 6:32-40).



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## A WARNING TO CHRISTIANS

**1 Corinthians 10:5–6  
(NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

- All but two of the generation that came out of Egypt failed to enter the promised land (Num. 14:29,30, 37; 26:65; Heb. 3:17; Jude 5).
- Their FAILURE to enter the promised land stood as an example for the Corinthians and continues to stand as an example for ALL CHRISTIANS (Heb. 3:12-4:7; 6:9-12; 10:26-31)
- Those who teach “Once Saved Always Saved” are teaching a false and very dangerous doctrine!



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- “We should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.” — the Israelites desired meat & to return to Egypt (Num 11:4,34; Acts 7:39)
- The Corinthians faced a similar temptation – To partake in the idolatrous feasts, returning to their previous fellowship with idolatry & to sin (8:9-13; 2 Co 6:14-7:1)
- As Christians, we must ALWAYS be on guard against the PULL of the WORLD (9:24-27; 1 Pet. 4:1–7)



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- What if we love the world and return to it (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Pet 2:21,22)
- What if we fulfill fleshly desires unlawfully (Jam. 1:13-16; Mat 5:28; 1 Thes 4:5; 2 Pet. 2:10)
- What if we walk in the works of darkness (Rom 13:13; Gal 5:16; Eph. 5:3-7; 1 John 1:5-2:6; 2 Pet. 2:18-22)



# TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL

## THE DANGER OF IDOLATRY

**1 Corinthians 10:7  
(NKJV)**

**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.”**

- The Israelites & the golden calf  
[NOTE: They did NOT cease  
worshipping God, they borrowed  
the way they worshipped from  
Egypt!] (Ex 32:6-20)
- Idolatry was a real danger for  
the church at Corinth  
(10:14-22; 11:17-34)
- What are some ways that we  
could be guilty of idolatry?



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- Whenever we make any thing other than God our priority in life, we are guilty of idolatry [Our possessions - Our job - Our fun - Our family - Our hobbies – etc.] (1 John 2:15-17)
- “Covetousness” is idolatry (Ep 5:5; Co 3:5)
- Worshipping & serving the creature is idolatry (Ro. 1:21-25)



# TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL

## THE DANGER OF FORNICATION

**1 Corinthians 10:8  
(NKJV)**

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

- Refers to the Israelites committing whoredom with the daughters of Moab (Num 25:1-3)
- This fall was brought about by Balaam's strategic counsel to Balak (Num 31:16)
- Resulting in God's wrath being poured out on them by means of a plague (Num 25:4-9)



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- Fornication was socially acceptable in their pagan society, and was a constant temptation for the Corinthians.
- Fornication is socially acceptable, today, but we must give all care to avoid it! (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2,9)
- The scriptures are clear — NO FORNicator will enter heaven! (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; Heb. 13:4)



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## THE DANGER OF TEMPTING CHRIST

**1 Corinthians 10:9  
(NKJV)**

**9 nor let us  
tempt Christ, as  
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and were  
destroyed by  
serpents;**

- Israel had gained a victory over the Canaanites, but as they journeyed by way of the Red Sea around Edom, the “soul of the people became very discouraged” (Num. 21:4)
- They put Christ to the test, (tested the Lord’s patience), by “speaking against God and against Moses” for “bringing them out of Egypt” into a land with no food or water, and “loathed” the manna the Lord provided them.
- Thus - the fiery serpents (Num 21:4-9)



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- We "test" Christ when we are dissatisfied and speak against His way and provisions:
  - ▶ The way of godliness in an ungodly world brings hardship (Mat. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22; 9:23–26; Jam 1:19,20)
  - ▶ The Lord's way and His provisions are not satisfying to the worldly minded (Jam. 4:1-5; 1 Jn 2:15-17)
  - ▶ Many are NOT satisfied with the Lord's way of salvation, His church, His prescribed worship & work!



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## THE DANGER OF COMPLAINING

**1 Corinthians 10:10  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>10</sup> nor complain,  
as some of  
them also  
complained,  
and were  
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- Because of their dissatisfaction with God's dealings with them – Complaining was a frequent problem in the wilderness. (Exod. 15:24; 16:2ff; 17:3; Numb. 11:1; 14:2ff; 16:11,41; Deut. 1:27; Psalm 106:25)
- They (Korah, Dathan, Abiram, On, and 250 leaders in Israel), complained, (murmured), against Moses and Aaron, challenging their authority — God destroyed them (Num 16:21-35,45-48)



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- How would the Corinthians react to Paul's instructions regarding:
  - ▶ Division (1-3),
  - ▶ Immorality, discipline (5),
  - ▶ Lawsuits (6)
  - ▶ Marriage, Divorce (7)
  - ▶ Association with idolatry (8,9)
  - ▶ Distinct gender roles (11:3,4; 14:34)
  - ▶ Worship (11:17-34; 14:40)



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- How do we respond to the Lord's instructions and His prescribed way?
- ▶ Those dissatisfied with the Lord's way complain about it and those who teach it (Jude 14-19)
- ▶ Do all things without complaining (Phili 2:14; Jam 5:9)
- ▶ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)



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## 1 Corinthians 10:11,12 (NKJV)

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**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**



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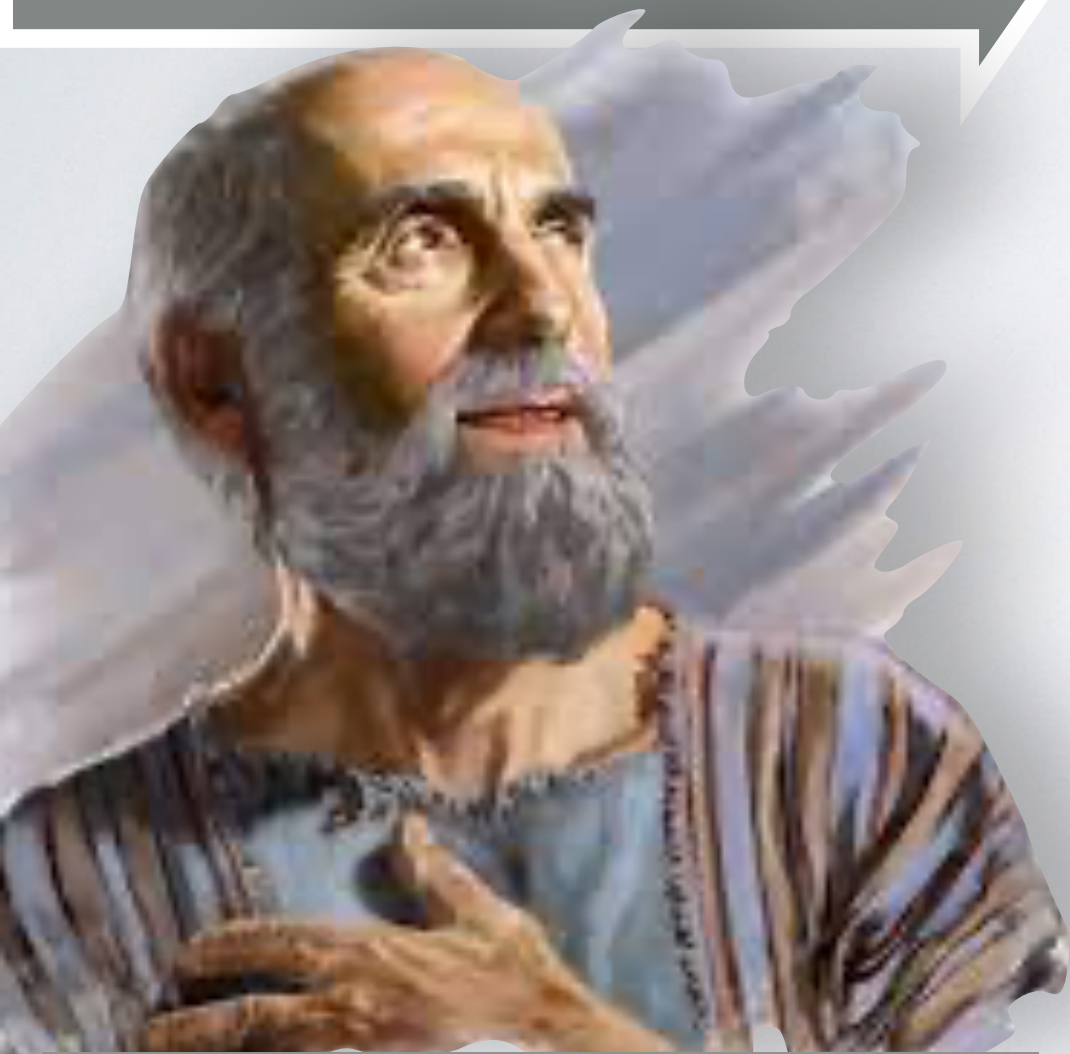


**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**



# TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL

**We need to take the warning seriously!**



**I Corinthians 10:1-13**

Obey Jesus and submit our hearts to Him!

Put God first, and refused to allow anything to compete with our service to Him!

Develop a genuine hunger for spiritual things!

Flee sexual immorality!

Let us “learn” to be satisfied with the Lord’s way and His provisions!

Be THANKFUL / Accept the Lord's authority and correction!





# TAKE HEED LEST WE FALL

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

To think that we cannot fall is foolish /  
BUT FALLING IS NOT INEVITABLE - IT IS ALWAYS AVOIDABLE!  
God will provide a way of escape / We can do it!!!









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**I Corinthians 10:1-13**

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