

Sermon Outline Example 2

Opening Prayer

Title

Escaping Temptation

Text

1 Cor 10:13

Introduction

Proposition

God helps us when we are tempted

Key Question

How does God help us when we are tempted?

Transitional Sentence

Paul shows us four ways God helps us

Point 1

He reminds us that everybody's tempted by the same sorts of sins.

Explanation

What is it? The comfort that we are not alone.

Why do we want it? Knowing this removes isolation.

How do we get it? God's Word tells us this.

Point 2

He doesn't leave us when we are tempted.

Explanation

What is it? The comfort of knowing He's still there

Why do we want it? This frees us from despair.

How do we get it? God's Word, His voice to our hearts in the dark moments, and the people He sends to care for us are ways we know He is still there.

Point 3

He monitors the intensity of the temptation.

Explanation

What is it? The assurance that our Father will protect us

Why do we want it? We need to know there are limits on the intensity of the temptation

How do we get it? Remember the greatness of God. He knows us completely. He is powerful, and He will act to rescue us.

Point 4

Before we are helplessly overwhelmed, He will provide a way of escape.

Explanation

What is it? When we feel trapped, God will show us that we can escape the power of that temptation. He will show us what we are to do at that moment and probably continue doing in the future in order to stay free.

Why do we want it? Paul is teaching us a profound truth here: God teaches us to be “escape artists,” not powerful wrestlers. Many people repeatedly fail to escape temptation because they try to wrestle the temptation into submission. But temptation always wins because it doesn’t get tired, and we do.

How do we get it? We must learn to listen to the Holy Spirit’s voice, either as we’re reading the Word, or hearing His inner voice as we pray. He’ll tell us to do something, and we must do what He says. There aren’t a lot of ways to escape. Paul says He will show us the way of escape, the real one, the one He has created just for us, the one He has opened at the very moment we need it.

Illustration

Transitional Sentence

Conclusion

So, the next time temptation comes, what do you and I know now that will help us?

We know: 1) 2) 3) 4)

Ministry Plan

Maybe you have been struggling with an area of temptation, and you have tried to be free so many times you have begun to lose hope that you ever will be free. But you listened to the apostle Paul today. And something he said about temptation jumped out at you, something was clarified you’d never seen before, something gave you hope that you are not hopelessly trapped. If that’s you, I want you to quietly tell the Lord right now what you will do the next time temptation comes, and what you know He will do.

Now, let's all stand and confess those four points out loud together, and then let's thank God that we will be set free, that we will become Spirit-led "escape artists."

Closing Prayer