

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Walking On Water Bible Church
31133 Hiveley Ave, Westland MI

Sunday February 8, 2026



Walking on Water
Bible Church



Pastor Mike Holloway

Luke 4:1

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

INTRODUCTION: THE WILDERNESS TEST

- Last week we examined Luke 4, where Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Today, Paul takes us to another wilderness story — Israel in the desert — to show:
- Many had great spiritual experiences but still fell.
- Israel entered the wilderness and failed.
- Paul's warning to Corinth — and to us — is:
- Spiritual privilege does not remove temptation.
- Church attendance, baptism, communion, ministry involvement, knowledge — none of these automatically protect us from falling.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- 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,
- 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.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- 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.
- ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- 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*.

SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGE DOES NOT GUARANTEE SPIRITUAL VICTORY

- (1 Corinthians 10:1–5) Paul repeats “all” five times.
- All were under the cloud. – Guidance
- All passed through the sea. – Deliverance
- All were baptized into Moses. – God’s presence
- All ate spiritual food. - Provision
- All drank spiritual drink. - Miracles
- Yet.... “With most of them God was not well pleased.” – Many of them still fell to temptation

Jesus Vs. Israel

- Israel complained about hunger - Numbers 14
- Jesus trusted God in hunger. – Luke 4:4
- Israel demanded signs – Numbers 14
- Jesus trusted God's word. – Luke 4:4
- Israel worshiped idols.
- Jesus worshiped God alone.

Israel Worshiped Idols – Exodus 32

- This reveals:
- Impatience
- Fear
- Lack of trust in God
- Desire for something visible and controllable
- They wanted a god they could see.

Aaron Compromised

- The People demanded Aaron to make them a god
- Aaron instructs them to bring gold earrings, which he collects from the people.
- Instead of correcting them, Aaron goes along with their demand, showing weak leadership.
- Aaron fashions a calf from the gold.
- Then the people say: “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”
- Aaron built an altar to the false gods

TEMPTATION OFTEN LEADS TO IDOLATRY AND IMMORALITY

- “They sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”
- This refers to the golden calf incident.
- Idolatry quickly turned into sexual immorality.
- Paul warns Corinth because Corinthian culture mixed:
 - Worship
 - Sexual immorality
 - Pagan practices

Life Application

- Church membership does not equal victory.
- Spiritual experiences or even spiritual positions do not equal maturity.
- Past victories do not guarantee future faithfulness.
- Temptation comes to everyone.

TEMPTATION FLOWS FROM DISORDERED DESIRES

- “These things became our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things.”
- Israel fell because their desires were misdirected.
- They longed for:
 - Egypt’s food Exodus 11, Exodus 16
 - Egypt’s lifestyle
 - Egypt’s security
- They were free but still craving slavery.

Luke 4 Parallel

- Satan tempted Jesus:
- “Turn stones into bread.”
- The temptation was not just hunger.
- It was to satisfy desire outside God’s will.
- Temptation always appeals to legitimate desires in illegitimate ways.
- Jesus overcame by using, living, and practicing the Word of God

Life Application

- Temptation begins long before action.
- If desires are not surrendered, failure is only a matter of time.
- Victory begins in the heart.

Luke 4 Parallel

- Satan offered Jesus all kingdoms for worship.
- Temptation always asks:
- “What will you worship?”
- Money?
- Pleasure?
- Power?
- Reputation?
- Self?
- Temptation is often misplaced worship.

Life Application

- What captures your loyalty becomes your god.
- Idolatry today isn't statues.
- It's whatever replaces obedience to God.

Life Application

- We test God when we:
- Live recklessly expecting rescue
- Sin assuming forgiveness will cover it
- Ignore warnings expecting protection
- Presumption is not faith.

WARNING AGAINST OVERCONFIDENCE

“Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

- Corinthians believed they were spiritually strong.
- Paul says: Confidence without vigilance leads to collapse.
- **Luke 4 Parallel**
- Jesus remained dependent, humble, and obedient.
- Victory comes through dependence, not confidence.
- **Life Application** - The moment we say, “I would never do that,” we become vulnerable.
- Watchfulness protects victory.

God Provides a Way of Escape

- (10:13)
- This is the great encouragement.
- Temptation is common. You are not uniquely attacked. And God is faithful.
- He: Limits temptation - Provides escape - Gives strength to endure
- The escape may be:
- Leaving the situation

God Provides a Way of Escape

- Changing environment
- Calling a friend
- Turning off media
- Quoting Scripture
- Prayer
- Accountability

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

- 1. Remember past failures
- Learn from Israel's mistakes.
- 2. Stay humble
- No one is above falling.
- 3. Guard your desires. Without Spiritual discipline, failure is just a matter of time
- Victory begins internally.
- 4. Refuse to test God
- Trust without demanding proof.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

- 5. Cultivate gratitude
- Complaining fuels temptation.
- 6. Use and Apply Scripture
- Jesus answered temptation with God's Word.
- 7. Take the escape route
- Act immediately when temptation appears.
- 8. Run when necessary
- Distance is sometimes victory.

The Good News

- Jesus entered the wilderness for us.
 - Where Israel failed...
 - Where Adam failed...
 - Where we have failed...
 - Jesus overcame.
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- If you want to overcome, COME TO JESUS