

# Escape from Temptation

On one occasion, Jonathan Welton had a discussion with Holy Spirit when he was under some form of temptation. He discovered that he had been taught a religious lie about it. The conversation went like this:

*Holy Spirit:* "The lie you believe is that you are tempted by sexual sin."

*Jonathan:* "Um...yes, I am tempted by sexual sin. That doesn't mean that I want to sin, but aren't I always going to be tempted by sexual sin?"

*Holy Spirit:* "Did I crucify your old flesh nature on the cross in Christ?"

*Jonathan:* "Yes."

*Holy Spirit:* "Did I make you a partaker of the divine nature?"

*Jonathan:* "Yes."

*Holy Spirit:* "Knowing that God is never tempted by sin, what part of you is drawn after and tempted by sin?"<sup>1</sup>

*Jonathan:* "Are you saying that I should never be tempted again?"

*Holy Spirit:* "Not exactly. Temptation will always come. But because your flesh nature has been replaced by divine nature, there is nothing within you drawn toward sin."

*Jonathan:* "So temptation will pass in front of me, but I will not be tempted by it?"

*Holy Spirit:* "Exactly!"<sup>2</sup>

We have been taught in church something like this: Christians will always be tempted by sin, but Jesus' victory on the cross means we don't have to give into any temptation. This has the downside of teaching us that we will be drawn toward sin when we feel tempted. The exposé from Holy Spirit shows that this isn't the case because we've been regenerated.

When we are tempted with something unrighteous, Father isn't really 'biting his nails', worrying if we'll give in. Instead:

*"God your Father knows that you are big enough, wise enough, and well-trained enough that He can trust you with this temptation – knowing that you will say no."*<sup>3</sup>

Besides that, we don't need to pray and ask God to help us in our predicament, because he's already given us his escape plan.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** (NKJV) – *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.*

He doesn't allow us to be tempted beyond what we can cope with, and the escape plan is a proactive move by us. The Greek word used in the passage above is *ekbasis* which means an 'egress' – a way/door to leave. It is very significant that the writer didn't use the word *pheugō* (Gk), which means to 'flee' away from. So **our 'escape' then, is to go through the temptation**, without ignoring it or running away from it, by facing it and simply saying, "No". Sound familiar? It's simply operating out of our sonship.

Laurence

22-10-2017

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1 – See James 1:13

2 – Jonathan Welton "The Purpose of Temptation" October 12, 2017 (Welton Academy blog) ([weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/the-purpose-of-temptation-1](http://weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/the-purpose-of-temptation-1))

3 – Jonathan Welton "The Purpose of Temptation" October 12, 2017 (Welton Academy blog) ([weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/the-purpose-of-temptation-1](http://weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/the-purpose-of-temptation-1))