

How Am I To Understand the Last Clause of 1 Corinthians 10.13?

τοῦ δύνασθαι [ὑμᾶς] ὑπενεγκεῖν

- **RESULT:** He will provide together with the temptation the exit too. God providing the exit **results in you being able to endure** the temptation.
- Problems: (1.) The use of τοῦ + infinitive to express result is uncommon in the New Testament. Some older grammars go so far as saying that τοῦ + infinitive never expresses result. (2.) What need is there for God to provide an exit that results in (actually or hypothetically) being able to endure the temptation when He already inhibits the temptation to your present ability to resist (unless His act of inhibiting is by means of His provision of the exit)? The question is not your *ability* to endure but your *willingness* to endure the temptation! (3.) If God's provision of the exit results in (actually or hypothetically) being able to endure the temptation, then exactly what and where is that exit? The reader is left to guess the exit's identity and location.
- **PURPOSE:** He will provide together with the temptation the exit too. God provides the exit **for the purpose of you being able to endure** the temptation.
- Problems: (1.) Τοῦ + infinitive is typically not how Paul expresses purpose; in fact, some grammarians say that Paul virtually never uses τοῦ + infinitive in this way. It is more often than not εἰς τό + infinitive that Paul uses to express purpose. (2.) What need is there for God to provide an exit for the distinct and specific purpose of being able to endure the temptation when He already inhibits the temptation to my present ability to resist (unless His act of inhibiting is by means of His provision of the exit)? The question is not my *ability* to endure but my *willingness* to endure the temptation! (3.) If God's provision of the exit is for the purpose of being able to endure the temptation, then exactly what and where is that exit? The reader is left to guess the exit's identity and location.
- **EXPLANATIVE #1:** He will provide together with the temptation the exit too, the exit **that enables you to endure** the temptation.
- Problems: (1.) If the particular exit provided enables the actual Christian to endure the temptation, the Christian is still left to guess the exit's identity and location. (2.) If it is the fact of the exit *itself* that enables the actual Christian to endure, regardless of whether the exit is identified and located, then does only the Christian who identifies and locates the exit escape the temptation, enduring all the while until he escapes? What of the Christian who does not identify and locate the exit? Is she left to endure the temptation until it passes? (3.) The majority of English versions and translations of the Bible seem to view τοῦ + infinitive in 1 Corinthians 10.13 as a purpose clause, not explanative.
- **EXPLANATIVE #2:** He will provide together with the temptation the exit too, **that is to say, being able to endure** the temptation.
- Problems: (1.) Is being able to endure the temptation the exit from the temptation? Is there no way out of the temptation other than through it? What about 1 Corinthians 10.14 where the readers are commanded to "flee away from" the temptation? (2.) The majority of English versions and translations of the Bible seem to view τοῦ + infinitive in 1 Corinthians 10.13 as a purpose clause, not explanative.
- **APPOSITIVE:** He will provide together with the temptation the exit too, namely, **your ability to endure** the temptation.
- Problems: (1.) If τοῦ + infinitive in 1 Corinthians 10.13 is viewed as an appositive, then it must be translated as a substantive, translated so that it functions as a noun. This is not unsound, but is it forcing an interpretation on the clause? (2.) Is the ability to endure the temptation the exit from the temptation? Is there no way out of the temptation other than through it? What about 1 Corinthians 10.14 where the readers are commanded to "flee away from" the temptation? (3.) The majority of English versions and translations of the Bible seem to view τοῦ + infinitive in 1 Corinthians 10.13 as a purpose clause, not appositive.

Regardless of the meaning intended by the Holy Spirit, the Christian still has no excuse for giving in to any temptation to commit an act of sin. Yes, temptation does grasp us. Temptation does seize the Christian. Temptation does get a hold of us. But if perchance we give in to its grasp claiming, "I couldn't help it!" or "I just couldn't prevent or stop myself!" the truth of the matter is that our heart and mind was on anything but the fact that the temptation was in truth, by the inhibition of our faithful God, *not* unbearable!

"God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able."

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