

## Escape Out

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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A trial is a test to assess us. It is something that we will all go through; moments of feeling trapped. How we respond to these moments is what makes the difference. One purpose of a trial is to trust God more. In every trial, God has provided a way of escape towards victory.

When our enemy surrounds us, God is already providing a way out for us (1 Corinthians 10:13). While the enemy brings us pain, heartaches, and burden, God is preparing a table before us with overflowing cups (Psalm 23:5). This is what He did to the Israelites when they crossed the Red Sea (Exodus 14), and to Joseph when he was sold by his brothers (Genesis 37:28). In difficult situations, God is going to bring us through. But when God takes time to answer our prayers, we devise a way for ourselves. We do things we're not supposed to do and end up frustrated, stuck in a dead end.

Jesus, in His divinity, went through the wilderness where He was also tempted by the devil.

**Three Escape Routes the Devil Presented to Jesus** also being presented to us at present:

1. **The lust of the flesh – Hunger.** The devil knows when we're hungry, and at our weakest. He will use it to lure us to a direction that is an easy way out – one that looks more convenient and practical. Most of the time, it agrees with our flesh which makes it easy for us to go ahead.

Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone, but in every word that comes out from the mouth of God. This means that we are not to feed our flesh with what it wants but with what God wants.

2. **Pride.** We are often challenged to prove ourselves, and pride would always devise a way of escape. It will always be selfish in nature – self-centered.

3. **Lust of the eyes.** It means that we are living by the senses. As humans, it is faster to escape to a direction that we see rather than to a direction where we cannot see. It is more assuring to walk the path that is familiar than go through the unknown.

God's escape out requires faith. The escape routes that we normally go for, because of our human nature, will last only for a moment. And it will lead us trapped for a long time.

Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4) tells us that we can't stand the temptation on our own. Our escape out is ONLY through Him. In the scripture, there is already an escape out available for us. We should not rely on our human strength.

**Few things that we need to remember about God's way of escape.**

1. God will make a way of escape available to us but He will never force us to go with that escape route.
2. God's way of escape is not always obvious. It requires faith; just like what happened to the Israelites in the Red Sea.
3. The way of escape is not a mere relief from the trials. We are going to bear the challenges; it will not be taken out instantly.
4. The way out does not lead us to a place where we escape all the trials and temptations. It leads us to a place where we will be able to bear those trials.
5. There is only one way of escape - Jesus. With Him, no trial, dead end zone, not even sin has overtaken us.

When we feel stuck in a situation, let us look into Jesus who is and will always be faithful. He has our situation in His mighty hands. He is our only escape out to experience mighty victory.

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