

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 7: God's Faithfulness

Lesson 2
Excuses

“And Samuel said, ‘What have you done?’ And Saul said, ‘When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering” (1 Samuel 13:11-12).

According to God's Word, there are no excuses for sinning. In the Bible, we see how God promises victory for all those who trust in Him. This victory is based on God's faithfulness and His ability to relate to, comfort and rescue all who call upon Him.

Read the biblical example of King Saul's disobedience, his unacceptable excuses, and the ultimate cost of his not trusting in the Lord's plan for victory.

Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14. Saul was the first king of Israel (approximately 1,000 BC). Because Saul failed to trust in the Lord, he did things his own way. Saul offered a sacrifice to God, but God had not ordained him to make such a sacrifice. That task was reserved for the prophet Samuel (verse 8-9).

1. What were Saul's three excuses? See 1 Samuel 13:11-12.

2. What was the price Saul paid for his sin and feeble excuses (verse 14)?

3. What kind of person was God looking for (verse 14)?

4. Do you think it is necessary for all believers to have a heart after God? Why?

5. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, can we excuse our sins because no one else ever went through a temptation like ours? (Note: Our sins can be forgiven, but there is never an excuse for them.)

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Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. These verses speak about the Jews under the law of Moses, Christians under Roman rule in Corinth, and can be representative of believers today in America.

6. What common temptations do you personally share with these other believers?

7. By what promise, according to 1 Corinthians 10:13, can we be sure that we can overcome all temptations?

8. What did Jesus' example of life and death show us?

9. On what power does God expect us to lean for victory? See Ephesians 6:10, 2 Peter 1:3.

It is important to recognize when you are being tempted. When you realize that temptation has come, do what God has asked you to do. Look to Him, and pray for the power of His Spirit to help you overcome it immediately.

Remember, you are no longer bound to the old man. You are "*a citizen of God's kingdom!*" (*Philippians 3:20*).