

# The Willingness to Change

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Some of the saddest words are, “It might have been.”
- B. We cannot turn the clock back, but God wants us to have a new beginning.
- C. Text: I Corinthians 10:13.

## II. Assurances.

A. You are not alone—there is no test that has ever befallen you except what is common to the human race.

- 1. Controlling addictions.
- 2. Abuse.
- 3. Secrecy is a chain that binds people.

B. The faithfulness of God.

- 1. Nothing is hidden from God.
- 2. A good place to begin is to share all your hurts with God in depth and intensity. (Psalm 77)
- 3. God keeps your secrets.

C. There is a way out.

- 1. There is a way out of denial, substance abuse, loneliness, blame, and dishonesty.
- 2. There are many ways of escape in the Scripture, but they all involve certain characteristics.
  - a. Honesty.
  - b. Humility.
  - c. Endurance through pain.
  - d. God cleans our wounds by confronting ourselves with Him.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to someone in addiction who says that he should be able to face the addiction by himself because of the promises of God?

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2. How does one explain the faithfulness of God to someone who feels he has been hurt by Him?

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3. Why is it important to share your hurts honestly with God—even if you feel like they have come from Him?

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