

# ***Beyond What You Are Able***

**Give Me the Truth, Message 4 – FBC Palestine – June 30, 2019 – I Corinthians 10:13**

**Sermon by Tony Watson**

It's a comment meant to be an encouragement, "God promised he wouldn't give us more than we can handle" – Accurate?

- In Paul we see evidence to contrary: afflictions, hardships, beatings, imprisonments, hunger, etc (2 Cor 6:4-10)
- Was he a Superman who could withstand more than others or is this more than he could handle on his own?
- **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**, <sup>8</sup> We don't want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of our affliction that took place in Asia. We were completely overwhelmed—**beyond our strength**—so that we even despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death, **so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.**
- What we see from Paul refutes this idea of not having more than we can handle
- They were completely overwhelmed – SO that their trust in God would increase
- **John 15:5**, The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

So where does this idea come from – this well-intentioned idea likely comes from I Corinthians 10:13

**I Corinthians 10:13**, <sup>13</sup> No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it.

## Give me the truth:

In order to understand what v13 means, we have to put it in context of whole chapter – Paul recounts history of Israel

- All of them were under the same cloud, passed thru same sea, ate same spiritual food, drank same spiritual rock
- But they repeatedly failed tests, which turned into temptations, sometimes turned to idolatry and selfishness
- At one point the people continued in sexual immorality and 23,000 of them died in 1 day – God is still a holy God
- Paul gave us these examples (v6) so that we would not follow the same path, nor desire the evil things

When you look at the whole of I Corinthians 10:1-13, you'll see that the overall theme is temptation

- The Israelites had the hand of God throughout their time of wandering, but they continued to fall to temptation
- Many of the Corinthian Christians came out of worshipping idols so they were used to pagan rituals – drink, immoral
- When they came to Christ, they wanted to continue their same lifestyle without the paganism and it just didn't work
- They were playing with fire & Paul knew it-hence section from I Cor. 8-10 to challenge them not to indulge flesh

So how do we "adjust our lives to the truth" with our better understanding of the text? We must realize...

1. **Temptation is an opportunity that knocks on every door** – "No temptation has come upon you except..." (V13)
  - a. Temptations are opportunities to grow in our dependence on Christ
  - b. You are not less or more of a Christian because you face temptation – we all have them – you aren't alone
  - c. Temptation is a test until you give in – then it's sin – path of temptation moves from mind to desire to action
  - d. **James 1:12**, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial"
2. **He who stands on anything but grace is sure to fall** (V12) – we see examples in Scripture of overconfidence
  - a. Peter – "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!", yet he denied Jesus 3 times
  - b. Revelation 3 – Church at Sardis thought they were spiritually alive, yet, Christ said they needed to repent
  - c. Church at Laodicea that they were wealthy, in need of nothing – Jesus said they were poor, blind & naked
  - d. Overconfidence leads to carelessness, which leads to lack of focus on Christ, which leads to defeat
3. **Temptation never comes without an Advocate**– It's a promise from Scripture (put down the donuts)
  - a. The longer we allow temptation to linger, the tougher it is to resist – but we have one who is interceding
  - b. The way out will not compromise God's holiness or have you compromise your witness to do so – not God
  - c. Look at the phrase "that you may be able to endure it" – sometimes the escape involves perseverance
  - d. In the midst of your perseverance you can find the peace and presence

**Hebrews 2:18**, "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."