

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

A New Bible Study

A new Bible study on "What
does it mean to be a
Christian?" begins Tuesday
evening at 7 here at the
building. Though the study is
designed for young Christians
all are welcome. Please invite
Christian and non-Christian
friends.

When The Going Gets Tough (continued)

The expression: "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" has a unique interpretation for the Christian. The Christian is spiritually tough, and when the going gets tough the Christian prays for increased faith. When the going gets tough, the Christian gains strength from God's word. *"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."* (Isaiah 40:28-31)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krissow, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Wilma Lawson, Jannett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Bernard Larch, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Janice Parsons, The Spivey family, the Dillard family, Donna Barnett, Cassie Neel

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God Will Give You More Than You Can Handle

Adam Litmer

"Oops! Adam made a mistake in the title of this article. He forgot to insert the 'not' after the 'will'!" Might that thought have crossed the mind of a few folks upon reading the above title? I assure you that no mistake has been made. The Scriptures are abundantly clear that God *will* give His people more than they can handle. He's been doing it from the very beginning and continues to do it today.

But does that sound right? After all, "God will not give you more than you can handle" has been repeated so many times that many people, including Christians, have long thought it was a Bible statement. It's not. In fact, the exact opposite of that sentiment is taught on nearly every page of Scripture. Indeed, God has ensured that we will never be able to handle this life on our own.

Perhaps that point needs to be driven home before it will be accepted. To the non-Christian, consider: Your sins have alienated you from God and you are in a lost condition (Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12). You will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Now, relying upon your own efforts, handle it. To the Christian, consider: Satan wants you back desperately. He hates you and desires to devour you (1 Peter 5:8). He's coming for you with everything he's got (Ephesians 6:16). Now, relying on your own efforts, handle it. In either case it can't be done.

In Ephesians 2:4, after mentioning the lost condition of the Jews, Paul said, *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."* In verse 13, after mentioning the lost condition of the Gentiles, he said, *"But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."* The salvation of any one who is saved is a result of the mercy and grace of God in Christ Jesus. Devising a plan for redemption, bringing it to fruition, and applying it to our souls are far beyond anything we can handle.

Perhaps someone says that this may be true for non-Christians, but God doesn't give *Christians* anything they cannot handle. That is not true. The passages above that speak of overcoming Satan demonstrate that it's only possible because of God's power, not our own. Even 1 Corinthians 10:13, which is probably where the

statement “God will not give you more than you can handle” comes from, shows that overcoming temptation is within our ability only because God refuses to let us be tempted beyond our ability and He Himself provides the escape.

As Christians we must remember that we have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God. He is the Source of our new life. We only know what is right because He has revealed it. We only experience truly good things because He blesses. We only overcome temptation because He has shown us how and given us the strength to overcome. We only defeat Satan because He has already defeated him. Beloved, we can’t handle anything in this life on our own *and that’s the point!* We *need* God every step of every mile of every second of every day. Life can only ever be handled when God is our Rock and Deliverer.

Someone might point to an unbelieving neighbor or friend as someone who has faced the difficulties of life and handled them all alone. They might point out that the individual not only came through with flying colors but prospered exceedingly. Asaph knew all about prosperous ungodly people and was troubled by their prosperity (Psalm 73:1-12, 16), until he remembered to recover an eternal perspective (Psalm 73:17-28). How can it ever be said that someone has “handled” life when at the end *“they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors”*? If such people refuse to repent than may they enjoy their things as long as they can for they have their reward! Put a wealthy unbeliever next to a poor saint on the Day of Judgment and tell me who handled life? In whose shoes would you rather be? *“Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!”* (Numbers 23:10)

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 1:8, said, *“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.”* They were given something they could not handle. Why? Verse 9 explains, *“Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”* Beloved, God *does* give us more than we can handle in this life on the merits of our own strength precisely to remind us that our own strength is not sufficient. Our sufficiency comes from God (2 Corinthians 3:5) and with His strength we can do all things (Philippians 4:13).

If it were true that God never gives us more than we can handle than I suppose we would be tempted to boast in our own strength. As it is, let us boast all the more gladly of our weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon us. For the sake of Christ let us be content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when we are weak, then we are strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

When The Going Gets Tough

John Thompson

Sometimes it seems that life has a hit list with you holding the top position. Bad things just seem to be happening to you nonstop. Calamity after calamity slams you giving you no time to rest, no opportunity to gather your strength, no leisure to prepare for what might come next, no moment available in which to consider who might be asked to help. When such happens, one’s sense of aloneness, one’s feelings of hopelessness, the temptation to cry out against the utter unfairness of it all must be overwhelmingly profound.

And yet, consider God’s servant Job. A messenger came to Job one day and informed him that all of his oxen and donkeys had been stolen, his servants all killed save the messenger. Before that messenger’s report had finished a second messenger came reporting that all of Job’s sheep and the servants tending them had burned to death except for the lone surviving messenger. Before the second messenger had finished speaking a third messenger came reporting that the Chaldeans had stolen Job’s camels and killed his servants, the messenger being the sole survivor. Finally a fourth messenger came reporting the worst news of all, that a strong wind had demolished the house containing Job’s sons and daughters, killing them all.

Surely Job had suffered enough, but that was not to be. *“So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.”*(Job 2:7-8) Job’s response to all the calamity he experienced is summarized in verse 10: *“In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”*

While Job is remembered for his patience in the face of extreme adversity, it was his unshakeable faith in his Creator that stood behind his endurance. Faith is what gets us through the thrashing and pummeling that happens from time to time in our physical lives. The faith that comes through hearing and hearing through the word of God (Romans 10:17) accounts for the difference between weathering the storm or being washed away with the rest of the debris. Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-25: *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”* Life’s calamities cannot shake or destroy the house of faith that is built upon Jesus, the Rock, and His everlasting word. *“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 3:11).

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