

Dear Friends,



There is much discussion on whether God allows us to go through things that are more than we can handle. Some would say that according to 1 Corinthians 10:13 we can handle anything that comes our way, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it." They would follow this vs. with the statement that God will not give you more than you can handle. But on closer examination this text, in the context is really talking about temptation to do evil or give into sin. It is not talking about life's happenings, that are so difficult like watching a loved one go through extreme sickness and even their death or the devastation of a natural disaster like the Nepal earthquake etc, etc.

I believe that there is no temptation that comes our way that, when we resist according to His Word we can handle it and walk in freedom from the temptation, not giving into sin according to this vs. It doesn't make any difference if it's the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes or the boastful pride of life and all of their off shoots. Any of those temptations when we submit to God and resist them, choosing obedience and faithfulness over self centered living, we can handle them.

What about the other things that are so hard then Shada? How do we deal with them? Friends, this is the beauty of being a Christ follower. We have, do, and will face the great hardships of life, that are too much for "us" in and of ourselves to handle. In our human and often weakened condition, there are many things we will face that are so heavy and hard we, on our own are often helpless.....**BUT**.... when we allow the Lord to be our Shepherd, in His strength, with His protection, in His lovingkindness and with His great peace which surpasses all understanding, **He will see us through those seemingly impossible situations** to green pastures where there are still waters that refresh us.

Our responsibility in the midst of the storms that are so awful is to heed the truth of this great Psalm, "My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken...For my hope is from Him. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Selah...Ponder, Stop, Look and Listen) (Psalm 62, selected).

May His peace, comfort and strength be richly yours in Christ Jesus,

Doug