

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
“THAT’S NOT WHAT IT MEANS!”
“GOD WILL NOT PUT ANY MORE ON YOU THAN YOU CAN BEAR”
READ:1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13 TNIV

This Wednesday, we continue our Bible Study series “That’s Not What It Means!” with a lesson on one of most often quoted phrases to people who are going through painful loss, grief or mourning: *“God will not put any more on you than you can bear.”* After this lesson we should know what that phrase means and more importantly what it does NOT mean.

Pastor Rivers teaches that context is the most important way to understand scripture. Context is what happened before, during and after the text. Please read 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 and prepare to answer and discuss the following questions:

1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-13 TNIV

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever heard the saying, “God will not put any more on you than you can bear” and what do you think it means and where is it in the Bible?

ANSWER: YES! Countless times. Most times it was said to someone who lost someone special to death.

2. Where in the Bible can you find “God will not put any more on you than you can bear”?

ANSWER: That specific quote is not found anywhere in the Bible. The only scripture that I found even close is 1 Corinthians 10:13. I could not find any other scripture that makes God our enemy like that quote. And even this scripture does not show that “God will not put any more on you than you can bear.”

3. Although the phrase “God will not put any more on you than you can bear” is meant to encourage Christians as they go through grief, mourning or trials in life, how could these words have just the opposite effect?

ANSWER: This phrase can and probably has made Christians and non-Christians look at God as their enemy for taking a loved one away from them. The problem is this verse is NOT about bearing the burden of grief or loss. It is about handling temptations!

4. If we are honest, most of us have had things happen to us that we could not bear alone. Which scriptures show that even Paul was given things that he could not bear. Where in the New Testament can you show examples of when Paul encountered things he could not bear?

ANSWER: Two examples of Paul having more than he could bear:

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NLT

8 We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.

9 In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.

and

2 Corinthians 6:4-5 NLT

4 In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.

5 We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food.

5. Since the phrase “God will not put any more on you than you can bear” is NOT about bearing an impossible burden from God, what do you think it is about?

ANSWER: It is about temptations AND idolatry. Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13-14

1 Corinthians 10:13-14 NLT

13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

14 So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

6. As you look at the phrase “God will not put any more on you than you can bear” what is the major problem with this phrase for Christians who believe the words of Jesus?

ANSWER: When we say this phrase or believe it, we are in direct contradiction with the words of Jesus in John 15:5 NLT:

John 15:5 NLT

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

7. Please read Ephesians 6:10-20 and tell us what is the “Sword of the Spirit” and how should we pray so we can bear the burdens that come our way?

ANSWER: Ephesians 6:17-19 NLT

17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.