



PART 1: GOD NEVER GIVES YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE

Sermon Notes

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Intro:

Fake online news has been a big story recently. One of the problems is that people aren't checking the course of the news. Similarly, people pass on statements that sound Biblical, but they don't check the source.

There are many cultural beliefs that people have attributed to God, but just aren't Biblical - God never said that!

"God never gives you more than you can handle" - God never said that!

By saying this people might mean that God will help us through our troubles - that's Biblical. Or maybe they're misunderstanding 1 Corinthians 10:13 - this passage is about temptation, and God's faithfulness to rescue us from it, not about our ability to handle it.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Paul faced a "deadly peril...far beyond his ability to endure," which made his "despair of life." You could say it was more than he could handle.

Why would God allow Paul (and us) to go through things that we can't handle?

1) Because God's ultimate goal is our eternal happiness, not our temporary happiness.

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"God just wants you to be happy" - God never said that!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

If you lived a perfectly happy life, and wound up in hell, wouldn't you wish God had allowed a little pain in the present to awaken you to your need for his salvation?

2) Because God wants to teach us to depend on him

v. 9

It's easy to forget God when things are going well.

Trust only grows in our lives when we are forced to depend on God and others in order to survive.

Our confidence in God needs to move from theory to experience. From doctrine to personal knowledge.

3) Because God wants to teach us to pray

Martin Luther is famous for commenting, "I have so much to do today that I'm going to need to spend three hours in prayer in order to be able to get it all done."

Sometimes God will allow a challenge in your life to teach you how much value prayer truly has, and how lost we would be without it.

Conclusion:

What should we do?

- 1) Pray
- 2) Submit your struggle to God. Allow him to use it for his glory and your eternal good.

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday January 8, 2017 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever had someone tell you “God never gives you more than you can handle”? How did it make you feel when you were struggling? What would be a better (and truer) statement that might be more comforting to someone who is struggling?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Here Paul famously describes his bout with a “thorn in the flesh.” This may have literally been a “messenger of Satan - demon (v. 7), or that may have been a metaphor for some type of illness. Regardless God allowed it in his life in order to shape his character.
 - How to the troubles listed in v. 10 make us “strong”?
 - Why did Paul boast in his weakness?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Paul highlights the difference between the inner self and the outer self. Our outer self (our bodies) are “wasting away” even while our inner self (soul, spirit, character, etc) are being renewed.
 - Why would Paul call our troubles (tribulations) “light and momentary”? What do these troubles “achieve”? How?
 - What does it mean, practically, to fix our eyes on what is unseen? How does that help us when we’re suffering?
3. Do you find it harder to be devoted to prayer when life is going well? Why or why not? What disciplines do you have in your life that keep you praying regularly? What do your prayers sound like? What do you say to God?

Application:

1. Examine your life to see if you are truly depending on God for your strength and survival. How can you grow in your dependance on him?

2. Are you dealing with any troubles right now? How can you submit those to him? (allow him to use them for his glory and your good).

Prayer:

1. Pray for anyone who is experiencing “troubles”
2. Prayerfully submit those struggles to God.
3. Other Requests

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