

When It's More Than You Think You Can Bear

By: David Sproule

What was it? Was it a health scare or diagnosis or uncertainty that grabbed you and wouldn't turn your mind loose? Was it the sudden death of someone dear to you? Was it the dissolving of your marriage? Was it the unexpected revelation from a family member or friend that stunned your senses? You've been there. What was it that got you staggering a bit emotionally, mentally and even spiritually? How did you handle it? How did you get through it?

In the book of Second Corinthians, Paul revealed some "trouble" that he had faced (1:8). The word for "trouble" primarily means "a pressing, pressure," with reference to sufferings due to the pressure of outward circumstances or the antagonism of persons. Does that description sound familiar to your life experience? Notice how Paul portrays this event.

"We were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves" (1:8-9). Think about each expression in this statement. The word "burdens" means "to be heavy upon, press down with a weight," and Paul said this one was "excessively" (NASB) "beyond" the "measure" that he could handle, and it was "beyond our strength" (ESV) of what could normally be endured. But, he was going to be alright, wasn't he? Brush it off and keep going, right? Note how he shares that "we

despaired even of life." The Greek for "despaired" literally means "to be utterly without a way." Truly, "we had the sentence of death in ourselves."

As you read Paul's description of where he was, could you relate? Have you been there? "*Paul, how did you get through that?*" Note two things that he pinpoints. First, Paul reveals that this point of despair "was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (1:9, ESV). If we think we can get through things on our own, we're deceived and just arrogantly wrong. We must learn to trust God, period! Seeing that He had power to raise the dead, what is there He cannot do or handle in our lives? Look in the past—has He delivered you before? Yes! And "He will still deliver us" (1:10).

Second, Paul reveals that what was there "helping" him get through it were the "prayers" of his brethren on his behalf, as they were "joining in helping" (NASB) or "helping together" (NKJV) "in prayer." When you have an excessive life burden that is beyond your strength to handle, ask your brethren to pick up the other side of it...with their prayers. Life burdens are not meant to bear them alone. First, trust the Lord to not just carry your burden, but to carry you! Second, seek and let fellow Christians bear it for you in prayer!

13 Things Every Teen Needs to Know (#6)

By: Selected

We have an amazing God, who sent His amazing Son and then gave us an amazing book! Don't ever take those truths for granted; cherish them and let them motivate you every day. I have something else that I hope you will truly consider, take to heart and keep with you for the rest of your life.

Lock this in your heart: **The Bible is our only authority and has everything we need!** There are all sorts of ideas and philosophies out there about what this life is all about and what our purpose is on this earth, but there is only one source of truth that really matters and to which we need to turn and accept. Knowing that every word in the Bible is inspired of God, notice how He connects the chain of authority.

Truth: Jesus Christ has all authority! Those who heard Jesus recognized that "He taught them as one having authority" (**Matt. 7:29**), and the reason for that is what He revealed Himself before He left earth, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (**Matt. 28:18**). Jesus Christ is to be heard in all things (cf. **Matt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23**).

Truth: All of Jesus Christ's authority is in His Word! While God spoke through prophets in the Old Testament, "God...has...spoken to us by His Son" (**Heb. 1:1-2**). And the Word of Christ is the ultimate authority, for it is the Word given directly by God ("whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak," **John 12:50**) and it is the Word that "will judge [us] in the last day" (**John 12:48**).

Truth: All of Jesus Christ's authority on earth today resides in the inspired words of the Bible! Before Jesus left earth, He told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would "guide [them] into all truth" (**John 16:13; 14:25-26**), which He did by moving them to pen the words of the New

Testament. Therefore, the very authority of Christ is inherent today within the inspired words of the Bible!

Truth: The Bible is all we need! We have a perfect God! And, when it came time for Him to complete His revelation to mankind in the Bible, He gave us a perfect book! Just as God is lacking in nothing, His Word is lacking in nothing! The reader can be made "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (**2 Tim. 3:17**), for in them God "has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (**2 Pet. 1:3**). We do not need to go anywhere else to know what God wants us to do; He gave all of His authoritative truth to us in one book!

Truth: We must respond to Christ's authoritative Word with respect and obedience! Only those who do the will of God can be pleasing to Him and go to heaven (**Matt. 7:21-27**), and the only place to find what is pleasing Him is in His Word (**Col. 3:17**). Let's respect and obey what He says!



Upcoming Events

Today! Ladies Day Planning meeting at 4pm in the fellowship hall.

Sat. Oct. 14: Men’s Breakfast Meeting. More details to come.

Area Events:

Nov. 11: Weber Road church of Christ Bible Bowl.

More Area events are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ben Moseley who is at home. His address is on the bulletin board if you would like to send him a card.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Billie Slaughter has expressed her desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. Her contact info is on a sticker in the foyer to add to your pocket directory.

Food Helpers for the month of Oct. - Team B

Compassion Card Program:
If you know of a non-Christian who is in need of encouragement, and lives within a 30-mile radius of Victoria, please see James Cammock.

Service Roster

Week of October 8, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Jack Jobs
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer.....Ken Dorries

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Dan Fielder
Cup.....Joseph Sheeran
Offering.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons
Assist.....Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer.....Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Ken Dorries/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader.....Jack Jobs
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for October.....Randle

Congregational News

Birthdays

Ashly Price.....Oct. 8
Candice Starling.....Oct. 11
Scout Terry.....Oct.12
Cater Terry.....Oct. 12
Autumn Hoblak.....Oct. 13
Clark Withers.....Oct. 14

Anniversaries

Kin & Sandra Marie.....Oct. 12

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words
will by no means pass away.”
Mark 13: 31

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 1, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....75
A.M. Worship.....98
P.M. Worship.....74
Wednesday Bible Class.....68

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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