

WHAT THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY

“God Never Puts More On You Than You Can Bear”

I Cor. 10:13

There hath no temptation taken hold of you but such as is common to man. But God is faithful; He will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that which ye are able to bear, but with the temptation will also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Introduction

When athletes are bench pressing heavy weights, they often employ the use of a gym spotter. The spotter assists the weightlifter by standing behind them to help them with the struggle portion of the lift. By helping in this way, the athlete can complete the lift properly and without injury. The spotter is a very important person because there may be times when the weightlifter might try to lift more weight than he can handle on their own.

Questions: What would make a person a good spotter? If a weightlifter is always very careful, will they really need a spotter? How might this illustration connect with our lesson?

THE LESSON

Most of us are familiar with the saying “God never puts more on us than we can bear.” When someone says this to another person, how might the statement make the other person feel? Encouraged? – because they are feeling confident that they can make it through whatever it is they are experiencing or, - Discouraged? - because they are really feeling overwhelmed and unable to hold up under their present circumstances? The truth is either is possible. Although we are fortunate to have the written Word of God available to us, there are times when the written Word is tempered by our oral traditions, sayings and incorrect interpretations. This statement seems to fit into that scenario.

CHECK THE CONTEXT

When we check the context of a scripture, we look closely at the verse in relation to the other verses, chapters and greater narrative that surrounds the verse. All this helps us to better understand the original meaning of the scripture and how it applies to us today.

The topic saying of our lesson appears to get its origin from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. (I Cor 10:13). Prior to verse 10, the Apostle talks extensively about the sinful conduct of the Israelites that Moses was leading towards the Promised Land. Concerning these Israelites, the bible says that “with many of them, God was not pleased...” (I Cor. 10:5). Paul goes on to list many of the unrighteous acts these people committed. They were guilty of things like idol worship, fornication, and ungratefulness to name a few. The Apostle informs us that because of their unrighteousness many of them were destroyed, dying in the wilderness and never getting to experience the blessing of the Promised Land of God. At the end of this portion of the chapter, Paul

tells his readers that God wanted him to remind us of what happened to these people as an example to us today so that we can avoid their same fate. Then, in I Cor. 10:13, Paul provides us with the assurance we need to know that we can avoid the fate of these fallen souls.

“There hath no temptation taken hold of you but such as is common to man. But God is faithful; He will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that which ye are able to bear, but with the temptation will also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Cor. 10:13

Temptation is anything that entices a person to commit sin.

QUESTION: Is feeling tempted in itself is not a sin? (Read James 1: 12 – 16) Why would “enduring” – or (*persevering under trials*) or temptation be a blessing to a person? Any other benefit to enduring temptations/trials? (Read Rev. 2:10)

JUST A LITTLE DEEPER

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The focus verse mentions the concept that these temptations are “common” to man. What are these “common” temptations? Satan is not creative. He has not changed his strategies to ensnare us and that’s because the old tricks are still very successful. Satan tempts us with the “lust of the flesh” – these are mostly comprised of those things that can be experienced through our five senses. Then there is the “lust of the eyes” – this comprises an unquenchable thirst for things we can see and desire. And finally, Satan employs the “pride of life. The pride of life the desire to be self-sufficient, independent and unwilling to be subjected to any power other than our own.

QUESTIONS: Read: Genesis 3: 1 – 6. How does this story provide an example of “common” temptations?

IN SUMMATION

Read King David’s words in Psalms 69: 1 – 4. Now, read Paul’s words in 2 Cor. 1:8

QUESTIONS: Does it sound like these men experienced more than they could bear? Does the fact that David and Paul had these experiences mean that they were spiritually weak people? Did such an experience mean that God had abandoned them? Why might a Christian express these same types of feelings?

The truth is that we may at times experience more than we can bear. The bible says that “God knows our frames and that we are just made of dust.” (Ps. 103:14) Because of this God helps us in our areas and times of weakness (Rom. 8:26). In fact, it is only in our areas and times of weaknesses can the real strength of God be seen. (2 Cor. 12:9).