

Testing Our Faith

“No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

This verse is often misinterpreted with the line, “God won’t give you more than you can handle.” This is a tragic misinterpretation. One, God doesn’t give bad things; and two, some people do get more than they can handle. Paul wrote these lines to encourage us. Previously in this chapter, Paul cites occasions where God’s Old Testament people had their faith tested by their circumstances in life. Frequently, they failed and found themselves separated from God. Paul writes these lines to strengthen us when our faith is tested.

Often the circumstances of life test our faith. This illness has tested mine. Frequently I have asked, “Where is God in this?” or “Why doesn’t God heal me?” Your faith has been tested too, or will be tested. It may or may not be an illness, but the circumstances of life test all of us sooner or later. All of us will find our faith tested. That is why Paul wrote these lines. As Paul says, “God...will provide a way out.” God does this in many ways. There are two I would like to write about. One is worship; the other is prayer. We worship, not only because it is appropriate, but, quite frankly, because it strengthens our faith when we are tested. Worship provides a foundation of faith before we are tested; and strengthens us when we are. I don’t know where my faith would be if I were not able to attend worship. God also provides a way out through prayer. When we pray for ourselves and others, God strengthens us. In a mystery, we may not obtain the answers we desire, but God strengthens us. I can attest to that. Through worship and prayer, God provides a way out when our faith is tested. That inevitably happens.

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