**The Storm: More than I can handle**

“God, I can’t handle this anymore. I don’t know what to do, but I can’t do this.” Have you ever said these words before or felt this way. Sometimes the circumstances in your life can become overwhelming, everything will seem like it is crumbling around you, and your world is falling apart.

It is times like these that a Christian friend will come along and say “**God won’t give you more than you can handle**,” and you just want to take their head off because they don’t know what you are going through.

When we are down and out and feeling discouraged, hearing those words can cause us to feel like we are not measuring up. It causes us to ask, “If I am supposed to handle this, then why can’t I handle it?”

The truth is, God never said He wouldn’t give you more than you can handle. There will be times in life when you will be overwhelmed with problems and feel that there is no one to help you.

The words, in the Bible, that are meant for encouragement can often be twisted to only create discouragement. It can lead us to believe the lie that we can do it ourselves; that we can handle it. Which raises the question, **“If we can handle anything that comes our way, then why do we need God at all?”** We need to realize that sometimes we **can’t** handle everything on our own.

2,000 years ago the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a small church in the city of Corinth reminding them that all people are tempted and often choose to do the wrong thing. With his warning he also gave a promise. He wrote,

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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”

This is the verse that is so often misquoted. With regard to temptation and sin, Paul pointed out that we always have a choice: engage in sin or run from it. The promise is that God will always provide a way for us to run from it. Let’s be clear: Paul was talking about temptation, not suffering. With temptation, we have a choice, but with suffering we often don’t have a choice.

There are many things that can happen in our life that we can’t handle: illness, Poverty, loss of loved ones, failing to make a critical goal, we do not choose these things to happen.

In moments like these when we feel like dirt, rather than standing and proclaiming that we can handle it, we should imitate Jesus: The night before Jesus was executed he cried out to God, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (Matthew 26:38). We also see in the Psalms, The Psalmists ball their fists in rage, and shout at God, “Why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22) In their sadness they say, “Darkness is my closest friend” (Psalm 88).

What these verses teach us is that it’s OK to feel like we can’t handle it, like we are going to give up. We can cry out, “My soul is overwhelmed to the point of death.” And when we do this, we find God—the one who, in the person of Jesus, suffers with us. When we become aware that life will give us more than we can handle, we find a promise:

* **God is faithful to meet us in the mess and in the pain.**

And when He does, we learn to recognize our constant need to depend on Him. This is why Peter instructs the Church to cast our fears, worries, suffering and pain on God (1 Peter 5:7-8). The reason we can do this is because God cares for us. When life deals us more than we can handle, we can rest in the reality that “**God can handle it**”.

But, if we’re honest, even this can seem like a tired old phrase. Because when it really hurts, God can seem so far away. This is where we need each other and to support each other in love and not with tired old phrases.

In times when life becomes unmanageable, we need to be willing to walk alongside one another. When we do this, we act like Christ and let his light shine thought us. We can be with one another in the midst of suffering, helping each other carry the weight. Which means, that we, as the Body of Christ, have an opportunity to serve one another.

When we are willing to walk with one another when life’s path is difficult and to shoulder one another’s burdens when they are too heavy, we become part of the promise. We become living proof that while life can sometimes be too much, through the goodness of our loving father, displayed within us, we can move forward together.

While washing the feet of the disciples Jesus told them what I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. John 13:7

There will be many times in your life where you do not understand what God is doing and why. How could this even happen to me? Sometimes we can call out to God and hear nothing. These are the worst kind of test when we feel God has left us all alone to face a situation by ourselves.

Psalms 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. In God, I praise his word. In God, I put my trust. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

As a child David was anointed as King and then defeated Goliath. Things were looking good for David but then David had to run from Saul, his own father-in-law, who was trying to kill him out of jealousy. David had to leave everything he owned and loved. (Saul even gave his wife to someone else). Now he was seeking refuge in a Philistine city whom Israel had been at war with for years. David felt that the whole world was against him, and while living here in the midst of enemies, that wanted to kill him only slightly less than Saul and his army, he wrote Psalm 56. 'When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.'

David went on to be a great king and he lived a very prosperous life after this season passed. Do not give up in the middle of the fight. You will never meet anyone truly great that does not have a difficult story of how they got there.

**🡪Sometimes God has to Leave us so we can find him.**

We find this, in the bible, when God left Hezekiah to “try him, that he might know all that was in his heart” (2 Chronicles 32:31). We know God let Job go through unbearable trials to test him. God knows what is in your heart but he wants to show you as well. In the end we can be sure that God will never totally leave us.

Deut. 8:2 And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not,".

### [Deuteronomy 31:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+31%3A8&version=ESV)  It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Sometimes, after the storm passes, it will all make sense. Looking back on the events, you will see how God used circumstances to steer you like the rudder of a ship to be where you needed to be. Other times we will just have to trust him

Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.

You may be facing something that you do not understand. Give it time. God reserves the right to be God sometimes and does not explain it to us. No matter what happens to us in life we need to stay focused on God our Father and Christ our savor.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

If you throw a ball into the air, it will eventually come back down because of Gravity. Without some form of lift, it will surely fall back to the ground.

 In the same way we can fast, pray, worship, and walk closely with the Lord, but when we let up, the world pulls us right back down to it. We have to keep praying, keep trusting, and keep worshiping because when you stop, we will fall

* **The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of Pain and Suffering**

Life is like throwing that ball in the air, we don’t sit still. We are going up, or we are coming down. But God can act as helium in our life to keep us afloat even when hard times come.

We can also be sure that God will bless us when we get to the other side of the storm when we walk in faith.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Remember even Jesus cried out to God in the Garden in his suffering and agony but He still said: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. **Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**” (Luke 22:42)

* **Don’t always pray for God to get you out of the fire. Pray for God to get you through the fire so that he may teach you something**

We often feel the test is over when we get through hard times but the bigger test is how we act when we are on the other side. When prosperity comes and God pours out his blessing on us, what do we do with it and how do we act about it. Do we say “thanks Lord I am good now you can go. I don’t need you anymore.”

Over and over in the Bible we find when the people where in prosperity they turned from God. No wonder why God kept leading them through hard times because it was in those hard times that they came crying out to the Lord.

In the end, we need to recognize whatever happens in our life it is God’s will that needs to happen not ours no matter how bad or good it gets. There will be a reward in the end if we stay focused on Him.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’s sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# We are told in Isaiah 26:3 that God will keep us in perfect peace if our mind is focused on Him and we trust in Him

# In Philippians 4:19 we are told that God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in Christ Jesus.

If we look back at David we see as a young child he was a simple shepherd boy but even then he had to fight of bears and lions to keep his sheep safe. Then one day he is called to be a delivery boy to bring lunch to his brothers and meets Goliath. He could have quit with the bears and lions and he could have complained about such a simple task of bringing his brothers lunch. No one would have even looked down on him if he walked away from Goliath. After all the whole army cowered in his presence. But David as a teenager boldly declares victory for God

1 Samuel 17:45-46: David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

Wouldn’t it be great if every time we faced a challenge (lets not call it a problem) if we declared victory in God’s name right from the beginning?

It is always scary to face a trial, but God will bring you through it. **There is no testimony without going through a test. There is no glory without first living the story. There is no victory without a challenge**. God will get you through to the other side. No matter what you are going through today, God wants you to overcome it

I think Paul said it best

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

In Closing Let’s look at a situation in 2 kings

2 Kings 6:8-30 8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.” 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

So, what is going on here? Israel and Aram are at war and the King of Aram is trying to plan a surprise attack on Israel but God would tell Elisha all the plans that the king of Aram was making. Elisha would tell the King of Israel so that they would be ready for the attack.

11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?” 12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.” 13 “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I” can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” 14Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. 15 **When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.**

The servant couldn’t see past the problem. How often in our lives is the problem perfectly clear to us but we can’t see or trust that God has a solution?

16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

The servant probably thinks Elisha has gone crazy as there are only 2 of them. But Elisha can see past the problem to an almighty God who can do all things.

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Don’t give up on God when your problems seem too great to overcome. Double down on prayer and let faith guide you through. I know that is easier said than done and it does take practice. But if you give God a chance you will be surprised how faithful he really is.

If you ever felt like everything around you is falling apart? Or all that you see in your future is nothing but darkness and pain? Know that there is always a sunny day on the other side of every storm.

Think about it: even in the worst storm, let’s say it’s a CAT 5 hurricane, where everything is getting blown apart below, above that storm the sun is still shinning. The storm will end and you will be in the light of the Sun (SON) once again

**One of my favorite Songs**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzGV9Bl6CGg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzGV9Bl6CGg)

I can see clearly now; the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.
It’s gonna be a bright
Its gonna be bright sunshiny day.

I think I can make it now,
The pain is gone.
All of my bad feelings have disappeared.
There is the rainbow I've been praying for.
It’s gonna be a bright
Its gonna be bright sunshiny day.

**Look all around there is nothing but blue skies!!!**