



Part 2: A Lie in Truth's Clothing
Pastor Grant Fishbook
October 10 & 11, 2009

A Common Feeling: If I'm struggling, I must be doing something wrong.

Two Typical Answers from Christians

1. You just need to have more faith

THE LIE 2. God will never give you more than you can handle

Is that really what the Bible says?

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 stand up under it. – *1 Corinthians 10:13*

The Truth

God may give us more than we can handle, but it's never more than he can handle.

Did the Apostle Paul ever have more than he could handle?

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.
– *2 Corinthians 1:8-9*

Even Kings Get Overwhelmed

The Problem

After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea." – *2 Chronicles 20:1-2*

So what should we do when we're overwhelmed? (*2 Chronicles 20:3-22*)

1. Ask for help (*verse 3*)

Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

2. Be honest and get your eyes on God (*verse 12b*)

"...for we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

(Continues on back)

3. Hear God's Word and fight wisely (verses 15-17)

He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.'"

4. Worship in the pain (verse 18, 21)

Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD. Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

5. Remember who fighters for you (verse 22)

As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

What was the reward for struggling well?

Peace – before, during and after the struggle

And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side. (verse 30)

Next Steps

Alpha: A Practical Introduction to Christianity

Starts Monday, October 19 • 5:45-8:00 PM

(see the back of today's program for details)

On Your Way Home

Have you ever been completely overwhelmed? How did you get there, and what got you through?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) How was your week? What were the highlight and the low point of your last seven days?
- 2) In this moment are you in a spiritual valley, heading toward a spiritual valley, or just coming out of a spiritual valley? How can we as a group help you on your journey?
- 3) How do you handle being overwhelmed? Which of Jehoshaphat's responses is the most difficult for you?
- 4) Tonight would be a great time to have some open sharing with the group. Are you going through any struggles that you need prayer for? Will you trust the group enough to be there for you in the pain?
- 5) How can we pray for you tonight?