

# God Never Said That

“God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle”  
1 Corinthians 10:13 – April 19, 2026

## Our Sermon Series

GOD NEVER SAID THAT		
<i>Examining Common Statements That You Will Not Find in the Bible</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 4/5	God Helps Those Who Help Themselves	Ephesians 2:1-9
April 12	God Wants You to Be Happy	2 Corinthians 12:2-10
April 19	God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle	1 Corinthians 10:13
April 26	Money is The Root of All Evil	1 Timothy 6:6-19
May 3	To Thine Own Self Be True	Luke 9:23-26
May 10	Heaven Needed Another Angel	Romans 12:15
May 17	Forgive and Forget	John 2:23-25
<i>Sermon notes are available in Mandarin and Spanish at the Welcome Desk</i>		

## God Never Said That

- **Hosea 4:6** – *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*
- George Barna: “Increasingly, America is biblically illiterate.”
- The purpose of this sermon series is to help train us to be Biblical thinkers.
- **Acts 17:11** (NIV) – *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
- Charles Spurgeon: “Discernment is not (just) knowing the difference between right and wrong, it is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”

## Discerning Between Right and Almost Right

- **Almost Right:** “God won’t give you more than you can handle.” There is some truth to this based on 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- **Fully Right:** God **does** allow us to encounter more than we can handle so that we will turn to Him in full relational dependence drawing close to Him in walk and worship and so that He can reward us for eternity.

## Three Examples of God Allowing Extremely Difficult Things

### 1. Paul’s affliction in Asia

- **2 Corinthians 1:8-10**
- Charles Ryrie: “Since Paul offers no details about ‘the affliction we experienced in Asia,’ it seems probable that the Corinthians knew what the trouble was. It may have been one of the dangers described in 2 Corinthians 11:23-26, the mob violence of Acts 19:23-41, or some serious illness.”

- John Hafemann: “Paul’s burden (Gk. *bareo*, ‘weighted down’) and despair in Asia was so severe that it seemed to Paul as if a death sentence had been decreed against him.”
- This is obviously MORE THAN PAUL CAN HANDLE.
- **These verses list 3 purposes for our suffering and afflictions:**
  - (1) That we might rely on God (v.9)

(2) That we might have closer fellowship with Jesus (v.5)

**Philippians 3:10** (NIV) – *I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.*

John Piper: “God helps us prepare for suffering by teaching us and showing us that through suffering we are meant to go deeper in our relationship with Christ. You get to know Him better when you share His pain. The people who write most deeply and sweetly about the preciousness of Christ are people who have suffered with Him deeply.”

(3) That we might comfort others (vv.3-4).

Chuck Swindoll: “Suffering prepares us to comfort others. God’s grace and power enable us to endure suffering through various means. When His comfort has done its work in our lives, then we in turn become the Holy Spirit’s comforters for others who must endure similar situations.”

- Rick Warren: “God never wastes a hurt! In fact, your greatest ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt. Who could better minister to the parents of a Down syndrome child than another couple who have a child afflicted in the same way? Who could better help an alcoholic recover than someone who fought that demon and found freedom? Who could better comfort a wife whose husband has left her for an affair than a woman who went through that agony herself? The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life – the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget – are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They *are* your ministry! For God to use your painful experiences, you must be willing to share them. You have to stop covering them up, and you must honestly admit your faults, failures, and fears. Doing this will probably be your most effective ministry. People are always more encouraged when we share how God’s grace helped us in weakness than when we brag about our strengths. Only shared experiences can help others. Aldous Huxley said, ‘Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you.’ What will you do with what you’ve been through? Don’t waste your pain; use it to help others.”
- Question: How does God want to use your pain to help others?
- **Application #1** – With God’s help and power, I choose to press into God’s purposes for my difficulties by...

- **Relying on God in the midst of my painful situation** (v.9). In the past, what has been your unhealthy “go to” when you are in pain? (food, movies, work, alcohol, substances, etc.) With God’s help from this point forward, I choose to turn to God in the midst of my pain by calling a friend to share and pray together, diving into His Word (especially the Psalms), coming to church, putting on a worship playlist, etc.
- **Pressing into closer fellowship with Jesus by identifying with His sufferings** (v.5). Try prayer journaling with this prompt: “Jesus, I thank You that You understand what it’s like to...”
- **Comforting others who are in pain with the same comfort that God has given to me in mine** (vv.3-4). A person whom God is calling me to help comfort this week is...
- Divorce Care, Financial Peace University, Grief Share, Marriage Matters, Parenting with Grace: [WhatIsGrace.org/Care](http://WhatIsGrace.org/Care)

## 2. The Israelites confronting **giants** in the Promised Land

- **Numbers 13:25-14:10**
- These giants are obviously more than the Israelites can handle. Think: Not just one Goliath, but an army of Goliaths.
- Two different responses to this impossible-to-handle situation:
  - (1) **Majority report** (10 spies): “we” = us on our own (13:31-33)
  - (2) **Minority report** (2 spies): “we” = us and God together (13:30; 14:7-9)
- Application #2 – The “giants” standing in my way right now are.... When it comes to facing these impossible giants in my life, I choose to take the Caleb and Joshua route of trusting in God by...
  - Speaking my trust in God and speaking my faith
  - Doing so regardless of what the “majority” is saying and doing
  - Believing God to take me into His “promised land” for me
  - Hanging out with Calebs and Joshua’s.
- Interesting note: Forty years later, Joshua chose to send only 2 spies into Jericho (Joshua 2).

## 3. Your encounter with **temptations**

- **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- You can interpret “your ability” in one of two ways:
  - (1) Majority report: “ability” = my personal ability
  - (2) Minority report: “ability” = God’s power in me
- “ability” = *dunamis* = dynamite power = the same word used in **Acts 1:8** – *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.*
- Warren Wiersbe: “God can enable us to overcome temptation as we heed His Word. God permits us to be tempted because He knows how much we can take; and He always provides a way to escape if we will trust Him and take advantage of it. The believer who thinks he can stand may fall; but the believer who flees will be able to stand.”

- Aspects of overcoming temptation according to 1 Corinthians 10:13
  - (1) Acknowledge that you are human and capable of succumbing to temptation.
  - (2) Fix your eyes on Jesus.
  - (3) Tap into His *dunamis* (Holy Spirit dynamite power).
  - (4) Take God’s way of escape
  - (5) Persevere
- John Ortberg: “A black belt is just a white belt that kept showing up.”
- Six “ways of escape” that God always provides:
  - (1) Rehearse God’s Word (Psalm 119:9-11; Matthew 4:4).
  - (2) Cry out to God (Psalm 120:1).
  - (3) Phone a friend (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).
  - (4) Flee (Genesis 39:6-7; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11).
  - (5) Having an eternal perspective (Colossians 3:1-4).
  - (6) Fix your eyes on the reward (James 1:12).
- Application #3 – In order to prepare for and walk in victory over temptations, I am going to...
  - Hide God’s Word in my heart by daily reading and meditating on His Word.
  - Practicing crying out to God daily so that I am ready to cry out in the moment.
  - Cultivate spiritual friendships whom I can call on in the midst of hard times or temptation.
  - Practicing fleeing temptations as a lifestyle including “staying away from the liquor store” as a lifestyle.
  - Cultivate a long-term (eternal) mindset: “Don’t make decisions in the moment that you will regret in the long-term.” (Waldo)
  - Fix my eyes on the greater reward of persevering through trials and temptations.

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