

Nothing We Cannot Bear!

Bill Brinkworth

Sometimes, life can be plain rough; even for Christians. We may face financial hardships, physical problems, relationship challenges, and hosts of other types of trials. What do you do? Where do you run to? How do you escape the load of a burden you sometimes just cannot imagine yourselves bearing?

We are told in the Bible that, as heavy as one's burdens feel, God will never allow one more than he can bear: *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* I Corinthians 10:13

Whatever we face, God will only allow us to go through what we can handle with His help. Somehow, the immense trials so many are facing can be handled by them with God's help.

With the faith that God will help, the next avenue of relief from trials and tribulations is prayer. Be thankful for what you do have and ask God to help you,

and hang on by faith that He will help!

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

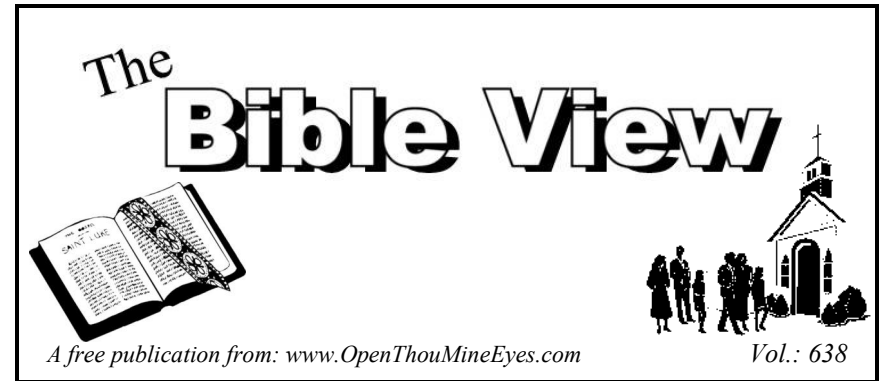
After knowing that God will somehow help you through hard times and seeking His aid in the time of need, there is one more area that has to be handled; so, we do not feel defeated and want to give up. That area is our thought life.

If we have any "strength or moral goodness" (virtues), allow your mind to have only the right thoughts:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8

Do not allow yourself to think about what could happen; things that are not true; things that are not right; things that are filthy and unrighteous; things that are scary and frightening, or bad news. Doing so will never help;

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"I Can't, But He Can!"

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All Christians are called to be obedient to God's calling; be it to be saved, baptized, tithe, cease a certain sin, or to do something He has laid on one's heart to do. Too often, excuses are used to wiggle out of what one has been burdened to do.

Moses made such an excuse. He did not want to do what God had called him to do. God called the humble man to lead the two million plus people out of Egypt and their bondage (Ex. 3:10). After being told what the would-be-leader would first do (Ex. 4:2-9), Moses did what many of us do when God calls on us to do something for His Glory. He hid behind an inadequacy he thought would prevent him from doing what God required of him.

Moses reminded God that his speech impediment would prohibit him from doing any speak-

ing. He thought his slow speech would hinder him from speaking to the people of Israel. *"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."* Ex. 4:10

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Not Handicapped at All

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Several years ago, I witnessed a perfect example of how God can use us and help us overcome even severe problems:

A Wednesday night audience was anticipating hearing from a speaker representing a ministry to the handicapped. After the man was announced, the speaker approached the pulpit with very much difficulty. It was hard for him to walk, but he managed to hobble up to the pulpit.

As he introduced himself and his ministry, the congregation noticed another handicap he battled. His speech was slow and

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“I Can’t, But He Can!”

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God’s answer to Moses’ supposed exemption should have silenced Moses’ and most of our excuses also. God reminded Moses that it was He that had made Moses’ mouth. Certainly, his Creator knew his limitations.

“And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?” Ex. 4:11

God does not ask anyone to do anything that they cannot do. If God laid on a person’s heart to do something, it can be done! Maybe not on their own; maybe not without God’s help, but if God calls a person to do something, he CAN do it!

This wipes out so many excuses, including:

☞ “I can’t quit my drinking.” If God convicted you about destroying your body and life with alcohol, or even drugs, He can help you get control over that controlling sin.

☞ “I cannot read my Bible, pray, and go to church”. You can, if you let God prioritize your time.

☞ “I can’t live the way a Christian should live, because I’ll lose all my friends.” Well, God can give you new friends.

☞ “I can’t tell the truth all the time, or I’ll get in trouble!” Maybe forced honesty will steer you away from tempting situations in the first place.

☞ “I can’t tithe because I barely have enough money to live as it is.” God can make a “little” go a long way, if you will trust Him!”

☞ “I can’t tell others how to be saved, because I’m shy; and I don’t know what to say.” Try! God will give you the words; and if you do make mistakes, He will direct you to be more prepared and to even memorize some Bible verses.

Most of our excuses are not sufficient to keep us from obeying God. We can do all God requires of us. He will not require of a Christian something that he is not able to do.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13

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strained. He stammered while trying to get the words out.

Husbands and wives looked at each other, certainly wondering “How can this man deliver a message, when he can barely talk?” I must admit I even wondered how such stammering lips

could preach, and what were we in for?

After the niceties were completed, the preacher started his message with prayer. During that prayer, closed eyes snuck a peak at the speaker, because something had changed. His stuttering and stammering had stopped.

As he started, the normally slow speaker was speaking very clearly, without stammering and as fast as any preacher I had ever heard. On he preached; one point after another, and not one pause. The preacher machine-gunned a clear, no-wasted word, non-stuttering message.

People’s hearts were pricked by the message. Several came forward to get things right with the Lord. God had used that “handicapped” preacher’s “slow speech” to deliver a message that affected lives.

After, the message was completed. He thanked the audience, but his speaking had returned to the slow, stammering, stuttering, struggling speech. God had given that man, despite his natural short-comings and inabilities, grace to deliver God’s message. Since that time, I am convinced

**“Faith, mighty faith, the
promise sees
And looks to God alone,
Laughs at impossibilities
And cries, “It shall be done!”**

— Charles Wesley

**“We cannot direct the
wind, but we can adjust
the sails.”**

that there is nothing anyone cannot do, if God is in the situation.

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it will always make matters worse.

Christian, you should have the mind of Christ. Do not fill it with worldly thoughts, because the dark things of this world will only try to put out your “light”. Keep your eyes and mind on the things of God, and let God do the worrying! He’s going to be up all night anyway!

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Hymn by Helen Lemel

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*



“The only disability in life is a bad attitude.”

— Scott Hamilton