

Important Facts About Difficult Times

1 Corinthians 10:13—No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

No temptation has overcome you but such as is common to man

Temptation [PEIRASMOS] Common Greek word, translated "temptation," "testing" or "trial" in 21 New Testament uses.

[ANTHROPINOS]= Such as is common to man. Conveys the idea that this is part of being human, has happened to other people and is not unique.

What does this phrase say about the temptations you have faced in the past as well as those you face now?

And God is faithful

God [THEOS] The One who is Holy, who is love, who is all-powerful, who created all things, who made you, who sent His Son to pay the price for your sins, who is preparing an eternal home for His children.

Faithful From the common word for faith, the implication is that He is worthy of faith, worthy of trust, sure and certain.

What does this powerful statement tell you regarding the three ideas which follow?

Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able

Tempted [PEIRAZO] Translated "tempted," "tested" and "tried" in the New Testament; from the same root word as "temptation" in this verse.

Able [DUNAMAI] From the same root word as the word for power or strength; most commonly translate "able."

What common concepts in our culture are proven to be untrue for Christians by this section of 1 Corinthians 10:13?

-Due to past sins against me, I am now a victim, a helpless reactor not responsible for my sin

-The actions of others can cause me to sin (i.e. "he made me mad" or "she pushed me beyond my limit")

But with the temptation will provide the way of escape also

Temptation [PEIRASMOS] See above

Way of escape [EKBASIS] An exit, an outcome. Also translated "result" in the New Testament. What outcome or result, in response to temptation, is the desire of followers of Christ?

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So that you will be able to endure it

Able [DUNAMAI] See above

Endure [HUPOPHERO] To bear by being under, to endure. This compound word includes

[HUPO]=under + [PHERO]=to bear, to carry. The faithfulness of God (not allowing temptation beyond what we are able and providing a way to achieve a good outcome) results in the believer being able to live while beneath the heavy burden of a trial, and to live in a manner honoring to God.

Restate the important facts about difficult times contained in 1 Corinthians 10:13. How should you think differently because of them?

1 Thessalonians 5:18—In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

The Original Words

Everything [PAS] This primary word means "all," "everything," "all things" or "every." 1,040 times "PAS" is translated as one of these four words in the New Testament. This word tells us that there are no exceptions to what is to be said next.

Give thanks [EUCCHARISTEO] This is the most common Greek word which is used in the New Testament to communicate the concept of giving thanks. The verb is in the present imperative tense, which speaks of something to do in the future which involves continuous repeated action.

God’s will [THELEMA] This powerful word speaks of the purpose, the intent, the desire...the will of the Lord.

The Implications

What would be necessary to give thanks in everything ?

When would it be easy?

When would it be difficult?

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What facts about God and difficult times must be true for the Lord to command us to give thanks in everything?

How might faith grow in the heart of one who truly gave thanks in everything?

Will you commit your way to obey God and give thanks in all things?

2 Peter 1:2-3—Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

What are the results of true knowledge of God?

Grace God's care, help kindness.

Peace The contentment that accompanies being right with the Lord.

His divine power The great force of the almighty God.

Everything pertaining to life and godliness All you need to live a life of fulfilled purpose, one with God and glorifying Him by serving Him in the opportunities life provides. All you need to put off sin and put on righteousness, to overcome the world and live a life of godliness.

What must you do to obtain a true knowledge of God?

Some examples of people who did obtain a true knowledge of God

Some examples

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John 17:17–Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Background

Jesus is praying for us: future Christians who would believe in Him through the words of the apostles (John 17:20).

Sanctify

Sanctification is "changing toward holiness."

"Sanctification" [HAGIASMOS] and "Sanctify" [HAGIAZO] come from the Greek word for "Holy."

Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Christ which is our occupation from the day we came to Christ until we see Him face to face.

The Word

How can you change toward holiness? Especially amid the harsh seasons of life, how can you become stronger in your faith? Truth. The truth of the Word of God.

Important Facts About Difficult Times

The truth of God's Word is the means to sanctification. The Bible is God's chosen tool to equip you for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Scripture is the way the Lord will enable you to endure and grow as a result of this difficult time (1 Peter 2:1-3, Psalms 119:9-11).

Options for Bible Study that Result in Sanctification

The hope conveyed in John 17.17

2 Corinthians 12:9-10–And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

My grace is sufficient for you

Grace [CHARIS] God's unmerited kindness; the help He provides.

Sufficient [ARKEO] Enough help; sufficient assistance to meet the need.

In every difficult time in life, you, Christian, may know that God's grace is sufficient for you! That is an important fact.

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Power is perfected in weakness

Power [DUNAMIS] This refers to the power of the Almighty God.

Weakness [ASTHNEIA] Literally, without strength; weakness, frailty; also used to refer to sickness, ailments and diseases.

The great power of the living God can work in you when you are weak, frail, without strength, or sick, in relation to the magnitude of your problem or physically. Not only will God use His power to help you, His child, the power works best when you are in need!

I will boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me

Paul really believed these important facts about difficult times! Will you choose to look at weaknesses this way?

Cross references: Philippians 1:29, James 1:2-3, James 1:9, Psalms 119:71.

I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake

Most people I know are not content with their problems. Did this man simply have an easy life?

Paul's Difficult Times (2 Corinthians 11:23-29)

Beaten...often in danger of death

Five times...thirty-nine lashes

Three times I was beaten with rods

Once I was stoned

Three times I was shipwrecked

A night and a day I have spent in the deep

Dangers from rivers

Dangers from robbers

Dangers from my countrymen

Dangers from the Gentiles

Dangers in the city...in the wilderness...on the sea

Dangers among false brethren

In labor and hardship

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Through many sleepless nights
In hunger and thirst, often without food
In cold and exposure
The daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches
Who is weak without my being weak?
Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

When I am weak then I am strong

Weak [ASTHENEIO] Weak or sick; same root word as "weakness"

Strong [DUNATOS] Depending on context, "DUNATOS" is translated into different words in the New Testament. Among them: able, mighty, possible, powerful, strong, and strong enough.

Remember this important fact when you are in difficult times. Hold onto this hope, Christian.

Face adversity with this confidence in your God: "When I am weak then I am strong."

People who believed 2 Corinthians 12.9-10 to be true

Conclusions of hope regarding life