

I Corinthians 10:13  
5-26-14 AM

*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, so that you will be able to endure it.*

What does it mean when this passage says "Not beyond what you are able" and "You will be able to endure it". Paul elsewhere spoke of being burdened beyond his strength (2 Corinthians 1:8). Could Paul have been wrong? We know that when Job's trials came to an end in Job 42:10-17, it was not the case that everything turns out "okay", or that there is a happy ending. So what does Paul mean to say that we are going to be able to bear a trial or temptation?

We need to see the rest of Paul's statement in 2 Corinthians 1:9-10: "Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us".

From this passage we see that Paul understood the promise not as restitution or restoration, but as a spiritual deliverance and overcoming in regards to our true Hope. In other words, we do not have to lose Hope. "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation" (2 Peter 2:9a). This is our great hope, that is, our inheritance. There is only one real hope we have (Ephesians 4:4), and we need to dwell on that hope (Ephesians 1:18). Paul spoke of being delivered in 2 Timothy 4:18, although in 2 Timothy 4:6 he knew he was about to die. His hope was not in being able to be delivered physically, but to bear this towards his eternal reward.

Heaven is all that matters in this life.

Second, we need to learn that we CANNOT overcome alone; HE provides the means of escape. Consider Paul's experience in II Corinthians 12:7-10; he learned that he was not sufficient of himself to overcome for heaven, but he needed God's assistance. What does God provide to aid us in overcoming? Two great things: His church (Galatians 6:2 & II Corinthians 1:3-7) and the comfort of His Word (Psalm 119:50,76 & Romans 15:4).

We cannot make it alone

So when we see this passage (I 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, so that you will be able to endure it.*), we know that this is not about being restored to our former condition, or made whole in this life, but it is about not losing the Hope of our inheritance, and using the tools God gave us now to bear these things.