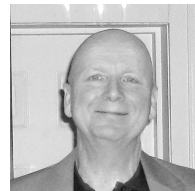


Lo The d Ou Righteousness

More than you can bear alone

Elder Charles Moore



answer
you." (Isaiah
30:18-19)

So He can keep
us from being self-
reliant and prideful.

Have you heard the saying that "God will not put more on you than you can bear." It originates from a misapplied truth, "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." (1 Corinthians 10:13) that talks about temptation and how when we are tempted, God always allows us a way to resist that temptation. We can't be tempted beyond what He's equipped us to bear.

So using that truth, people often stretch it to say to hurting people "God will not put more on you than you can bear." Imagine telling a mother of two young children after she suddenly loses her husband and fears being able to raise the children, provide for them and keep the home in which they live, "Remember, God will not put more on you than you can bear." This doesn't sound very comforting to me—or probably to her. At the time, she feels very much like she has more on her than

she can bear. And she does. If you're like the rest of us, you have felt that way too. It's part of being in the fallen, sinful world in which we live. And, as strange as it may seem, those times of disparity—when we are unable to stand up to the pressures we are facing—have more on us than we can bear—actually have great value within the sovereignty of God. He uses them for our good. Here are some reasons why God may allow more than you can bear:

So you will rely on Him. "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

So He can pour out His grace on you. "Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will

"Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!" (2 Corinthians 12:7)

So that Paul would not forget this, God gave him a constant reminder of his weakness. No one can say for sure what his was, but it probably was a physical affliction. It is understandable that Paul would consider this thorn a hindrance to wider or more effective ministry and that he would repeatedly petition God for its removal. "Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me." (2 Corinthians 12:8)

God's grace transformed Paul's perspective as it can ours. Experiences in his ministry he would naturally abhor, he could welcome supernaturally because the evidence of Christ's power in the midst of them brought glory to Him, not Paul. When Paul came to the end of

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himself, Christ alone was seen. When he was weak, then Christ, by His strength, could make Paul spiritually strong.

So He can demonstrate His strength. **"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 weaknesses, 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."** (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

So you can develop character and hope. **"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)**

When we feel out of control—in over our head—afraid of the circumstances of our life—worried—our answer is Jesus. It's all grace, and it's a sufficient grace to help us in our time of need. We are more than conquerors. We have an answer to the stress of this world—a strength to bear any burden with Jesus.

The key here is you won't have more on you than you can bear—IN JESUS. Paul said, **Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.** But without an understanding of "Christ in me," that phrase "God will not put more on you than you can bear" isn't freeing. It's burdensome. And—with any misunderstanding of where our true strength resides—that saying becomes a lie.

And probably no one who uses that statement intends it to harm—they intend it to be helpful. But the enemy would love you to live in that lie, believing that somehow YOU have to get it together—you have to conquer all that ails you—in your strength, because, you know, "God will not put more on you than you can bear." It might be easier to say, perhaps truer to say as well "You know, God will never allow anything upon you that HE can't handle." And then we can encourage people, **"casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."** (1 Peter 5:7) God WILL allow more on you than you can bear—alone but you are never alone so turn to Him.

If you feel overwhelmed today—defeated—like there is more on you than you can bear—turn to the burden bearer. **Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**

At-Large News Diane Begeman



Well the kids are returning to school and the hectic life of summer is over. Time to settle down and get to work.

Kathy and Joe Smeltzer have spent part of the summer in Arizona. She has attended some different churches out there. Joe has since returned home for the start of school.

Dorothy Layton has been hospitalized. She is in a rehab facility trying to get her strength back.

We extend our condolences to the family of Olga Vaughn. This is Rob Vaughn's mother. She lived a very long life, being 94 and was well loved by her family and the staff at the senior living home she was staying at. Rob and the family all got to say their goodbyes to her and to thank her for all she had done for them. She was a wonderful woman.

Kathleen and Kerry Johnson welcomed a new member into their family. Their son Casey and his now wife Erin were married in New Jersey. It was a beautiful ceremony and reception from the news I heard. Elder Moore and his lovely wife Aurine were able to attend. While out that way they stopped in and visited with Dorothy Layton and Jim and Deborah Stoner.

I talked with Rip Ripley on the phone. He continues to get physical therapy for his shoulder. He says he's gotten a lot of his range of motion back. Not 100% but pretty good. He is such a delight to talk with.

We're getting ready for the Annual Business Meeting and Fall Retreat. We hope to see you there. You are all invited. Jim and Deborah Stoner and Sonya Pease have sent word they are planning on attending.

Until next month.

The issues of the COLOR Newsletter will be caught up in the next few weeks. Have patience with me.

The man who does not read good books
has no advantage over the man who can't
read them.

Mark Twain

Michigan Report

Tim Begeman



We joined forces with Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day and had our bi-monthly Magnum Nursing Home visit this month. We had a great assemblage with the residents that receive care there including my Dad, Dale Begeman. Jeff Begeman led out with some familiar hymns which all the occupants really seem to enjoy. Emily Schott had to fill the piano accompaniment this month which we were all very grateful. Elder Charlie Moore took prayer requests and led us all in prayer. I finished our little service with a short message which was inspired from a talk given by one of my spiritual heroes Roy Gee in 1997 that contained three points as follows: Number one, the gospel is the forgiveness of sins, number two, if the gospel is the forgiveness of sins it reconciles us with God and number three, if the gospel is the forgiveness of sins it defines us as people and as a community. All the patients seem to appreciate our succinct, but efficacious service.

David Charles got in a little traffic misadventure during this month but he emerged completely and utterly unharmed. His car however, was out of commission for a little while, so it landed in a temporary pit stop for repairs for a few days. Thank God it was the car that incurred injuries and not David.

This month I suffered some employment vexations. A week before I had received a raise being told a job well done, however the next week we were told that the company is almost completely out of money and you are now no longer employed. I made a call to my previous employer on the way home from work that day and left a message that I was now available for employment. Thank God, about an hour later I got a call and was told you now have a job if you decide to accept it. I accepted and now work as an engineer for Meldrum Mechanical Services Inc. in Toledo. Diane, my wife was on an emotional roller coaster for a few hours that day. She thought for a short time that she might have to give up her swanky and opulent lifestyle.

Also this month we all attended a combined birthday celebration of both David Charles being 90 and Sally Smeltzer turning 80. A large confluence of adoring well wishers converged at Joe and Kathy Smeltzer's house to try to catch a glimpse of the honorees. If you were one of the ones that braved the admiring throng and got to have an audience with the birthday recipients consider yourself blessed. Congratulations David and Sally!

Elder Charlie and Aurine Moore took a trip east to attend the wedding of Casey and Erin Johnson. Larry and Peggy with David Charles in tow also took the trip east for the weekend. While Charlie and Aurine were there they visited Dorothy Layton along with Jim and Deborah Stoner. While they were away I had to take the responsibility of having a talk for the Sabbath service. I talked about the current irrational ideas, tactics and musings of some of the most prominent and vociferous atheists. Thank God, the congregation was very patient with me. Elder Moore and Aurine reported that it was good to see many of the folks out east.

**CHURCH OF THE
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A Strawberry and a Cucumber

A strawberry and a cucumber grew up in the same garden patch. They were best buds growing up. As they grew older, they decided it was time to branch out, leave home, and see the world. So they hitched a ride on a nearby vegetable cart and took off.

Their first stop was at a local farmer's market. Unfortunately, that's where the trouble started. A big row broke out and they got separated, one of them ending up in a jam and the other in a pickle.