

"Unbearable Yet Unbreakable"

Part two of the series: "Trending Truths: That's Not in the Bible"

Sunday, July 15, 2018 • Pastor Tim Ma

"Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ⁴⁸'Unless you people see signs and wonders,' Jesus told him, 'you will never believe.' ⁴⁹The royal official said, 'Sir, come down before my child dies.' ⁵⁰'Go,' Jesus replied, 'your son will live.' The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵²When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, 'Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.' ⁵³Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he and his whole household believed." (John 4:46-53)

Trials and temptations can bring us to a place beyond what we can handle.

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Use these moments to seek Jesus and His will.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10)

Trust in His word for breakthrough.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3)

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Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of July 15-21, 2018

Main Passages and Lessons:

"God won't give you more than you can handle" is a commonly misused phrase. It could lead us to believe that we'll never go through things that are difficult or that in our own strength we can get through anything. In reality, we all go through extremely difficult trials in different seasons, some of which are beyond our human ability to bear. As a result, many cope with substances, affairs, or other unhealthy behaviors, often resulting in greater despair, depression, and even thoughts of suicide. The Bible does teach that no matter what we face, God will empower us to overcome if we trust in Him. In His humanity, Jesus faced a trial that He could not bear on His own: the cross. He was empowered by God to overcome through **earnest prayer, trusting surrender**, and the **support of faithful friends**. These are the keys Scripture gives us to be "unbreakable" in our trials as well.

*"And when he came to the place, he said to them, '**Pray** that you may not enter into temptation.' ⁴¹And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and **prayed**, ⁴²saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. **Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**' ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴And being in agony **he prayed more earnestly**; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, **he came to the disciples** and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Rise and **pray** that you may not enter into temptation.'" (Luke 22:40-46 ESV)*

- In prayer, we are to fervently ask God for what we desire, but must ultimately surrender to His will for our lives.
- When God doesn't remove the trial, He will empower us to get through the trial. We must trust that He has a greater plan for us.
- Don't face trials alone. Involve faithful friends who will pray with us and for us.
- God isn't the cause of temptations or trials, but promises to provide His grace and strength to endure as we keep our focus on Him. (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)

Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passages above? How have you wrestled with the phrase "God won't give you more than you can handle"?

Application:

- Which of the three keys (earnest prayer, trusting surrender, the support of faithful friends) do you need to grow in most? Why?
- What practical steps do you need to take to apply today's discussion to your life?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another for the trials we are currently facing.
- Pray for one unreached friend or family member that may be in the midst of a trial and that God would use us to minister to them.