

Being Able to Withstand

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Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- I. There is a battle going on between good and evil, and faith in God is the target of Satan.
 - A. Believing and trusting God is the final goal of all that God is doing in every life.
 - B. It is at the heart of the great battle that is going on between good and evil.
 - C. Satan is striving to get men to NOT trust God.

“Yeah, hath God said?” “Ye shall not surely die.”

- D. When Satan wins this battle think of the consequences.

- II. Life is full of trouble whether you are saved or lost, so it is no reason to think that God is not to be trusted.

Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

1 Cor 10:13 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.

- A. All trouble is not the wrath of God.
 - 1. When God judges and punishes sin, His wrath is poured out on the wicked and the righteous are spared.
 - 2. Therefore, when we see trouble in the lives of the righteous we can know that it is not the wrath and judgment of God, but something else.
- B. God chastens his children, but all trouble is not the chastening of the Lord.
 - 1. It may be allowed by God as preparation for things in your future that you know nothing about yet.
 - 2. It may be allowed by God in order to shape you into a vessel He can use in the future to rescue someone else from destruction.
- C. Trouble in anyone’s life can simply be the natural result of sin.
 - 1. Not only in the life of the one who has the trouble, but in the lives of others ...
 - 2. Sin affects everyone and especially those who are closest to you.
 - 3. Therefore, many times our trouble is the direct result of someone else’s sin and not necessarily our own.
- D. Whatever the source and cause of our trouble we are sure to have some in our life.

- III. The issue in times of trouble is whether we will trust God or not.

- A. Trouble is Satan’s opportunity to accuse God.
 - 1. ...and you can be sure that he does not miss an opportunity.
 - 2. He does not go about it lightly and easily, but pours it on with all the force he can muster.
 - 3. Trouble in our lives is his opportunity because it is so easy for him to point out all the reasons you cannot and should not trust God.
- B. Trouble in our life almost always seems unjust to us.
 - 1. It is very easy to feel that you do not deserve this in your life.

2. It is very easy to remember the good things you have done and how unfair God must be to allow such trouble to come upon you.
3. It is very easy to think on others who are far more worthy of this trouble than yourself, and yet their lives are undisturbed and everything goes well for them. The Psalmist went through this same thing:

Psa 73:12-14 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

- C. Trouble always seems to us to be a hindrance to doing good.
 1. According to our thinking we could surely do better and serve God better without this trouble ...Paul felt the same way:

2 Cor 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2. Because of our tendency to be selfish in our thinking, and the deceitfulness of the heart, we are very vulnerable to the devil's accusations against God during times of trouble.

- D. The problem with our view of trouble is that we do not have a long enough view.
 1. We see only the immediate effects and feel the immediate pain.
 2. It is hard for us to look farther down the road and see what good CAN come out of this.
 3. One of the results of trouble is that we come out of it with a broader, longer view of everything – always.
 4. This makes us more like God and more able to understand the whole scheme of things, and strengthens us against the wiles of the devil.

IV. The key to winning any battle is to be prepared ahead of time.

- A. No war is ever won by simply skipping along and enjoying life until the enemy has invaded and then hoping for supplies and means to defeat just fall out of the sky.
- B. War never comes by surprise except to those who are blind and stupid and fools.
 1. Trouble should not be a surprise when it enters our lives either.
- C. Since we know for sure that it is coming we should prepare for it or we will be defeated when it happens – very important!
- D. God's people need to take unto them the whole armour of God that they may be able to stand in the evil day.
- E. Each one of us needs to learn to trust God in the daytime before we will be able to trust Him in the night.
- F. You can learn to trust Him by taking the long look.
 1. Look at the lives of others who have lived in the past and finished their course.
 2. The Bible is full of the stories of the lives of saints who have endured far worse troubles than most of us have.
 3. These are all recorded so that we can see that God is faithful and that troubles have a purpose and that God has a plan.
 4. If God works that way in the lives of others surely He will work in mine also.
- G. You can learn to trust God by learning and knowing of his true character from the Word of God.

2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1. You must believe the Word of God, though, and not the fancies of men and women.
2. We have an abundance of idolatry in our time that most do not recognize.
3. Faith in God to most people is more akin to believing in the tooth fairy or Santa Claus than real biblical faith.
 - a) And most Bible teaching and preaching encourages it to be no more than that.
4. That kind of faith will not stand in times of trouble and that is why so many fall by the wayside – they are unprepared for trouble and what the devil does to them there in their minds and thoughts.

H. You learn to trust God in the little matters of life before you will be able to trust Him in the depths.

1. In the minor setbacks and discouragement.
2. In the minor conflicts and disappointments in others.

V. And having done all to stand.

A. If you are prepared you will be able to stand when everything around you has been blown away.

Psa 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

1. When all hope has seemed to disappear.
2. When no one can give you any explanations or reasons and you cannot give any to anyone else.
3. When all reasoning and visible evidence seems to prove that God has abandoned you and not kept his promises.
4. When all the evidence suggests that God has indeed rewarded you evil for good.
5. When you have no place to stand upon.
6. Nothing left but God and your faith in Him.

2 Timothy 4:16-18 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Psa 25:1-2 A Psalm of David. Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

2 Cor 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.