



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**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*

## **The Bible doesn't say: "God won't give you more than you can handle."**

When I was growing up my mom gave us a mantra to encourage us to keep going. She would say, "You can do it if you try, go Nate, go." She'd sing it again and again. She wanted us to get it into our heads that we should persevere, that we should never give up, that we should push on and forward no matter how hard it got. That's good advice. That's even Scriptural. God's Word would urge us to persevere and push forward in faith with the strength God provides, no matter how hard or bleak it seems.

As with anything good, sayings like this get perverted. This "You can do it, if you try" mantra turns into "you can do anything you set your mind to." That, simply stated, is not true. There are certain things in life that we simply cannot do. Should we make a list? It isn't hard.

There are things in this life that you just can't handle. You can't control the events of this world. You can't even control some of the events of your own life. You couldn't stop that tire from going flat. You couldn't stop your mom or dad from getting sick. You couldn't control whether you kept or lost that job. There are things in this life that you just can't handle. It's too much!

There are certainly things in the spiritual world that you can't handle. That's what Paul is getting at in the verse for this week. He's talking about temptation that comes to all people; he even says, "God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." That's where people get the idea that God won't give us more than we can handle.

That's not exactly what Paul says. Notice carefully what he says, "When you are tempted, HE..." Paul isn't saying that you'll have the strength to escape this and the strength to handle it. Paul is saying that God does and God will. God will provide the strength. God will provide the escape. God will handle it.

In many cases, that is exactly God's purpose. When temptation comes, God would have us fall to our knees unable to handle it and pray, "Lead me not into temptation." When trial and hardship comes, God would have us fall to our knees unable to deal with it and pray, "Deliver me from evil." God would have us turn to him for strength and help; he will give it!

Things will come into your life that are far more than you can handle. In your weakness find strength in your God who says to you, "My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). In this, learn to boast of your weakness against temptation. Learn to boast of your weakness when you suffer trial, insults, hardships, persecution, and all kinds of difficulties. Learn to say, "When I am weak, then in Christ I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

It may be more than you can handle, but it is never too much for your God to handle.

**Prayer: Lord God, when hardship, trouble, and temptation enter my life, turn me to you. I am weak, but you are strong. I can't handle it, but you can and in your love for me, you will handle it. Amen.**