

## Week of July 3, 2016

This Week's Focus: Did God Really Say That? - "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

This Week's Text: 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Kings 6:24-7:2; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, 12:7-10

"For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

## **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- Have you heard or used the phrase, "God won't give you more than you can handle"? What is the typical reason that Christians use this and other similar clichés? Is this what Paul meant to communicate in 1 Corinthians 10:13? What does this passage teach us about ourselves, temptation, and sin? What does it teach us about God?
- Have you ever been so burden by physical, emotional, or psychological pain that you felt that it was more than you can handle? What are some examples in the Bible of people who were burdened beyond their ability to bare? Reference 2 Kings 6:24-7:2 and 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.
- Discuss the following 4 principles we can learn from suffering more than we can handle.
  - Rely on God's personal presence (2 Corinthians 1:8-10; Hebrews 13:5)
  - Receive God's perfect power (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
  - Rest in God's prescribed purposes (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11)
  - Remember God's prized provision (1 Peter 2:22-24)
- How can we experience God's comfort when we are in the midst of our most difficult moments? Do you rely on and revel in the truth of the gospel every day?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?