

branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." (John 15:5-8) Grace is God's good will toward us and His good work in us. In conclusion, as Christian we must understand God will at times give us more that we can bear in order that we may draw near to Him. Through these unbearable times He will stretch our faith and trust in Him. In the end we will witness the hand of the Lord working through us and for us. We will have a testimony to the world about the power and Grace of God and His love for all.

MYTH - "God Always Wants Me To Be Happy"



Abraham



Jonah



JEREMIAH THE WEeping PROPHEt



Job



Paul

Not True. This is a tricky one because it's almost true. Just a little bit off center. If you believe God wants you to always be happy, then you'll believe that whatever makes you happy is okay with God. If you feel unhappy, you'll believe that discomfort and delays and inconveniences can't possibly be God's will for your life. If we examine the lives of the Prophets, Apostles and Christ Himself we would discover the times when they were unhappy and suffered great discomfort. Abraham was unhappy when God asked him to sacrifice his only son. Jonah was unhappy God wanted him to deliver a message of repentance to Nineveh. Jonah was in great discomfort in the belly of a great fish for three days. Jeremiah was known as the "Weeping Prophet" because God gave him a message for Israel of great destruction that was coming because of their disobedience. Job lost everything and sat in a pile of ashes with boils on his body and I am sure he was unhappy and suffered great discomfort. Many of the Apostles suffered and died for their message of salvation through Christ alone. The Apostle Paul defines happiness as learning to be content. "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be

content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:11-13) "Take delight in God, and He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4) What that means: Want what He wants, and then He will give you what you want. Be part of what He's doing, and you'll find something so much deeper, bigger, and better than happiness.



A lie that you believe is as powerful as the truth. Even though it's a lie, if you believe it and you allow it to shape your thinking and your understanding, then it becomes as powerful, binding, constricting—or—freeing as an absolute

truth. This happens all the time, with people we know, motives we misunderstand, rumors we hear. And that's a problem for Christians, because we tend to put God's stamp of approval on the lies we believe. We don't often stop to consider the magnitude of what the Bible represents. It is literally God revealing Himself and communicating Himself to mankind in written Word. Orthodox Christianity teaches that the Bible was inspired and authored by the Holy Spirit of God using human instruments. And many Christians believe that—in its original languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic—it is without error and fault. However, there are many things that Jesus-following, Church-going, Bible-believing Christians believe that are completely unbiblical. How does this happen? Often, we'll hear someone quote a statement that sounds nice to us, and we'll begin repeating it as though it's Biblical Truth without ever researching it in Scripture. Several of these unbiblical statements have gained enough traction that many people believe they're actually Bible verses. Not only are the statements unbiblical; some of them teach the opposite of what the Bible teaches. Let's examine a quote that is all too familiar to us.

MYTH - "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Bear"



"Before They Call I Will Answer; While They Are Still Speaking I Will Hear." (Isaiah 65:24)

Let's agree to not say this to anyone anymore. It's a lie. I mean, it sounds good and we mean well, and we want it to be true. At some point, someone somewhere said it's in the Bible. History has proven that's all it takes. If someone says it's in the Bible, then we tend to believe it's true. But these words are nowhere

in the Bible. Here's where we thought it was: "God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear" (I Corinthians 10:13). This has been misquoted and misunderstood. It's only about temptation—not about you facing more than you can bear. If we believe this lie, then we will misunderstand why bad things happen and what God is up to. Actually, all of life is more than we can bear. The point of living in a fallen world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather realize we can't do it alone and surrender to God instead. That's what faith is all about. Everything is more than I can handle, but not more than Jesus can handle: "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Truth: "God Will Often Give You More Than You Can Handle."

"The LORD Will Fight For You, And You Shall Hold Your Peace."
Exodus 14:14

God will put you in a season, a chapter of your life, when you are in over your head. Why would the Lord put you in a situation where you have too much to handle, where you cannot do it on your own? So that the world will know that there is a God, and so that everyone who

is watching you will know that the Lord rescues His people. A good example of too much to bear would be Moses. God told Moses that He wanted him to deliver the Hebrews out of slavery from Egypt. To say that Moses was probably skeptical of accomplishing this task would be an understatement. Moses became a willing vessel in order for God's will to be manifested through him. Through Moses, God was able to produce the ten plagues and prove to Pharaoh that He was the One and only True God. I am sure Moses felt very overwhelmed when he was chased by the Egyptian's army and soon found himself trapped by the Red Sea. But Who did Moses called upon on to help rescue God's people? There are many examples throughout the Bible when God's people had more than they could bear, but by faith they depended on God's grace to bring them through. (Hebrews 13:7,8) **"Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."** Jesus continues to work in our lives in order to produce His good works through us. Jesus gives us instructions of what to do when times may become overwhelming or seem out of our control; **"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."** (1 Peter 5:6-7)

"Not By Might Nor By Power But By My Spirit"

What is being said **"Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit"** is that the strength and power of the church or of individual believers is found solely in the Holy Spirit. The truth is embodied in this text. God's work is not done by our resources, of intellect, of wealth, of enthusiasm, nor by resoluteness of effort or by cleverness. Though all these are necessary, none of them, not all of them together, or any human endeavoring can do God's eternal work. For the Spirit of God calls, gifts, equips and works through the people of God. **God's Spirit is paramount, if God's people are to do God's eternal work.** A greater agency must be secured. God ends the hope that true success, success of eternal value, can be achieved by anything other than God.

"Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

1 Corinthians 2:11

How is God's work to be accomplished then? It takes the supernatural or the divine factor to accomplish the work of God. **God's work must be by God's Spirit.** It is by the supernatural enabling of God alone that men can accomplish the work of the Lord in the world. God's Spirit is the only absolutely necessary resource on which we must depend; Philippians 4:13 **"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."** Philippians 4:19 **"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."** From first to last God's work is a

Spiritual work. It is only through God's Spirit that anything of eternal value is accomplished. The power needed for spiritual victory is of God and not of man. God's work is accomplished by the invisible, intangible, unchangeable, but present, potent, and personal Spirit of God.

"Producing His Good Works Through The Fruits Of The Spirit"

Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

(Galatians 5:22)

There are three ways we can attempt to do the work of God. **1.** We can trust our own strength and wisdom; we can use the same resources the world uses. **2.** We can depend on the power of God. The first two approaches may appear to succeed, but they'll fail in the end. **3.** Only work done through the power of the Spirit will glorify God and endure the fires of His judgment.

(1 Corinthians. 3:12-15) **"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."** The secret to shining forth the light of God is that all power and sufficiency are of the Holy Spirit. **If success is to be gained through the work done by God's people it will not be achieved by what they can do but by what the Spirit can do directly through them.** (1 Corinthians 3:9) **"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."** So how does the Holy Spirit work through us to accomplish God's work? Jesus makes this statement about the importance of abiding in Him in order to produce His work through us. **"I Am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a**