

ADAM HAMILTON

Author of 24 Hours That Changed the World, The Journey, and The Way

HALF

TRUTHS

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES
AND OTHER THINGS THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY



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GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES
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1. God helps those who help themselves
2. God won't give you more than you can handle
3. God said it, I believe it, that settles it
4. Love the sinner hate the sin
5. Everything happens for a reason

Most of us as Christians have things we believe, and tell others, and even count on, that we've not carefully examined.

Some of the things we accept and repeat to others sound so true, and we've believed them for so long, that they become what some call 'sacred cows' – things above question or criticism.

When these beliefs are questioned we become defensive or irritated.

We may even worry that if the beliefs aren't true, the rest of our faith may crumble.

Adam Hamilton

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds. Below the sky, a range of green, rolling hills and mountains stretches across the horizon. In the foreground, there are lush green fields with a wooden fence line. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**God won't give you
more than you can bear.....**

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No temptation^[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[a] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[a] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

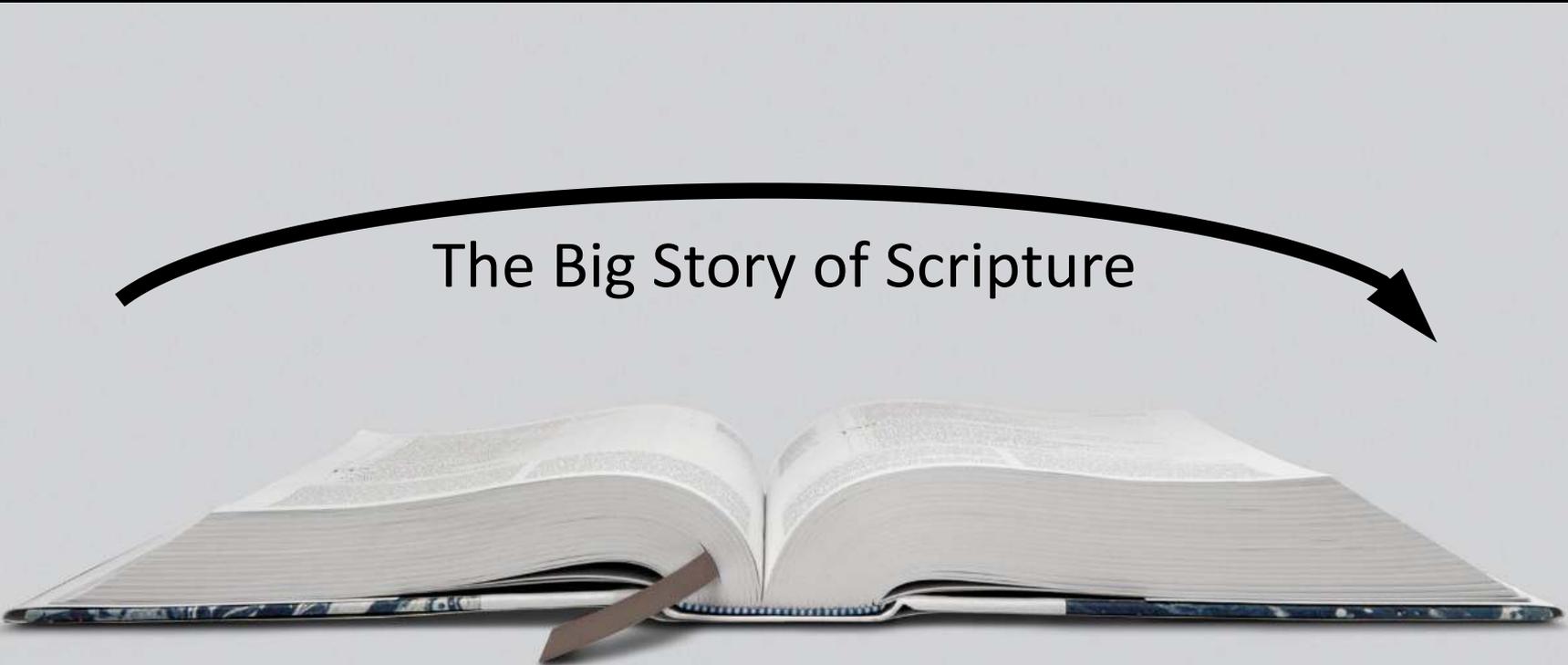
1 Corinthians 10:13

[a] The Greek for *temptation* and *tempted* can also mean *testing* and *tested*.

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An open book with a bookmark is shown from a top-down perspective. A large, black, curved arrow arches over the book, pointing from the left side towards the right side. The text "The Big Story of Scripture" is centered within the curve of the arrow.

The Big Story of Scripture

* not proof texting

Some point out that the Greek word Paul uses for 'tempted' in this passage is *peirasmos*, which can mean 'tested'.

They suggest that 'tested' is what Paul has in mind, so that the passage might in fact be saying, "He won't give you more that you can handle."

But a look at the context of Paul's words shows that he was talking about temptation, including sexual immorality (v. 8) and idolatry (v. 14) but not trials and hardships.

Adam Hamilton

Context: Live like a Corinthian!



Context: Temptation



¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away **by their own** evil desire and enticed.

James 1:13-14

EXIT

And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]'

Matthew 6:13

[a] The Greek for *temptation* can also mean *testing*.

[b] Or *from evil*;

Please, God, **lead us** – not into temptation, where we would lead ourselves – but onto the right path.
and deliver us from the evil one.'

Matthew 6:13



God won't give you...

In response to your question about God not giving us more than we can handle...

If someone tells me this one more time, I may lose it.

First of all, God didn't cause my husband to beat me, he didn't make my brother commit suicide, he didn't plant the IED that my nephew hit, which resulted in him losing his leg, and he didn't give my best friend cancer.

I could go on but you get the idea.



Carry each other's burdens

Galatians 6:2



God won't give you...

The promise of Scripture is not that we won't go through hard times.

It is not that we can handle by ourselves everything that life throws our way.

What scripture does promise is that at all times, good or bad, God wants to be our help and our strength. And so in the words of Peter.

“Throw all your anxiety onto him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7)

Adam Hamilton

A better promise

God is with you and will help you to handle all that comes your way.



My trust in God is not that he won't give me more than I can bear, because I don't believe he's the one who would give those things.

It is not that God is testing me by bringing bad things into my life.

Instead, I trust that when bad things happen during the course of life, God will sustain me, walk with me, hold me hear, comfort and care for me. I can talk to God even if I can't see him. He is a close as the air I breathe. Though I might experience the pain of a traumatic event. I maintain faith that, at some point, joy will over shadow the pain.

Adam Hamilton

I absolutely reject the idea that all of these horrible things... were God's will. What I do know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, is that he is helping me cope.

It is not easy, but I know that I am never alone, even if it feels that way sometimes. I know I can turn to God and cry and kick and scream, and he will comfort me.

I can thank him for connecting me with the attorney who helped me out of an abusive marriage.

I can thank him for the strength to talk about my brother's suicide in the hopes that it might be helpful to someone else.

I can thank him for allowing my nephew to live instead of die. God is turning the challenges and using them for good.

Annie Johnson Flint - 1866



God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun with out rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way;
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.