

Burden Bearing

Points to Consider

1. God does not eliminate all our burdens
2. God is willing to eliminate all the burdens we cannot handle

God does not eliminate all our burdens

Gen 4:13-15 *And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." 15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him. NKJV*

God didn't take the burden of punishment away from Cain, but He did make it **possible** for Cain to bear that burden. God took it one step further; He made it so Cain knew he could bear the burden.

Gen 45:3-8 *Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. NKJV*

Acts 7:9-10 *And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. **But God was with him** 10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*

God did **not** protect Joseph from being sold into slavery or from being put into prison. God **used** those "burdens" to bring about **deliverance** for Joseph and his mean brothers.

God did not shield Job from losing his children, his wealth or his health.

He did not restore all those things instantly!

God knows that burdens can **teach** lessons and build **character**.

We can go through every time period of Biblical history and see that God did not always eliminate burdens from the life of His people.

God expected Nehemiah and the people to do **their** part to overcome the obstacles of rebuilding the wall, while promising to do His part.

Mark 6:48-52 *Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. 52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. NKJV*

Jesus saw them straining at rowing but was going to pass them by and allow them to continue struggling with a struggle they were **able** to overcome on their own.

God did not prevent the apostles from getting beaten in Acts 5. He did not prevent Stephen from getting stoned in Acts 7. He did not prevent the church from being persecuted. He did not stop the Philippians from beating Paul and Silas....

2 Cor 12:7-10 *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NKJV*

God did not remove Paul's thorn in the flesh, but He did provide **grace** for him to bear it.

God is willing to eliminate all the burdens we cannot handle

James 4:1-10 *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. NKJV*

We must **do** our part to control our lusts and our evil desires.

We must **ask** God for help.

We must **forsake** the world.

We must **humble** ourselves before God.

We must **draw** near to God.

We must **cleanse** our hands and **purify** our hearts.

God will **draw** near to us.

God will **lift** us up.

We see this throughout scripture!

God parted the Red Sea for the Children of Israel to cross on dry land.

God provided water, manna, and quail for the Children of Israel.

2 Chron 20:3-13 *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. 5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? 7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? 8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us — sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine — we will stand before this*

temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' 10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir — whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them — 11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." 13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. NKJV

Jehoshaphat and the people **sought** the Lord.

They **proclaimed** a fast.

They **asked** the Lord for help.

They **humbled** themselves before the Lord.

They recognized that God was the only one who could help them.

God **helped** them and they didn't even have to fight. They just had to sing a song of praise to God.

So What?

When we have challenges, obstacles or burdens, we should humble ourselves before God and ask for help.

Understand that God requires us to do our part.

Praise God for not taking away the burdens that can help us grow.

Thank God for His grace that helps us through our difficult times.

When we are facing a burden that only He can lift, we should humble ourselves and beg His assistance.

No one here can take away his or her own sins or the sins of others. The blood of Christ is the only answer to our sin problem.