

God won't give you more than you can handle

I was reading a book on "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton and it was based on the things the Bible doesn't say.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you that isn't common for people. But God is faithful. He won't allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead with the temptations God will also prepare a way out so that you will be able to endure it.

This has been interpreted to mean God won't give you more than you can handle.

How many of us have heard these words at some time in our lives and for many of us our world has fallen apart and sometimes it takes us a long time to see God's hands in our recovery. When my brother died, I heard these words plus the phrase, "God took him to spare him a worse fate." At that one I would think but now God has left me alone and what will I do without him and what is a worse fate than to die at 17 when his life was just beginning. I also heard, "God needed another angel in heaven." And "he's in a better place." He was my brother, my protector, the voice of sanity in a house that was insane. He was the one who I could talk to, the one who listened, my advisor, and now he was gone, and I was alone. His death wasn't "God doing his thing just because he could." His death was deeply personal to me. His death was a body that couldn't handle an infection that traveled from his kidneys to his lungs. An infection that took his life and left us separated in our grief, alone in our individual sorrow, and without someone that we all loved each in their own way, An empty spot in our hearts. I have grieved him these many years but realized as I grew older that it wasn't a vengeful God getting even with me for some past sin but a loving God that took him in his arms and held him as God wept for a life lost.

We have all had sorrow and loss and faced those deeply personal times. Many have lost the bodies they once had and now use walkers and wheelchairs, some are bedridden, some have lost the loves of their lives, some have lost children and that is a loss that I believe you never overcome. Some have lost their faith or have never known it. I believe in a loving God that weeps for our loss with us and comforts each of us. We may not see it or feel it but when we look at our lives, we can point to those angels that helped us. The teacher who told me I had a future and gave me a goal. The mothers that had lost children that my mother bonded with, my other brother's faith journey that finally gave him peace and comfort before he died, my father in his last days seeking forgiveness for his perceived faults in his sons' deaths and my ability to talk with him and offer comfort to him.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that our sorrows do not come from you, but you are with us. May we feel your loving arms comforting us and your hand leading us. May we feel your love surrounding us. May we say loving words to those who need your comfort and strength. Be with those who are ill and fighting disease and those who suffer loss. Be with those suffering the horror of war. Be with our church, may we walk in the path you put before us, may we be a place of hope and love in our community. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry. Be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson