

# Can You Handle It

By: Brian Baer



*“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*  
**Matthew 11:28-30**

I am going to admit something to you that many preachers will not admit. “I have made incorrect statements from the pulpit.” On occasion, I have said a phrase like this, “I am glad the Bible says that cleanliness is next to godliness.” Soon after I would be approached by a dear saint who would correct me, in love, by saying, “Brian, ‘*cleanliness is next to godliness*’ is not in the Bible.” Of course, I was humbled and would vow not to make that mistake again. Guess what? I did it

again! I have stated on numerous occasions, “God would not give us more than we can bear.” I tried to find that Scripture one day and it is no where to be found. I believe the verse where this phrase is derived can be found in I Corinthians 10:13, which states, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*” We can assume this verse has nothing to do with burdens but everything to do with temptation. It is a wonderful promise. However, it does not state that God will not give us more than we can bear. So then, we have a question we must ask ourselves. Does God give us more than we can handle? My answer is yes! Let me try to prove my point using the Word of God.

First of all, if we could bear our own burdens, we would never know the **compassion of a friend** - - “*Bear ye one another’s burdens*” (Galatians 6:2). One of the greatest privileges of being a Christian is the fact we have friends who are there to help us carry our burdens on the journey of life. If God does not give us more than we can bear, why would He allow Paul to write such an important Scripture. Think back on your life. Were there times when you felt like giving up because of the death of a loved one or bad news of a disease? You felt you had nowhere to turn. Then, just in time, you received a call or a card from a friend who wrote, “Just had you on my mind and I want you to know I am praying for you.” I do not even want to think about where I would be if I did not have friends that I could call, in confidence, and say, “Pray for me. I need your help.” This outreach will cease to exist when we have no friends to help bear our burdens. I want to pause and thank you for being a friend. True friends stick with you no matter how difficult the circumstance. We have done our best to “*show (ourselves) friendly*” (Proverbs 18:24) and God has blessed us with many friends who we can call on to respond to the needs of this ministry.

Christ demonstrated friendship in Matthew 11:28-30. I want you to notice two phrases, “*heavy laden*” and “*burden is light.*” After research and prayer, I discovered these two statements belong together. The word, “*burden*” in it’s original Greek form means, “*the lading of a ship.*” When a cargo ship is ready to set sail, they must have a bill of lading. This, in its simplest form, is an invoice for the amount of freight, or load, you are carrying. Christ was speaking to those who had experienced a ship that was “burdened” down with cargo. He was simply stating, “You can come to Me with your burdens (cargo). No matter how much you need to throw over onto My ship, I will always have enough room to ‘bear your burden.’” PRAISE GOD!!! When I think of this revelation, I am reminded of the words to this old song:

***My soul pulled into safety’s port, my stern was torn apart.  
The bow of my vessel was so badly crushed, sins waters flooded my heart.  
I had drifted so long on life’s angry waves, with my cargo of fear and despair.  
But then I called on His name and He lifted the blame, now He pilots my ship everywhere.***

Second, if we could bear our own burdens, we would never know the **cleansing of forgiveness**. Christ’s entry into Jerusalem at Passover was a symbol of power and prophecy. He told the disciples in Mark 11:2-3, “*...Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never a man sat; loose him, and bring him. And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him;...*” Let me step away from my sermon and examine this picture of evangelism. The colt was young, untamed and unbroken. Common sense will tell you that it is quite dangerous to try and ride a horse or colt that is untamed. However, Christ said, “I have need of him.” Christ can use the unusable. We must always strive to do what we can to reach those who have not heard the glorious message of the Gospel. Why? Because “*the Lord hath need of them.*”



Most kings would ride into town on a horse. This would show the people their power and that he would have servants who would bear his burden. However, Jesus turned the tables. He rode on the back of the “beast of burden.” In essence, He was saying, “I am going to be a King who will bear the burden of the people.”

The people cried, “*Hosanna.*” This term means, “*save now, Lord.*” They were expecting Christ to save them from the tyranny of the Herods and the Roman government. Jesus had a different plan in mind. He was coming to save them from the burden of sin. John 19:17 states, “*And He bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of the skull...*” On this hill, He who knew no sin, became sin so that we could have eternal life and experience the cleansing of forgiveness.

Finally, if we could bear our own burdens we would never know the ***clothing of freedom.*** II Corinthians 5:1-4 says, “*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*”

I am longing for the day when I will finally be free from the burden of the body. For now we are burdened with disease, despair, darkness and depression. However, there will come a day when this corruptible shall put on incorruptible and we will be clothed with the freedom from the burden of this present world. God has entrusted me with the disease of diabetes. I wear an insulin pump which keeps it under control. For 16 years I have had the burden of this disease which, in time, will take its’ toll on my body. To date, I have been blessed to have no complications and have never been in the hospital for diabetes related problems. Sometimes I will drive down the road and ponder what it will be like when I stand at the banks of the river and I look over into Heaven. I begin to walk in and Christ says, “Brian, leave the insulin pump outside the gate.” I will gladly disconnect the pump from my side and walk into Heaven free from the burden of diabetes. HALLELUJAH!!! If I never had to bear that burden, I would never experience the joy of being healed. The reason God gives us more than we can bear is to show us who He is and that He wants us to trust in Him (*see Proverbs 3:5-6*). You may be reading this and not know the joy of freedom from sin. I pray you will realize that you cannot handle it! You must give your sin to Christ or you will collapse beneath the burden. Come to Him. Cast Him your load of guilt and shame. In exchange He gives you a brand new life filled with peace and rest!

***Hear the blessed Savior, calling the oppressed. Come ye heavy laden, come to me and rest.  
Come no longer tarry, I your load will bear. Bring me every burden, bring me every care.***

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