

Who do you trust to guide you?

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The text for today's message is from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13 "God is faithful he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

I sure wish I had paid a little more attention to today's text. Have you ever thought you would like a "do over"? A do-over would allow us to change the results. In bowling we would get another chance to hit that spare to win the game. A do-over would let me cut that wallpaper for my father so it would not be an inch short. We know that we cannot undo what has been hurtful to others. No matter what we do we can always depend on our God to support us. Our God has done the do-over for us. Sometimes we find ourselves trying to solve our problems our way. We get into trouble and we worry, despair, and are angry, hateful life is just not fair! We look to solve our problems....what it takes. If only we could remember that our sins have been forgiven and forgotten. Our baptism has washed away our sins so we get a do-over. A clean slate! Holy Communion gives us our do-over.

It may be difficult for some of you to believe but I am not as much of a control freak now as I use to be. I tried

to fix things myself when I had a challenge. I was unemployed with no health insurance and anxiety ran my life. My wife was pregnant with our first child. I was supposed to be the Man, The one with the answers. I had forgotten who was in charge. In spite of my lack of faith I was blessed with a way out. I was given the ability to stand up to my challenges. He blessed us by providing a new job with complete health insurance even covering well baby care, which was not common at the time. I was not willing to believe in His promise “he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

The message of God’s love does not always get through to us. We find ourselves trying to be in charge. We get angry, frightened, lashing at others when things appear to be more than we feel we can handle. I like to think that recently I have been able to turn things over to the Lord.

There is an old German saying that my Grandmother and great Aunts would tell me, “Too soon old, too late smart”. We can be comforted in the knowledge that no matter how tough things appear to us it will never be more than we can bear. St Paul tells us Our Savior will support us to stand up under it. I still am making mistakes and still have trouble turning everything over to Him but I think I am getting better.

Just a quick story (where have I heard that before) Last week my wife and I once again were met with

challenges this time while on vacation. After driving up and down the hills of southeastern Ohio, West Virginia and Western Maryland our transmission decided enough was enough! It was Thursday before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. Our car limped to the exit ramp and stalled about halfway up a hill. I told my wife to dial the number for the State Police and started walking up the hill to the service station that was listed on the exit sign, leaving my cell phone in the car. I received an offer of a ride and found the station was at least a mile. I was alone and clueless in Accident Maryland. Yes Accident Maryland not my first choice of what to name a city. Well the gas station did not have service and it took 3 calls to get a tow truck. We found out that the State Police sometimes took several hours to find emergency service. My bad decisions to leave the car and forget my cell phone gave me an opportunity to witness to others as they expressed concern for our misfortune. It was opportunity to meet new people talk to them about their lives and display confidence that we would not be tested more than we could bear and we would be able to stand up under it.

My wife and I spent time counting our blessing as we prepared to seek a new path to our goal. We did not have our kayaks or our dog. We could have been on one of the rural roads that did not have clear signs or could have been in an accident when we lost power.

As we prepared to leave our car we needed a new road map to guide us. We knew that there was a way. Nothing we would do would separate us from our God's protection. We needed to trust our God to guide us. He sent his Son to die for us and his death was the only way out for us. No do-over is needed because He made all our sins go away. No matter how lost we may be our guide will allow us to stand up before our Heavenly Father.

Every day we have an opportunity to show others how grateful we are for Christ's love and protection. His death frees us from our sins. We are given opportunities to tell others. Reflecting the love we have received--how can we do anything less? It know what road we are on. We may not where it will lead us or what hardships we will face. If we trust him to guide us we know the final destination. Sometimes we may be afraid or feel that we have been tested more than we can stand but our Heavenly Father is likely smiling as he gently tells us not to worry He is our guide; and our path leads us home. No matter how many hills we need to walk up or storming seas may come our way he will provide us a way out. We only need to believe in him. God is good... and He will lead us to the path to Heaven to be with him.

Amen