

Feeling overwhelmed in today's uncertainties? I hope you will be encouraged by this piece from international bible teacher John Piper.

TODAY'S MERCIES FOR TODAY'S TROUBLES

"Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6.34)

Part of saving faith is the assurance that you will have faith tomorrow. Trusting Christ today includes trusting him to give you tomorrow's trust when tomorrow comes. Often, we feel today like our reservoir of strength is not going to last for another day. The fact is, it won't. Today's resources are for today, and part of those resources is the confidence that new resources will be given tomorrow.

The basis of this assurance is the wonderful teaching of the bible that God assigns only as much trouble to each day as that day can bear. God will not let his children be tested in any given day beyond what his mercy for that day will sustain. That's what Paul means in 1 Corinthians 10.13. *"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."*

With every day's measure of pain, God gives new mercies. This is the point of Lamentations 3.22-23: *"The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."*

God's mercies are new every morning because each day has enough mercy in it only for that day. This is why we tend to despair when we think that we have to bear tomorrow's load on today's resources. God wants us to know that we won't. Today's mercies are for today's troubles. Tomorrow's mercies are for tomorrow's troubles.

Sometimes we wonder if we will have the mercy to stand in terrible testing. Yes, we will. Peter says, *"If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."* (1 Peter 4.14) When the reviling comes, the Spirit of glory comes. It happened for Stephen as he was being stoned (Acts 7.55-60). It will happen for you. When the Spirit and the glory are needed, they will come.

The manna in the wilderness was given one day at a time. There was no storing up. That is the way we must depend on God's mercy. You do not receive today the strength to bear tomorrow's burdens. You are given mercies today for today's troubles. Tomorrow the mercies will be new. *"God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 1.9)

"God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful." (1 Thessalonians 5.24)