

“God’s Deliverance Through Coping”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 18, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

Foundational verse

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.
- God will make a way of escape.
- God will make you able to bear it.

Teaching us to cope

Part 5 of this series discusses “Escape Through Coping.”

My paradigm for dealing with life’s struggles is to understand that God is a perfect Father who loves His children. He helps us to cope. And He teaches us how to cope.

Four common-sense concepts

I organized the presentation within four common-sense concepts.

1. The Heavenly Father begins with foundational love.
2. The Heavenly Father teaches—through knowledge and through experience.
3. The Heavenly Father guides through tough situations.
4. The Heavenly Father enjoys watching His children succeed.

Life of Christ and Paul

In this article, I want to examine the four concepts through the life of Jesus Christ and the life of the apostle Paul.

Christ was the perfect Son, and Paul was the repentant son.

Foundational love

- 1 John 4:19—We love God, because He first loved us.
- Matthew 3:17—Christ experienced the Father’s love from the beginning.
- Galatians 1:13-15—Although Paul said he was set apart from his mother’s womb (verse 15), he was an enemy of the Church of God in the early part of his life (verse 13).
- Romans 8:14-17—Paul came to view God as his Father.

Teaching knowledge and experience

- John 8:28—The Son of God taught the information that the Father taught Him.
- Hebrews 5:7-8—The Son of God learned “obedience” through His experiences.
- Philippians 3:3-6—Paul was given training in tremendous knowledge.
- Philippians 3:7-14—Paul grew with added experience.

Guiding through tough situations

- Matthew 26:37-38—The Son of God talked to His Father as He approached a powerful emotional trial.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10—Paul wrote about the Heavenly Father guiding him through difficult times.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9—Paul wrote about the Heavenly Father guiding him through dealing with his “thorn in the flesh.”

Watching children succeed

- Matthew 27:46—The Son of God said: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- Philippians 4:11-13—When Paul was learning how to handle success and failure, he concluded: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- Romans 8:31—Paul asked: “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
- Romans 8:32-39—Paul summarized that nothing can separate us from the love of God (which is in Christ Jesus our Lord).