

“When the going gets Tough”

How many times have you heard this phrase? Of course, several variations of this classic quote also exist – to suggest some options or alternatives when the “going does get tough”.

How do you know that when “the going gets tough”; or how do you do if the “going” is tough? A few questions may help start those brain waves and allow the basic question to be pondered – and thought through – before jumping to any reaction or option. You know, “think before you do”...and that sort of thing. Don’t act impulsively, but instead, give it a think. There are those times however, when opportunity to really think is limited – and you just have to act on impulse.

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”
- Joe Kennedy

With the few words of this quote, I browsed the Web for some possible options or potential choices for when “the going gets tough”; and here’s what I found:

- ★ When the going gets tough, **Jump Ship!**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **Quit**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough don’t skimp...**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough wise-up**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough get knitting**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough get sparkling**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough need insight**
- ★ When the going gets tough, **the Tough start selling**

Well, you get the idea; a lot of options can evidently be considered when “the going gets tough”; but of all these listed options and perhaps the hundreds of additional ones out there, what about **praying**...what about **faith** and **trust in God**?

In the Bible, 2 Corinthians (chapter 6), Paul is writing about tough times; and by “tough times” – let me tell you – these were “TOUGH TIMES”. He writes:

People are watching us as we stay at our post, alertly, unswervingly . . . in hard times, **tough times**, bad times; when we’re beaten up, jailed, and mobbed; working hard, working late, working without eating...

But Paul was also a man of prayer, of faith and trust in God; he continues in his letter to the Corinthians by describing how God helped him (and others) in these tough times – or when “the going gets tough”.

...with pure heart, clear head, steady hand; in gentleness, holiness, and honest love; when we’re telling the truth, and when God’s showing his power; when we’re doing our best setting things right...

Paul knew about tough times – as much of this time was spent in jail where he was beaten and deprived of what might be considered the basic necessities. What's more, Paul faced persecution on "the outside" or among the general public: many people did not accept his belief in Christ and became angry when he preached or spoke of it.

In this passage (or chapter), he was offering encouragement to the church. Imagine a person who knows tough times offering encouragement. I guess that when "the going gets tough", the one's that endure (and prayer) are able to help and encourage others to do the same. Paul knew the answer to tough times – and he knew that whatever the "times", God was the answer.

Sometimes "the tough" don't understand why they need to prayer – they don't sense their need for God...or anyone else. Maybe that's why God so favors the meek – or those who recognize and honor the power of God. Those who are meek (but not weak) find their strength (or toughness) through prayer, through God's abiding strength.

I look unto the hills. **Where does my strength come from?** My strength comes from you O Lord, who made Heaven and earth...