

OVERWHELMED

"Pastor, recently you told us about Jesus healing all who are oppressed of the devil. How do I know when I'm being oppressed?" At some time or other we all feel overwhelmed, but you're right, in Acts 10:38 it does say, **"Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."** However, this is not the only time in the Bible when it refers to people being delivered from oppression. In Judges 6:9 the Lord states, **"I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land."** Throughout history men and women have lived under some form of controlling power - whether it was the devil himself or a human vessel.

The good news is that Jesus came to heal (set free) ALL who are oppressed, overwhelmed or heavy-burdened – no matter what was causing it! In Matthew 11:28 (AMP) Jesus makes this invitation, **"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will give you rest - I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls."** That one phrase, **"Come to Me,"** says it all! Love personified is beckoning you to come and receive rest and refreshment for your soul! How comforting it is to know that there is someone you can go to whenever you feel things are overwhelming you; when you are so overburdened that you cannot cope anymore. I love the promise of God mentioned in Isaiah 43:2, **"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you."**

With this awesome promise, and such an irresistible invitation from Jesus, how can we ever feel overwhelmed or heavy-burdened? But there is something worse than feeling overwhelmed - it is called "oppression" - and it is mentioned in Acts 10:38. So what is oppression, and how do we know that we need to be set free from it? The Greek word implies; "being under the influence of (or in submission to) an evil force." Therefore, a conscious or unconscious yielding to an evil force probably causes that form of anguish. And as a result, this negative influence is allowed to control your life; which is not what God intends for you. He sent His only Son Jesus to the cross so that you may live a super-abundant life that is free from harassment and domination. The first thing you need to accept is that (like sickness) oppression is something Jesus has already dealt with! That is why the scripture says, **"And healed all who were oppressed of the devil."** Whether you are feeling overwhelmed, heavy-burdened, or oppressed, the remedy is still the same... Jesus said, "Come to Me." Accept this invitation and draw near to Him. For when you do, anything (or anyone) that is harassing you will flee in every direction.

James 4:7-8, **"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."**