



THE WAYS

ASK FOR HELP. Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and to be willing to ask for God’s help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.

1. What is one time the church or its members have helped you?

READ 2 Corinthians 12:5-10

1. Why is not being conceited or people thinking more of him so important to Paul?
2. Paul says he “was given” a thorn. Who do you think gave it to him?
3. How can God’s strength be made perfect in weakness?

Scenario: You’re frustrated with work, which, in turn, has made you kind of frustrated at home. You have noticed you are shorter with your spouse and kids. There are some things going on at your job and in your marriage which are eating at you, but it never feels like the right time to share it. People ask, “How are you?”, and you always say, “Good.”

1. What connection is there between *Showing Who You Really Are* and *Asking for Help*?
2. When you feel like this, why do you keep saying, “Good.” when others ask how you are?
3. What help might someone around you be able to offer?
4. What do you need to feel comfortable asking for help?

Fundamentally, it is by grace we have been saved. We are not “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” type people, we are people who were raised though we were dead in our sins. If that is the beginning of faith, why would the middle or end look any different? We depend on the power and grace of God in all aspects of our lives. No one expects you to have it all together; no one expects you to have all the answers. When we *Ask for Help*, the strength of the Church can shine and the power of God can be perfected in our weakness. *Asking for Help* isn’t admitting defeat, it is inviting grace and power into your life.

PRAY TOGETHER.

(Pray the Spirit would give you a safe space or relationship to ask for help when you need it.)

DAILY Devotional

MONDAY: *READ:* 1 Cor 15:10. *THINK:* A work of faith was begun in you because Jesus helps. Sure, you work alongside Him, but it is by His work that you are made well. Don't fool yourself into thinking you are a self-made person. You are who you are and where you are because God has brought you there. *Ask for Help* because being helped is nothing new to you. God has been doing it all along. *PRAY:* God would show you the ways He has been helping you.

TUESDAY: *READ:* Luke 23:42. *THINK:* Where would the robber be if not for *Asking for Help*? Salvation begins with a choice to ask for help. Do not boast in your good morals or your good actions but in the strength of God which was made manifest in your life when you chose to *Ask for Help* and God was faithful. *PRAY:* God would shape your faith into what He needs it to be.

WEDNESDAY: *READ:* Ruth 1:8+9. *THINK:* More often than not, isn't this how people act? When we need help, we push people away so that they cannot see our need. Maybe it is pride, maybe it is thinking yourself unworthy, maybe it is not wanting to be a burden or a bother, but that is not the way of the Church. Sometimes when you *Ask for Help*, it is a burden or a bother, but it is taken on gladly by people who love you. *PRAY:* God would give you the strength to ask for help when you need it.

THURSDAY: *READ:* Acts 2:45. *THINK:* Sharing with anyone who has need only works when we make our needs known. It can be embarrassing to admit our debt is out of hand, our kids are unruly, our faith is failing, or our jobs are overworking us; but without letting our need be known, there is no help and frankly, there is no community of believers. When you *Ask for Help*, you allow the Church *be* the church by giving care and being cared for. *PRAY:* the Spirit would raise up a generation looking to help and be helped.

FRIDAY: *READ:* Gen 2:18. *THINK:* This is not saying, "Women are to be helpers to men." but that people are to be helpers to one another. From the very beginning, this was the plan to help and be helped by one another. Adam was lonely, and God didn't just make a companion, but a helper, and in turn, made Adam into a helper. We were made to *Ask for Help* and offer help. *PRAY:* God would convict you of your unwillingness to ask for help.

SATURDAY: *READ:* 2 Tim. 4:11-12. *THINK:* Sometimes *Asking for Help* is asking for a helper. Sometimes it is asking for something as small as a coat. Paul is under no delusion that he can work out the ministry he has been entrusted with alone. Do not go it alone. *Ask for Help* and see what you can accomplish together. Whether it is ministry, personal, service, or just a coat, *Ask for Help*. *PRAY:* God would put people in your life like Luke, Mark, and Timothy to be helpers.