

Does Heaven Help Those Who Help Themselves?

"Heaven helps those who help themselves", many say. Remove this from your list of favourite quotes today, beloved.

The truth is that **God helps those who cannot help themselves**. Without Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5); with Him, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). He does His best for us when we are not trying to do ours. More importantly, you cannot help yourself not to sin or fall into temptation; neither can you save yourself from the wrath of God when you sin. You need the Holy Spirit to stay away from sin, and you need Christ - the only Mediator between God and man, who continually intercedes for us, and pleads our case.

As it is my routine every morning, I was looking over one of my write-ups for the last time with my usual thoughts, "This just has to be good to go; phew! I'm tired of editing it; it's going as it is". The Holy Spirit suddenly nudged me to add a feature to the package I was about to deliver. I wondered why I was getting this directive at the last minute, then it occurred to me that even though God was the One directing the project, there were times that I unconsciously sat on His *chair* running the show, because I felt He had finished working and it was time for me to do my part. It was a case of "OK Father, I'm fine now; I will take it from here". The problem with this is that the Holy Spirit is gentle. He will not push things on us. He seems to say, "Very well my son/daughter. You know I am always here if you need Me". How was I supposed to get divine directives when I was already *helping myself*?

God created us to be dependent on Him for everything, because He wants an intimate relationship with us. We often hear it preached that when God works in our favour, He expects us to do our own part. While that is true, we still do need Him to do the part that is ours. Frankly, we need God every second of our lives.

You can never be the best God wants you to be, and you also stand the risk of struggling and not achieving much, if you choose to get things done without His help. An average person seeks to have a sense of being capable and self-reliant; but I would rather be weak in the eyes of God, for His strength is made perfect in my weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Let God!

Shalom!

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