

## Week Two - Helper Blessings

*“So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”  
(Hebrews 13:6, ESV)*

When was the last time you needed a helper?

A helper is defined as “a person who contributes to the fulfillment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose.” In the bible, these helpers are also called “servants” and they are all around us.

You may be shocked to hear that the bible uses the word servant or helper over 1000 times. From the beginning of the bible to the end, helpers are highlighted as essential people. Ever since the second chapter of the bible (Genesis 2:18), God said Adam needed a helper, so God created Eve.

By the time you get to Psalms, God Himself is referred to as the helper of His followers numerous times (see 30:10, 54:4, 118:7). A little further, God calls Himself the Helper of Israel in the minor prophets (Hosea 13:9). And, by the time Jesus arrives on the scene, He even refers to Himself as the One who came to serve us! He capped off that teaching by washing His own disciple’s feet and telling them to submit to that same level of service to each other (John 13:14-15)!

And, in the greatest biblical example that we need help, Jesus promised each of His followers a “Divine Helper.”

Before Jesus goes back to the Father, He promises, “I will send you *another* helper” (John 14:16). Interestingly enough, there are two Greek words Jesus could have used for “another.” One word (*eteron*, which Jesus does NOT use) means, “*different altogether.*” The other, (*allon*) which Jesus uses, means “*another of the same kind.*” In other words, Jesus is saying that He is leaving His followers with *another helper of the same kind as He was* to His disciples! We know this Helper as the indwelling Holy Spirit promised to fill Jesus’ followers.

This great promised gift to “help” us is found in the Holy Spirit’s title. The Holy Spirit is called *parakaleo* which is actually two words put together; *para* and *kaleo*, which means “summon to the side of.” Simply put; the Holy Spirit is the part of the Godhead “summoned to the side of” Jesus’ followers in order to *help* them.

Bottom line: Jesus knows we need help - from Him AND from others.

This is why Jesus tasks His followers with the job of being servants - no matter how difficult that may seem at times. Our world needs helpers and Jesus' followers are meant to lead the way in that role.

Helpers are a gift to us. They serve us in many different ways because God allows them to fulfill that role. The New Testament even includes those God commissions to help us to include authorities in our communities.

*Romans 13:4*

*[4] for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain...*

Servants help others. In this way, they fulfill the call of God on them by faithfully stewarding their time and resources to come alongside someone and help any way that they can. The Apostle Paul summarizes this calling for the Corinthian church:

*"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, ESV)*

The test of a steward is whether they were faithful to their call to help serve others.

Join us at church this Sunday as we take a close look at what it means to be a helper. We will explore things God has entrusted to our care and what our responsibility is to Him in how we use those things to help others. We will learn the challenges of helping and we will discover the joy of serving. And, during our service, we will honor many of the servants and first responders God has given to us in our own community.

But most importantly of all; we will realize together what a full life awaits each of us as helpers in the service of our Great King, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER**

Each day this week, choose one of the following topics and make it central to your prayer time with God

1. Read Hebrews 13:6. Express gratitude for God as our ultimate helper. Recognize a few specific ways that God is always with you, guiding and supporting you.
2. Offer thanks for the specific individuals who have been a source of help and support in your life. Reflect on how these helpers mirror God's role in our lives and express appreciation for the tangible ways they have made a difference.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. Ask God for strength and willingness to be a helper to others, fulfilling the call to faithful stewardship. Pray for the ability to extend kindness, support, and assistance to those in need, emulating God's example in our interactions.
4. Ask for a heart that is consistently grateful, not only in times of need but as a way of life. Express gratitude for the blessings of friendship, community, and the interconnectedness that allows us to share and receive help from one another.
5. Pray that God would help you be a channel through which God's help flows to others. Pray for opportunities to be a source of encouragement, support, and assistance to those around you.
6. Pray for the leaders and authorities in our communities, asking God to grant them wisdom, discernment, and a heart for service. Express gratitude for their commitment to maintaining peace, order, and justice. Pray for God's protection over them emotionally and physically.