

## *Study on the Holy Spirit*

### *Study 22*

#### *Helps*

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This week's study we will focus on the gift of helps.

- **1 Cor 12:28** *And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*

I once saw a T-shirt that said, "*Jesus is coming back; look busy*"

It was partially true. Jesus is coming back. But we shouldn't look busy. To look busy is to pretend to be doing something that you're actually not.

The gift of helps is not looking busy, but being busy. Not out of fear that God won't accept you if you're not. But out of love for others, and desiring to help others in need. When you hear of the gifts of helps what do you think of?

The definition of helps is:

**Greek Word:** *antilepsis*

*By way of rendering assistance, perhaps especially of "help" ministered to the weak and needy.*

Eastons Bible Dictionary defines helps as: *help, which Christians can render to one another, such as caring for the poor and needy, etc.*

As I read the definition of helps, it shows us that, the gift of helps is not as we would think it to be, or maybe more than we think it should be.

We would normally think of helps as doing things in the church like setting up chairs, or cleaning up etc...

But here we see that it's more than that, it's helping those in need.

- **Matt 25:34-40** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

Jesus is talking of the gifts of helps here. He speaks of people in need with no other help then from the church, or what the church should be doing.

- **Luke 10:29-37** *But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

Jesus is telling us to go and do likewise. Not just go to those in need in the church, but to go into the world and help those in need. Remember that Jesus went to the sinners, why do we think that we don't have to help those in the world with needs?

Are we better than Jesus, or do we feel that we as a church are better than those in the world that are in need?

Jesus never said not to help those in the world and only help those in the church.

- **1 Cor 4:7 (Living)** *What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?*

But the gifts of helps is also helping out in the church such as setting up chairs cleaning up etc...

- **1 Cor 16:14-18** *Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren--you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints-- that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.*

I like the way it reads in the Living Bible:

- **1 Cor 16:14-18 (Living)** *and whatever you do, do it with kindness and love. Do you remember Stephanas and his family? They were the first to become Christians in Greece, and they are spending their lives helping and serving Christians everywhere. Please follow their instructions and do everything you can to help them as well as all others like them who work hard at your side with such real devotion. I am so glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have arrived here for a visit. They have been making up for the help you aren't here to give me. They have*

*cheered me greatly and have been a wonderful encouragement to me, as I am sure they were to you, too. I hope you properly appreciate the work of such men as these.*

They are spending their lives helping and serving Christians everywhere. What are you doing with your life? Notice that they have been an encouragement also, which in a lot of cases could be a very good help to someone struggling.

Have you ever struggled and did the Lord bring someone alongside you to encourage you? Wasn't it a blessing?

We too should encourage others like Paul says here about Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, he also tells us to *properly appreciate the work of such men as these.*

When you see someone doing something in the church, tell him or her thank you for all the hard work they have done.

But if you're doing and you don't get a thank you, remember that we do all for the Lord not for ourselves.

- **1 Cor 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
- **Eph 6:5-8** *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

Sometimes we can get so caught up in doing that we forget the most important thing.

- **Luke 10:38-42** *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**"*

Look at verse 39, it says that Martha had a sister "who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word." The word I want you to focus on is *also*. When I read this, I see that Martha was listening to Jesus to. She was listening to Jesus, sitting at His feet, then she was distracted with the physical feeding of the body.

Think about it, Jesus comes to your house and is teaching the people there. Then you say, "Would anyone like something to drink or eat?" People give their orders and you go out to get the lemonade and cookies, all the while Jesus is still teaching.

So you're in the kitchen while everyone is in the other room listening, including your sister.

You get enraged and come storming out and say to Jesus, ***"Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."***

Or maybe something more like, *"Lord, give her the orders to get up and give me a hand Jesus. Am I a waitress in a restaurant or something?"*

Jesus then looks at you with compassion in His eyes and say's, ***"you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."***

Jesus says, "You invited me into your home and I have been teaching all of you, including your sister, they are all very satisfied with the spirit being fed and not the flesh. Let's feed the spirit then we will feed or flesh."

The gift of Helps is a very important part of the ministry, but sometimes we can be so overwhelmed with doing, that we forget the most important thing; the words of Jesus. Sometimes we are so engrossed with doing works that we find ourselves doing them to build ourselves up spiritually when in fact we are becoming weaker spiritually because we are not feeding the spirit.

I used to pray every Sunday morning during all three services at a church I was going to, was I being spiritually underfed? No, I would go to church on Saturday night and hear the same message as the morning one on Sunday, which also helped in this time of prayer as I knew what the message was on and could pray accordingly. Plus, the message was being played in the prayer room live as well.

- ***2 Cor 1:11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.***

One last thing about the gift of helps, another purpose is to aid the pastor so that he can do what GOD has called him to do, feed His sheep.

- ***Num 11:16-17 So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. "Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.***

We always expect the pastor to do it because that's what we think he should do, after all he's the pastor and he should do everything, shouldn't he?

No, as we in the book of Numbers, God gave Moses men to help in his ministry.

Also look at:

- ***Acts 6:1-7 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven***

*men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Notice the effect of those helping out, ***"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly."***

- ***Phil 4:16-17 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.***

And as people are won to Christ, your helping out is a part of that and you will receive part of the reward for the work you have done.

- ***1 Cor 3:6-9 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.***

So next time you say you can't witness or you'll never lead anyone to Christ, remember that your works are a part of ministering to others, and helping out those who do have the gift to share Jesus.

You are a part of that, and without you, it couldn't be done.

If you didn't set up the chairs in church, there would be nowhere for the people to sit. If you didn't tithe there would be no church to go to, and no one to tell them about Jesus.

All because you put a chair out for them to sit on, or gave a part of your income.

The Parable of the Two Sons

- ***Matt 21:28-32 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."***

You can sit there and listen to this teaching and get all excited and puffed up wanting to go out and conquer the world with helping others.

But remember anything that is puffed up will deflate. In other words, you can be excited now, but what about in the morning, or tomorrow, or Sunday morning? Are you saying, *“Yea, I’ll get up early and help set up chairs, then help with the tables and food, then help greet people, then...”*

Are you like the son who said, *“Yes I’ll go father”* but then did not go?

My teaching is to strengthen you, not build you up or puff you up for the moment.

Be like the son that said no, then go and pray about it and let the Lord open the doors of what He wants you to do and where to do it.

Ask and you shall receive!

- **Prov 16:3** *Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.*

Don’t be a man pleaser, but a God pleaser.

Finally, we should never, ever think we are too good to have the gift of helps, or to do manual labor for the lord.

- **John 13:12-17** *So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*

Blessed are you if you do them!