

HELPS MINISTRY—PART 1

Lesson 1

Introduction To Helps

Every Christian is called to be a servant. This is the first calling every Christian receives upon being born again. Don't worry about being a missionary abroad or the next Rev. Billy Graham if you can't first be a servant in the local church.

- If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. Mark 9:35
- For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 1 Corinthians 9:19
- . . . your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve (*slave*) the living and true God, 1 Thessalonians 1:8b-9 NIV

Every Christian is called to be a servant, but you must **make** yourself a servant. The local church gives us a place to pursue this calling.

- And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps (*antilēmpsis*), governments, diversity of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

WHAT IS HELPS?

Because God has set helps as an office in the church, it must, by nature, be a supernatural position. Helps can be defined as *a supernaturally endowed office to work in and advance the Kingdom of God*.

The ministry of helps is EVERY Christian's calling. We are all called to help propel the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a spectatorship.

Antilēpsis (Greek)—*relief, succor, support, an exchange, an aid, to participate, a partaker, "rendering loving service," "Having Enough Loving People Serving"*—Buddy Bell

This word means that you are **relieving** someone of a burden. You are **supporting** them. You are **aiding** them, **participating** with them, and even **partaking** of and with them. It requires **participation**. (Certainly, the local church is not to be a spectator sport, but a venue for participation.)

Helps is a ministry of lending relief and support. Helps is participating in the support of the ministry. Helps is how we as Christians can begin to fulfill the call of God on our life—the calling of servant.

- **Bear ye one another's burdens (*weights, heaviness*), and so fulfill the law of Christ.**
Galatians 6:2

WHAT HELPS IS NOT!

Helps is NOT being a volunteer! Helps is ministry servanthood.

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| • Servants serve at the Master's behest. | • Volunteers can quit any time they want. |
| • Servants look for rewards in heaven. | • Volunteers look to be paid in accolades, praise, and thanks. |
| • Servants seek what's best for the church. | • Volunteers seek what's best for them. |
| • Servants live for the Kingdom of God. | • Volunteers flirt with the Kingdom. |
| • Helps is not you doing the pastor or God a favor. | • The pastor is actually doing you a favor by letting you help him by serving in his church. |
| • Helps is not the place to do a mediocre job. | • If a paycheck would motivate you to do a better job for the kingdom, then you are a hireling. |

HELPING THE LOCAL CHURCH

God has set "helps" in the church quite simply because the local church needs help carrying out the vision God has given it. Every local church has a unique calling and personality, but each church needs help in carrying out the mission and calling God has placed on that local body.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

The pastor of a church can be likened to the captain of a ship. The captain sets the course, steers the ship, calls the directions, determines the port of call, and even the type of mission, but he requires the help from a crew to get the ship up and running.

3 TYPES OF HELPS

1. Doing those things that your pastor does not have the ability to do.
2. Doing things that your pastor can do but shouldn't be doing because there are other things he needs to do.
3. Doing things that your pastor is doing but he wants you to do them with him.

WORKERS TOGETHER, WORKING WITH GRACE

- **We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.**
2 Corinthians 6:1

We are workers together with God—not *for* Him—*with* Him. As a consequence, we receive His grace to work. If we are not workers in this Kingdom, then we have received His grace in vain.

- **But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10**

God places a supernatural grace upon every Christian to labor with Him in the gospel work. The ministry of helps is the best place to start laboring with Jesus in His great Kingdom. Jesus said we are to take His yoke upon us, for His yoke is easy and his burden is light. But a yoke is for WORK!!

- **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30**

AREAS OF HELPS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- **Manual Work**—Cleaning, ushering, security, children's ministry, evangelism, hospitality, etc.
- **Money/Resources**—Tabernacle offering (**Exodus 35:4-29**), Elisha's chamber (**2 Kings 4:8-38**), Jesus' colt (**Mark 11:1-11**), Sister Phebe's business (**Romans 16:1-2**), ministering to the saints, ministry offerings (**2 Corinthians 9:1-15**).
- **Prayer**—Pray that the Word may have free course (**2 Thessalonians 3:1**). Paul was in a habit of requesting prayer from his churches (**1 Thessalonians 5:25; Hebrews 13:18**). Pray for all those in authority (**1 Timothy 2:1-3**).
- **Defense/Aid**—Bear one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**), provoke one another to good works (**Hebrews 10:24**), edify one another (**1 Corinthians 8:1**), receive one another, especially spiritually weak Christians (**Romans 14:1**).

Pray that God will help you be the best helper the Kingdom of God has ever seen. Amen!

HELPS MINISTRY—PART 1

Lesson 2

Biblical Examples Of Helps Ministry

HELPS IS WORK

Below is a list of biblical examples of people participating in the ministry of helping God's leaders. The Kingdom of God needs your help. You have an important role to play. (Note: an asterisk (*) denotes a future leader.) Watch for the following fruit of the Helps Ministry:

1. Burdens are relieved off of leadership.
 2. Leadership is refreshed and encouraged.
 3. Finances are increased for God's cause.
 4. Future leaders are raised up and trained.
 5. God's plan is accomplished.
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- **Eve to Adam (Genesis 2:18-25)**—God declared that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. He needed a "*help* meet," a *helper* comparable to him.
 - **Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 2:15)**—It was God's Garden and He put man and woman in the Garden to dress it and keep it.
 - ***Joseph in prison (Genesis 39:20-23)**—Joseph was set over all the inner workings of the prison, "**and whatsoever they did there, he [Joseph] was the doer of it.**" Joseph was so faithful, the prison keeper didn't ever bother to inspect his work.
 - ***Aaron to Moses (Exodus 4:10-17)**—Moses had lost his fluency in the language of the Egyptians (he'd been away from them for 40 years). Out of fear, he desired a translator. Aaron became his spokesman.
 - ***Joshua to Moses (Exodus 17:8-10)**—Joshua was Moses' military leader and servant. This was great training for the day ahead when Joshua would lead Israel in battle after battle to take the Promised Land.
 - **Aaron and Hur to Moses (Exodus 17:11-12)**—Moses had to have men hold his arms up so that Israel could win the battle.
 - **Moses' Handymen (Exodus 31:1-11; 35:30-35; 36:1-3)**—Two men are named specifically: Bezaleel and Aholiab. God filled them with the Holy Spirit in wisdom and knowledge to build the tabernacle. God gave Moses the plans and directions, but God equipped other men to make it happen.
 - **Moses' Judges (Exodus 18:13-26)**—"**This thing that you do is not good. You will surely wear away. You and the people . . . they shall bear the burden with thee.**" These 120 men helped Moses care for the people so that he and the people wouldn't wear out.
 - **Moses' 70 Elders (Numbers 11:10-17, 24-30)**—Moses complained about the burden of the people, so God anointed 70 men with the same spirit that was upon Moses to help him bear the burden.
 - ***David to Saul (1 Samuel 16:19-23)**—After Saul's fall, David became Saul's armorbearer and comforter, playing the harp for him when he was troubled by evil spirits. His heart honored Saul even after Saul's death.
 - **Jonathan's Armorbearer (1 Samuel 14:4-16)**—An armorbearer was one who accompanied his master into battle carrying the armor and weaponry so that their

master would not be exhausted upon arrival. Jonathan's armorbearer carried two things: his master's weaponry and his master's vision. **"Do all that is in thine heart . . . I am with thee according to thy heart."** This support led to a miraculous victory.

- **David's Mighty Men**—They conquered cities, killed enemies, built cities, helped run the kingdom, and even fetched David some water simply because he talked about it.
- **Solomon's Governments (1 Kings 4:1-25)**—Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, had 11 officials helping him run his administration, and he had 12 governors ruling over the kingdom under him. **"And Judah and Israel dwelt safely and confidently . . . all the days of Solomon."**
- **Solomon's Workforce (1 Kings 5:13-16)**—Solomon had 183,300 laborers working on the temple: 30,000 lumberjacks, 70,000 general laborers, 80,000 stonecutters, and 3,300 managers. All of these workers were used to build the temple that God would then mightily manifest in. (Their work amounted to 3.85 billion man-hours. It would have taken Solomon 440,705 years to build it alone.)
- ***Elisha to Elijah (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-14; 3:11)**—Elisha left all he knew to become a servant. He was faithful to the very end and would not leave his leader. The world knew him as he **"which poured water on the hands of Elijah,"** but we know him as the prophet that wrought twice as many miracles as Elijah.
- ***The 12 Disciples to Jesus (Matthew 19:13-14; 21:2-3; 26:18-19; Mark 6:36-41)**—The disciples didn't just sit and learn all day. They were involved in preparing meetings, feeding the multitudes, preparing dinners, receiving offerings, running security, praying with Jesus, fetching transportation, managing the money, and serving the poor.
- ***Barnabas to the Local Churches (Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-28; 11:22-30)**—Barnabas faithfully served the church at Jerusalem and then Antioch. He faithfully supported the church financially and was a dependable errand boy. He earned the leadership's trust, and they sent him out as an emissary to Antioch. He continued to run errands for the churches until the day of his ordination into full-time ministry (Acts 13:1-3).
- ***Paul to the Local Church (Acts 11:26-30)**—Paul faithfully served the church at Antioch, running errands for them and teaching, until the day of his ordination (Acts 13:1-3).
- ***The First Deacons (Acts 6:1-8)**—These first deacons were selected for their good reputation and for being full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They were appointed to wait tables and care for the old ladies, yet this allowed the Word of God to increase and the number of the disciples multiplied. Stephen, Philip, and Prochorus were later promoted to greater responsibility in the Kingdom.
- ***John Mark to Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:1-5)**—When Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey, they took John Mark with them as their servant. This same John Mark went on to write the Gospel of Mark.
- ***Luke to Paul (Acts 21:8; Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; 2 Corinthians 13:14)**—Luke joined himself to "Paul's company" and travelled with him everywhere. In the end, he was the only man that didn't abandon Paul. No doubt he tended to Paul's health and many injuries. He was the beloved physician and also a scribe for Paul, going on to write the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

- **Phebe to the Roman Church (Romans 16:1-16)**—Phebe is referred to as a servant of the whole church at Cenchrea. She was also described as a “**succourer of the needs of many**” and of Paul himself. Now that’s helps ministry. Such a help, in fact, that she is forever a part of the Bible record.
- **The House of Stephanas (1 Corinthians 16:15-18)**—This household addicted themselves to serving the saints, so much so that Stephanas, along with Fortunatus and Achaicus, made up in an offering what the entire church of Corinth lacked and in doing so, they refreshed Paul.
- ***Epaphroditus to Paul and the Philippian Church (Philippians 2:24-30; 4:18)**—Epaphroditus is called a brother, companion in labor (work), fellow soldier (work), messenger (apostle), and minister to the wants of Paul. He is called an apostle but was used as an errand boy. He did not regard his life for the work of Christ.

Let us remember some common fruit from an **active** ministry of helps:

1. Burdens are relieved off of leadership.
2. Leadership is refreshed and encouraged.
3. Finances are increased for God’s cause.
4. Future leaders are raised up and trained.
5. God’s plan is accomplished.

HELPS MINISTRY—PART 1

Lesson 3

The Spirit Of Unity

- Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

One of the less pleasant aspects of Helps ministry is its ability to reveal the selfishness that is still in us as Christians. Helps ministry accomplishes this by placing you around other believers you would probably not ordinarily fellowship with. It is the friction that arises from interacting with someone different than you that will cause your selfishness and carnality to manifest. This selfishness will usually manifest as strife and disunity.

- Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: “That ye may with **one mind** (*homothumadón*) and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

God wants His body to be likeminded toward each other and single-minded toward God. Both terms are synonymous with unity. However, “**one mind**” is a unique term. Taken from *homothumadón*, it literally means *to rush along in unison*, and as one Greek lexicon describes it:

The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ’s church.

Unity pleases God and unity is necessary for God to move in our midst. As a helps minister, you will be tempted to get into strife, chaos, and disunity. A church without unity is a chaotic and disorderly church. This is not the will of God. He desires that all things be done “**decently and in order**” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

- Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

God cannot move in the midst of disunity, but evil can.

- For where envying (*jealousy*) and strife [conflict] is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:16

If there is disunity in a local church body, the Bible says there is confusion and evil working there. The number one thing God will want to deal with in that church is the disorder. If the church will not submit to the Word and find unity, the Spirit of God will move on from that church until they are willing to repent. The church that never repents will become a dead, dry, religious assembly.

SYMPTOMS OF DISUNITY

- **Complaining**—It's too hard; they ask too much of us. They actually expect us to come to every service. I didn't like the worship. Too loud. Too soft. Too long. Too this, too that, blah, blah, blah!
- **Murmuring**—A lack of thanksgiving. A sour belly. Not always against a person but a situation or a circumstance. "Who does he think he is? I don't think it's right. I liked it better at my old church."
- **Strife/Discord**—Quarreling among the brethren. "I refuse to work with them or even sit by them because . . ."
- **Gossip**—Repeating a matter. A transmitter of truth. A fact is repeated but with the wrong motive and heart.
- **Slander**—Often attacks the character. Usually a falsehood spread to ruin one's reputation.
- **Backbiting**—Malicious talk about someone not present.
- **Nosiness**—Mind your own business. Don't be a busybody (1 Timothy 5:14).
- **Church skipping**—Hey man, it's deer season and then the race is on.
- . . . mark them which cause divisions and offenses (*skándalon*) contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them (*shun*).

Romans 16:17

God is very serious about unity. Let us look at areas where we must strive for unity in our local church.

UNITY OF VISION

Local pastors are visionaries. They have the vision for their church. God speaks to the pastor of the local flock and reveals to him what the will and direction of God is for that ministry. If you are not the pastor, you will not have the vision for the local church. Instead, you are called to help the pastor fulfill his vision.

- **And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.** Habakkuk 2:2
- **Where there is no vision, the people perish . . .** Proverbs 29:18

Two contrasting visions produce division. God will not send you to a local church so that you can force your own vision upon it. This is very rude and rebellious. The local church is where you will be proven faithful over another man's vision so that the LORD can give you your own vision and calling. God calls you to a local church so that you can help that leader fulfill the vision God has given him. Read his vision and run with it. Don't read his vision then add to it or murmur against it saying, "Well, I'm not so sure about that . . ." Also, your pastor has the right to show you how to help him with his vision.

UNITY OF PURPOSE

We must be unified in our purpose for going to church. Are you going to church to find a mate? Are you going to church to promote your business? Are you going to church to steal sheep? For political gain? Or do you go to church to learn about Jesus and how you can better please, serve, and glorify Him?

- **Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention.** **Philippians 2:2 AMPC**

There is strength in unity and when the church is united in purpose, that purpose will be powerfully accomplished. Make sure that your purposes and intentions are biblical and that they glorify Jesus Christ! Let's make sure we're going to church for the right reasons.

UNITY OF THE FAITH

No church has perfect doctrine. We are all still working out our own salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**). But it is important that you agree with your pastor's doctrine. You must trust him; otherwise he will not be able to teach you things you don't know.

- **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (*mature*) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:** **Ephesians 4:13**
- **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?** **Amos 3:3**

Pastors are given to help perfect us and develop us until we come into the unity of the faith. If you don't agree with the doctrine being taught, something must change. Either your heart will change or where you go to church will change. There is a proper way to leave a church. You don't abandon it. Don't be a Demas, who forsook Paul. Either way, don't allow your mouth to become a sass bucket of disagreement.

THE POWER OF UNITY

There is great strength, anointing, and power in unity.

- **And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.** **Acts 2:1-2**

The early believers were unified first, then the Holy Spirit came. Revival starts with unity in the local church. Can you imagine God blessing a strife club? No!

KEYS TO MAINTAINING UNITY

Here are some important keys to maintaining unity:

- Be a servant.
- Prefer your brother.
- Don't be argumentative (**Romans 14:1**).
- Don't be a know-it-all (**1 Corinthians 8:2**).
- Don't dominate every conversation (**Proverbs 10:19**).
- Don't be self-promoting (**Proverbs 20:6**).
- Pray! Pray! Pray!

HELPS MINISTRY—PART 1

Lesson 4

The Spirit Of Excellence

God the Father gave His very best to us in the perfect sacrifice of His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ. He has set the standard: **Excellence!!**

The **Spirit of Excellence** is the opposite of the **Spirit of Poverty**. Poverty is an attitude, not a dollar amount.

Excellence requires faithfulness and hard work. The Spirit of Excellence says, “I want to give the LORD Jesus my very best. It is the least I can do.”

Poverty requires you to stay the same and not improve or change anything. Poverty is easy, and this is why it abounds. Poverty often blames anything and everybody but itself and then looks for a handout. Poverty doesn’t finish what it starts.

Excellence honors God. **Poverty** honors only self.

- **Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; Ecclesiastes 9:10**
- **And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the LORD, and not unto men;**
²⁴Knowing that of the LORD ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:
for ye serve the LORD Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

We should do everything as unto the LORD.

EXCELLENCE IN APPEARANCE

Excellence in appearance has nothing to do with fashion or trends. “Nice dress” is defined differently all over the world. This simply means you make your appearance your very best for your God. We dress up for dates. We dress up for proms. We dress up for court. Why do we dress down for God?

- **Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. Genesis 41:14**

If Joseph could shave and present himself before the presence of an earthly king in his official court, how much more should we clean ourselves up when presenting ourselves before the King of Kings in His official house?

EXCELLENCE IN STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is how well we take care of things. We are stewards over our bodies, marriages, gifts, belongings, finances, etc. Anything God has given you, He will require that you give an account for how you used it and what you did with it.

- **And the LORD said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? ⁴³Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁴Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.**
Luke 12:42-44

Promotion is the reward for being a steward of excellence.

EXCELLENCE IN WORK ETHIC

We must work the best we can in everything we do, whether for God or for man.

- **Not with eye-service, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;**
Ephesians 6:6

The only reason you wouldn't do a good or excellent job is because you have no heart for it. When your heart is really into something, you give it your best. You give it 110%. God deserves more than *half-hearted* service out of His servants. As it has been said, "Performance proves the heart."

- **Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:**
Colossians 3:22

Excellence requires a focused effort on whatever you are working on. This is "**singleness of heart**." Faith focuses on the task at hand, and faith is what it takes to please God. "**Not with eye-service**" refers to a two-faced, lazy work ethic. Some will only work hard when the boss or pastor is around.

SOME THOUGHTS ON EXCELLENT WORK

- If leadership has to stand over you in order to get work out of you, they are doing your job. If they are doing your job, why do they need you?
- Joseph was so dependable and honorable with his job in prison that the prison boss never had to double check his work (**Genesis 39:20-23**).
- If paying you would cause you to do a better job for the Kingdom of God, then you are a hireling.
- If we truly revered and loved Him, we would never give Him our junk.

THINGS THAT MAKE FOR EXCELLENCE

- **Love**—Love for the work of the ministry, love for the people, and love for one another because "**love never fails**." (**1 Corinthians 13**)
- **Joy**—**The Joy of the LORD is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10). If thou doest well (joyfully), will you not also be accepted? (Genesis 4:7)**
- **Faith-filled attitude**—We are well able to do this (**Numbers 13:30**).
- **Look unto Jesus in all things, He is our standard**—(**Hebrews 12:2; Galatians 6:4; 2 Corinthians 10:12, 13:5**).
- **Faithfulness**—This is a fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).



- **Dependability/Keeping your word/Timeliness**—Keeping your word is of utmost importance. Let your “yes be yes and your no, no” (**Matthew 5:37**). “A righteous man swears to his own hurt, and changeth not” (**Psalm 15:4**).
- **Organization**—God is an organized God. There were six days of creation (**Genesis 1:1-31**), Noah’s ark (**Genesis 6:5-22**), Moses’ Tabernacle (**Exodus 25-31**), Solomon’s Temple (**1 Kings 5:13-18**), the Church (Ministers, Bishops, Elders, Deacons, decently and in order). God is not the author of confusion, but of peace (**1 Corinthians 14:33**). Sin and the devil bring chaos, disorder, and confusion. Health can be defined as order in the body. Sickness can be described as chaos in the body. God is the author of peace and order.