

GOD MY HELPER

Sunday, 12 July 2020 (By Marius Gradwell)



Prophetic Word: Stephen Herzig dated 17 February 2019

The Lord clearly spoke to me from Psalm 121 for you as a congregation. Just in case you do not know the geography because it is quite important, Jerusalem and the city of David and the walled city was built on a small hill surrounded by a valley. Around that valley was a ring of hills. If you were standing in the city of Jerusalem, and you looked out over the valley, all around you was a ring of hills and the temptation of the nation of Israel when they were in difficulty was to look to the hills. They looked to the hills for a delivering army to rescue them from people who were assaulting them. They looked to the hills for maybe a cloud to come to relieve them from drought. They looked to the hills for all kinds of different things and sometimes used their own efforts and imaginations to try and connive deliverance and change to protect them from perceived threats and enemies and dangers. And I felt God speak to me quite clearly for you; now is not the time to look to the hills. Do not look down as a people. Do not look at your feet. Do not look around at your country. Now is the time to look above the hills to look to the Deliverer. Just as the Psalmist said: *I look to the hills from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.* And the Lord spoke to me and said He wants to pour out in this house a spirit of joy and a spirit of celebration. Celebrating the deliverance that God is going to give to your city, to your region to lift it out of criticism, out of poverty, out of neglect, out of the things that have been historic to this land and lift it to a place of prominence and significance because just as the people of Israel said *can anything good come out of Nazareth* so I will say to you many good things will be launched from this house, this place, this hill, and as you look to Me I will release hope, I will release My joy and I will bring a spirit of celebration into this place that no man can stand against, no demon can quench and no power of the enemy can assail. Amen.

Psalms 121:1-8 ESV A Song of Ascents. I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? (2) My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (3) He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. (4) Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. (5) The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. (6) The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. (7) The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. (8) The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Introduction

A lot of people think of a helper as someone who is less important, less skilled, or less capable than the person who really matters. In our culture, a helper is considered an *underling*, a *hireling*, or a *subordinate*. We even talk about *the hired help*—people who do the tasks the important people do not want to do or do not have time to do.

However, that is not the biblical concept of help. The Hebrew word for *helper* in the Old Testament is ezer, and comes from a verb that means to *rescue*, *deliver*, or *help*. Whenever it is used of human beings, it is talking about someone who is bigger, stronger, more powerful, smarter, or richer who reaches out to the weak or needy.

Most often, the word refers to God himself. The psalmist wrote:

Psalms 30:2 ESV O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

Psalms 30:10 ESV Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

Psalms 33:20 ESV Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psalms 46:1-2 ESV God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore we will not fear...

Psalms 46:1-2 TPT God, you're such a safe and powerful place to find refuge! You're a proven help in time of trouble—more than enough and always available whenever I need you. (2) So we will never fear even if every structure of support were to crumble away...

Psalms 54:4 ESV Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

Psalms 118:7 ESV The LORD is on my side as my helper...

The point is that helping people is what God does. He is always ready, willing, and able to help us in our time of need. No wonder Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to...

"... approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (NIV).

Do you need help? Are you struggling? Are you surrounded by insurmountable challenges? Are you fearful and scared? Have you felt like quitting or giving up? Let me encourage you, instead, to turn to the Lord and enter his presence with confidence. You will find the help you need. That is what God does. That is who he is.

1. Know that God is a Helper

- God is a helper by nature.
- Hebrews 13:5-6 ESV Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (6) So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper..."
- The Father is a Helper, Jesus is a Helper, and the Holy Spirit is a Helper.
- Jesus said: "When I go, I will send you another Helper..." (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
- Romans 8:26-27 ESV Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

2. Ask for Help

- There is great power in asking God.
- James 4:2d-3 [2d] You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
- A simple statement, but a profound revelation! — "You do not have, because you do NOT ASK God!"

What stops us from ASKING GOD?... Lack of confidence...

- Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1. Ignorance of who God is: His promises and His principles

- "I don't know if God will answer this request."
- Or: "My request is too insignificant."
- Satan distorts who God really is.

2. When our hearts condemn us

1 John 3:21-22 *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God [22] and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.*

- Sin, Compromise, and guilt
- Hurt, bitterness and unforgiveness
- Satan's accusation
- Ignoring the conviction of Holy Spirit

3. Disappointment – unanswered prayers

- What stops God from answering some of our requests?
- James 4:3 *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*
- 1 John 5:14-15 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.*
- John 15:7 *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*
- When we have wrong motives
- When it does not line up with God's Word and principles
- When our request does not line up with God's purpose for our lives
- When the timing is not right
- When we have not matured to the level of being able to handle what we have asked for
- When motives are proper, there is great power in asking God.
- It is normal and right for children to ASK things of their natural fathers and their heavenly Father.
- Psalms 2:7-8 NKJV *"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. (8) Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*
- Answered prayers should be the regular experience of the family of God.

3. Wait in Hope, Trusting that God will Help, with Joyful Celebration

- Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (29) He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. (30) Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; (31) but they who wait (trust/hope) for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*
- Psalms 28:7 TPT *You are my strength and my shield from every danger. When I fully trust in you, help is on the way. I jump for joy and burst forth with ecstatic, passionate praise! I will sing songs of what you mean to me!*
- Psalms 33:20-21 ESV *Our soul waits (hopes/trusts) for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (21) For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.*

Paraphrase verse 20: Our soul continually endures and stands its ground refusing to flee, for Jehovah is our helper and defender.

- Psalms 63:5-7 ESV *My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, (6) when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; (7) for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.*



Pause/Play

Discussion Question:

1. What makes you anxious or scared?
2. What is your tendency in handling your everyday challenges and problems? What do you do when you become anxious and fearful? Do you try to deal with it relying on your own abilities? Or, do you go to God as your Helper?
3. After hearing today's message, what will you do differently in the way you deal with your challenges and fears?