

necessary than one's own. Thus the idea of "help" or meeting a need in burden sharing. Any sort of help offered must be done so in a judicious way.. it is possible to help in a way that cripples or harms self development. But in a world where many of our brethren struggle with all sorts of problems, the concept of help ought to be plain enough. A helper is not so much an initiator of an action as a supporter of such. The helper takes whatever resource is available and uses it in the completion of a task done by another.

It is interesting to see that the Lord is our "helper" in Hebrews 13:6. But it is plain that He does exactly what we are called upon to do...of His resource He grants us the things needed for our daily task or witness. The proper use of this gift involves three major things: giving, sharing, participating. And these are only practical when we stand in love preferring one another. If we fight for the highest honor or place we are of help to no one in a spiritual setting.

2. Helping: What does the Scripture say?

The Scripture both gives instruction and example in this matter and I have culled a few of the applicable Scriptures (but only a few) in the following discussion.

a. Philippians 4:3, Galatians 6:2

These Scriptures argue for "encounter" helping..where one meets another with a task or a burden and helps in meeting it. The Galatians passage has a giant spiritual side to it as well (restoration and prevention).

b. Philippians 2:25-30 is an exemplary passage where the helpfulness of a believer is saluted by Paul as he tells of the service of Epaphroditus to whom even poor health was not an excuse for not helping. When examples are given they are not offered so that we might be like those people but that we might profit from their service to God.