

c. Colossians 4:7...a further exemplary passage relating the helpers of Paul.

d. Romans 16:3, 9, 22. In the first of these references we have a powerful thrust about how Paul was helped (compare with Acts 18) and in the last we see the service offered by Tertius.

e. 1 John 3:17 ff, James 2:15-16
These are practical verses that warn against not helping so that we can see the proposition from all sides. To them might be added James 4:17 although it has a very wide context and application.

So that there is such a gift is plain and that the call to use it is plain, none can deny.

3. Helping: How do we go about it?

We must remember that no one is fully adequate in himself and the body is healthy only when all members function well. With this we must understand that we are members one of another and our best function is to support and complement one another. It is necessary to make ourselves aware of the needs of others and then to offer ourselves in whatever capacity is ours...as helpers. We will have to learn to give the strength where it is most needed and where it can best be appreciated. This calls for good judgment, prayerful consideration, and a correct understanding of what our abilities and skill are. Ironically some do not want to be helped and there is not much we can do at that point. We offer help but we do not demand that we be allowed the privilege.

C. Conclusion

Take a look at the local assembly and see where your help can be utilized. You will need to observe the proper order and structure of the group but let it be known that you are willing--as a helper, not a chief or reorganizer--to help. It is a matter of looking, offering and serving. And if your friends reply that they need no help, don't be angry or feel ill-used, just pray God's strength for them and stand prepared for the next opportunity.