



GOOD NEWS GUIDE

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

September, 2015

Depending on yourself — and God

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have some strong words to say this month about responsibility, and depending upon God to meet your needs. I know you already know a lot about these things, but many of you need to hear them again.

First, your actions and their consequences are your own responsibility. That's why people have to do time in jail—there are consequences for illegal acts, and the law holds you responsible if you do them.

The Bible says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2 NIV) Some of you think



that passage is telling you to look for people who will help you when you need it. No! Except when you're teaching it (as

I'm trying to do), don't ever apply God's word to somebody else! Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how it applies to you. And then do what it says.

People make two mistakes about seeking help. First, they think that others (family, friends, the church, the government) are somehow obligated to help them. I know a man who used to ask people for money when he got in a bind. His attitude was that he was broke, and I wasn't, so I should help him out. I helped a few times, and then I said, "No more." He wasn't happy about that, but I had to stop because I was making him dependent on me—which is not good for him or for me.

There's more to the story, of course. Part of the reason this man had financial troubles was that he didn't manage money properly. I helped him work out a budget based on his income and his needs, but he didn't follow it. He also had a habit of not showing up for work, so he lost a few jobs.

Obviously what this man really needed was to grow up, get and keep a steady job, and live within his means. He needed to start acting

responsibly, instead of irresponsibly. Sad to say, he got busted again for having some cocaine, and did some more jail time. He's out again now, and he swears that this time he will get it right. I pray he will.

I heard a man on the radio the other day, asking Dr. Laura if he should be honest with the woman he was dating. Seems he lived with a girl, got her pregnant, married her, they had that kid and another one, then he or his wife started fooling around with someone else, and they got a divorce. Then he did the same thing all over again. Two divorces and four children later, he wants to know if he should be honest with the next woman!

Dr. Laura Schlessinger doesn't pull any punches. She told him that he had no business getting married again or even dating; that he already has four children he is responsible for, and he'd better take care of them, instead of looking for another "relationship." Right on, Dr. Laura!

Have you brought children into this world? "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward." (Psalm 127:3 NKJV) Each child is a precious blessing from God! They're not the government's responsibility, they're yours. God has given you the responsibility and the wonderful privilege of taking care of them the best way you can. But if you're in jail, what can you do for them? Well, here are some things you can do:



1. Be as involved in their lives as you can. Ask about them. Be interested in everything they are doing, and especially what interests them. Write to each one regularly. Let them know you love them, and you're praying for them. Tell them you're sorry you can't be there for them, and ask their forgiveness. Be open, be real, and be the best parent you can with what you've got.

2. Pray for each child every day, by name. Pray faithfully and specifically. Try to feel the love that God has for each precious child, and ask Him to show you how to pray for what they need. Ask Him to fill in the gaps you've caused in their lives by your absence. God is "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows" (Psalm 68:5) As long as you are absent, your children are fatherless (or motherless) and your spouse is alone. Ask God to do what His word says.

Which brings me to the second mistake that people often make: they don't depend on God.

"LORD God, do as You promised."

(2 Samuel 7:25)

God's promises were never meant to be thrown aside as waste paper. He intended them to be used. Nothing pleases our Lord better than to see His promises active in our lives. He loves to see His children bring them up to Him, and say, "Lord, do as You have promised."

We glorify God when we plead His promises. Do you think that God will be any the poorer for giving you the riches He promised? Do you dream He will be any the less holy for giving holiness to you? Do you imagine He will be any the less pure for washing you from your sins? He has said, "Come now, let us reason together. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18) Faith lays hold upon the promise of pardon, and goes straight to the throne with it, and pleads, "Lord, here is Your promise, Please, 'do as You promised.'" To which our Lord replies, "Your request is granted." (Matthew 15:28)

**The LORD is
faithful to all
his promises
Psalm 145:13**

When you get hold of a promise, if you don't take it to God, you dishonor Him. Our heavenly Banker is delighted to cash His own promissory notes. God will not be troubled by your persistently reminding Him of His promises. It is His delight to bestow favors on His children. He is more ready to hear than you are to ask. It is God's nature to keep His promises. Go at once, therefore, to the throne with, "Please do as You promised." (Hebrews 4:16)

I hope and pray that you, my brother and sister in Christ, will truly accept the responsibilities that are yours, and faithfully carry them as well as you can. But do not be afraid or ashamed to ask for God's help, and do not doubt that He will give it. He may indeed bring another believer alongside to help—He does that pretty often. Depend on the LORD—and yourself. Together you can do anything that needs to be done. Paul, who knew all about spending time in jail, wrote this: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

God's Peace and Joy be with you.

Brother Roland

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer.*



*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.*

Books of the Bible

I may have given you a Bible books puzzle before, but this one is new. It's a fun way to get more familiar with the names of all the books of the Bible. Be careful finding JOHN, though, because it might be 1JOHN or 2JOHN or 3JOHN or just plain JOHN—they'r all in there! Enjoy!

Puzzle:

2 K I N G S N L Y Z J C U O Z N B S Y U I S A M D K F Z G E
 S I P M C E W J Z G V C T L O V S V S H S O N V R E F A R E
 V N K Q Z Z U H Y I H P I W F A L W M M T O C A L N R N K X
 F Z O P Q S B P O S S G N O S F O G N O S O M A M Z H U Q C
 K Z I I O B A D I A H N B E Q E R Y N Q N E M A E O L E R S
 J 2 Q 2 T M D Y U X T S A S D Y G S 1 L A D B I J S R Y E X
 X P P A S A D L J W P X G I L U U D D C I G A 2 T F O M J Y
 R E V E L A T I O N D F O N H C J A U X H S K N N 1 A H H A
 I I I Q T Z M N M K Y V M 1 I T J C X J T R H N I J A T V P
 S K A B N E N U E N K S B T 2 K N W U C N A O I U E O O R K
 S S W A I H R H E M Q A I H T B 1 I X W I Q H N G M L J U E
 S P H R Y A F E O L A V M E H H M E R A R C B J I V B K V P
 M U J E J I H P U J E L G S E J H R S O O Y J T T C K E D J
 M Q S B Y M Q H D L 3 E 2 S S G A I I M C P 2 N S A L G R P
 Z C N Y A E F E W Q Q C E A S C I T Y X 2 1 S N B J Y E Q S
 R O A X K R H S J O H N C L A H R G B M U N A A R O D N S J
 Y L I B U E Q I I R A E C O L G A I E T Q I H I L I O D Q Y
 C O T U F J I A O C Z A L N O W H G X N P U A M I M E H K J
 U S A J O E L N T E N 1 E I N Q C R G P E H C H E U S A P J
 G S L W D P I S K R P V S A I G E J I A E S C L T X E I L G
 A I A V E C R I L E R I I N A Z Z L O B I A I E Y S N N V P
 J A G S L H E O T R T M A S N J I R R B L H R S T C E A V I
 N N L E P L T E V X M I S B S H O E A A P O A H Y N H H I A
 Q S S K Y K R T D E 1 F T R P J W S M J N G E N H X E P Q D
 H A C I M T X K A J R F E U A S Y U H O Y R H R O X M E B N
 1 S A M U E L N O M Q B S Z S X K N M U R S M U A J I Z S Q
 S U D O X E U H X D W D S D A L Q Y G M A H B T I U A S G C
 K O I Q O U N G Q W Z F G J R R S V G M Q A C H J K H C Q W

Words:

GENESIS	EZRA	JOEL	JOHN	PHILEMON
EXODUS	NEHEMIAH	AMOS	ACTS	HEBREWS
LEVITICUS	ESTHER	OBADIAH	ROMANS	JAMES
NUMBERS	JOB	JONA	1 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
DEUTERONOMY	PSALMS	MICAH	2 CORINTHIANS	2 PETER
JOSHUA	PROVERBS	NAHUM	GALATIANS	1 JOHN
JUDGES	ECCLESIASTES	HABAKKUK	EPHESIANS	2 JOHN
RUTH	SONG OF SONGS	ZEPHANIAH	PHILIPPIANS	3 JOHN
1 SAMUEL	ISAIAH	HAGGAI	COLOSSIANS	JUDE
2 SAMUEL	JEREMIAH	ZECHARIAH	1 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
1 KINGS	LAMENTATIONS	MALACHI	2 THESSALONIANS	
2 KINGS	EZEKIEL	MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY	
1 CHRONICLES	DANIEL	MARK	2 TIMOTHY	
2 CHRONICLES	HOSEA	LUKE	TITUS	