

THE LORD IS MY HELPER! Becky Combee

I heard an old saying many times as a child. Although it can be quoted several different ways, in our household, we said, "Every tub sits on its own bottom." That's strange, isn't it? When we heard these words, they meant no one was going to help you, and you must accomplish the task by yourself.

I looked up the origin of this saying, not expecting to find anything, and found that it had deep historical roots. It originated in John Bunyan's book Pilgrim's Progress written in 1678. In 1783, it was given new life by playwright Charles Macklin. Then early in the nineteenth century, the President of Harvard University added to its notoriety using it to describe his belief that decisions were best made by those directly involved.

This saying reminds me of Hebrews 13:4-5 where God declares, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." He instructs us to boldly say, "The Lord is my helper." These marvelous verses of Scripture make it clear that we are not alone, on our own, struggling to comprehend the ups and downs of life.

The Lord is our helper! Men sometimes fail us, but God does not.

Years ago, my husband Wayne was put in charge of the decorations for a Hawaiian luau to

EVERYTHING

Suzanne D. Williams

I don't need television programs. I don't need the news cycle. With a few exceptions, I don't read books. Just give me the Word of God and the Voice of God.

Int give me Jesus.

You can keep the rest, all the worries and cares of the world, the speculations and fears. I'm not affected by it anymore. I've had an encounter. I've heard the Shepherd speak. I've seen Him in the pages of the Bible. I've felt His Presence as I worship, as I bow at His feet.

I know what He will do in my life, in the life of my family, in your life, in the life of this nation. Oh, maybe not the details. I don't have the blueprints all mapped out, and frankly, I don't ask for them. What I do have is His reassurance, His joy and confidence, His faith.

A few years ago, He began to share with me His will for the future. He revealed Himself in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The parables leapt out at me. The book of Romans became my salvation. Don't misunderstand me. I'm just Suzanne D. Williams, anointed writer. I'm not a prophet. I'm not an intercessor, although I love to pray. I'm not called into any ministry office.

What I am is a daughter of God, a friend of the Holy Spirit, a soldier for the King, and because I

be held in a church basement. He was given a team of young assistants that were very little help. Distracted by each other and entertainment, quickly it became obvious that he was working alone. But we are never alone because God is with us. He is NOT simply watching us trip through life, making mistake after mistake. He has given us His Spirit to lead us.

The apostle Paul writes, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." When we trust our great God and yield to His Spirit, He directs our path. Psalms 37:23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." God will show us what direction to move and what action to take.

Paul himself provides is a great example of this principle. In Acts 16, he was on his way to Bithynia when the Spirit of God stopped him. In a vision, he saw a man of Macedonia and heard him say, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Immediately, he obeyed. God directed Paul's path, and people were saved.³

I love the leadership of the Lord! I have discovered that in matters small and great He guides us. On Mondays and Tuesdays, I fix lunch so that our daughter Suzanne can work in our office all day. Frequently, I bow my head and listen for God's idea. He is so faithful. In a much larger matter, I wait on the Lord to lead me to the right Bible listen for the class I teach. This time of year, I am canvassing my family and asking God what presents to buy.

God cares about every aspect of our life. He is Lord – supreme in authority – and if we yield to Him, we will successfully navigate life. I know you have discovered that life can be challenging. BUT GOD! He is here! His Word is here! His Spirit is here! We are never alone.

This year celebrate Christmas with shouts of joy. God is here and He is working. Hear Him.

Merry Christmas, Becky.

sought His face, because I've laid down all I am and picked up His pen, because He is the most important thing to me, He speaks and tells me amazing things. But I am not alone in this. He's forever speaking to His children. Most often, they aren't listening.

What captures your attention? Do you make time for Him? Can you turn off all the noise, give up the things that hold you, and just sing His name? Can you lay down the trappings of life, and without lights or sound systems, see His face? Because I promise you, for every minute you give Him, for every prayer you breathe, He's there waiting to answer, eager to do it.

And so here I sit, late at night again, nothing left of me anymore, my will laid at His feet. His strength and power, His sweet Spirit surrounding me. These quiet moments are everything, the pleasure of His company, my greatest strength.

Great are you, Lord.

