



Book of Romans

Lesson 52 “Don’t Work Alone”

Romans 16:1-16

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Often, as Christians, we make ourselves a checklist of things we need to do for others, yet, we hesitate (or refuse) to make a similar checklist of things we need help with.

Read Galatians 6:2. What are we doing when we bear one another’s burdens?

Today, make a list of at least 10 things that you struggle with doing. It could be something like “planning meals for my family” or “not entering into gossip” or “spending too much energy on secondary priorities so your family receives your leftovers instead of your firstfruits.”

After you have made that list, pray over each item on the list. Many of these items may be things that you need to address with God; they may be matters of pride or of self-control. However, as you pray over this list, item by item, consider whether you know anyone who seems to have no issues with that item.

For example, consider whether there is someone you know who graciously and lovingly avoids gossip all the time. Write that person’s name down. After you have prayed through your list, look at the names that you have written down. Ask yourself, “Is this someone I can talk to about how this issue affects me?” If the answer is “No,” then ask yourself what is it that you have observed this person doing to avoid getting caught in the snare you struggle with.

If the answer is YES: Spend time in prayer and then talk to that person, ask them for tips on how they manage that issue in their life. Before you say “Well, that won’t work in my life” without even trying it, consider it, and try their suggestions. They may not work, true, but don’t dismiss their tips offhand. Ask that person to help hold you accountable to fight whatever you are struggling with.

Know that, when you refuse to call out for help from the body of Christ, you are withholding from your brothers and sisters the ability to fulfill the law of Christ. Asking for help is not the same as expecting someone to “fix” you or your problem. Consider your motive when you ask for help; is it for attention? Is it simply to vent your frustrations? Or is it, truly, simply a call for help?

**Please note, there are some people who you won't be able to talk to in this transparent way. They may not be someone who is “safe” to have that information from you (for example, you may not know them well enough to be sure that they will keep your struggle in confidence), and *that is okay*. Don't expect any person to fix you, but do look around you, at the resources that you have in the body of Christ, and take advantage of them!

As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you, not only to be willing to bear the burdens of your brothers and sisters, but also to help you to ask for help when you need it. Ask Him to help you to see, clearly, how He has designed His body to work together, for His glory and for the mutual edification and building up of each other. Thank Him for that provision, for the way in which He does *equip* His body. Ask Him to help you to let go of any pride that you may be holding onto that is preventing you from calling out for help; and ask Him for His forgiveness for your pride, as well. Ask Him, also, to help you not to boast in what you do for your brothers and sisters, but simply to serve, not for the recognition, but for the benefit of the body and the glory of God. Ask Him to help you to remember, daily, that you are NOT alone in your Christian walk and you are not meant to be alone, either.