

### **Bible Never Said Series – part 3**

**Message Summary:** Out of all the common misunderstandings about God this next phrase may be the most used: “God helps those who help themselves.” In other words: If you really want God’s help, you better get off your lazy backside and start helping yourself. Once God sees you’re serious, He just may help you. There are some serious errors in this thinking. The most significant one is...God never said that! This statement is not in the Bible. The spiritual reality is God helps those who trust Him first. In fact, God helps those who admit they are helpless.

## **Bible Never Said... part 3 God helps those who help Themselves**

- 1. Our relationship with God is based entirely upon our utter helplessness** Romans 5:6; Colossians 2:13
  
- 2. Trusting ourselves is condemned throughout the Bible**  
Jeremiah 17:5,7
  - A. Trusting ourselves will turn our hearts away from God**
  - B. Trusting ourselves is how sin entered humanity**
  - C. Trusting ourselves elevates us above God**
  - D. Trusting ourselves is what sent Jesus to the cross**
  - E. Trusting ourselves hinders us from following Jesus**
  - F. Trusting ourselves keeps us from discovering God’s purposes for our lives**
  - G. Trusting ourselves keeps us from blessing**
  
- 3. Individual responsibility is accomplished with dependency on God** Philippians 2:12-13
  - A. I work hard at aligning my will to God’s will.**
  - B. I work hard at aligning my behavior to what God desires**
  - C. I work hard at aligning my thinking to His truth**

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### **LifeGroup QUESTIONS**

**Begin It (5min)** – Open Prayer & Praise

**Open it (10min)** – Discuss how you have been exposed to this misunderstanding about God. Have you believed it? Have you heard other well-intending people quote it?

**Explore It (60min) - Discussion Questions:**

1. Discuss how our relationship with God is dependent entirely on what God did for us through Jesus. How utterly helpless were we?
2. How does this truth make Christianity unique compared to other religions of the world?
3. Discuss why trusting in ourselves is condemned throughout the Bible. What’s the big deal anyway?
4. Discuss Philippians 2:12-13 and the tension between our individual responsibility and God’s responsibility. How do we “work hard” while depending on God?

**Apply It (15min):** Are you trying to earn God’s help or humbly receive His help? Explain. What are the steps you need to take?