

Jesus Never Said That, Pt. 2
“God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”
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Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

God doesn’t reserve His help for people who are strong enough to stand on their own. He gives His grace, strength, and power to those who know they cannot make it without Him.

God responds to our faith and dependence.

1. Why is Embracing this Myth Dangerous?

A. It Encourages Self-reliance Instead of God Dependence.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”*

Jeremiah: 17:7-8 (NIV) *“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”*

B. It Turns Grace into a Reward Instead of God’s Empowering Presence.

God’s grace is a supernatural empowerment to do or become what we could not in our own strength.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV) *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”*

God’s grace empowered his effort, and supernatural things were the result.

C. It Leaves Weary Believers Carrying Burdens God Never Intended Them to Carry.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Come to Jesus in the middle of your mess, NOT after you are fixed.

2. What's The Truth?

A. God Gives Grace to the Humble.

James 4:6 (NLT) *"God...gives grace to the humble."*

Humility isn't weakness; humility is active dependence on what God desires to do.

B. God Strengthens Those Who Admit Their Weakness.

Weakness is not where God's work ends. It is where His power begins.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) *"My grace is sufficient for you; for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

C. God's Help is Experienced through Abiding, not Striving.

John 15:5 (NIV) *"I am the vine; you are the branches...apart from me you can do nothing."*

So how do we walk this out?

- Acknowledging Your Dependence on God Daily
- Replace Striving with Surrender
- Stop Asking God to Remove Your Weakness
- Stay Connected to Jesus Every Day