



Does the bible really say?

Part 3: "God helps those who help themselves!"

Tonight, we continue this series with another common saying that is often repeated as scripture. Many people have heard and repeated this phrase so much that many people believe it is found somewhere in the Word of God. Let's see if we can find it or if it holds sound biblical truth.

Isaiah 25:4; "You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat."

1. Not a biblical quotation

- In the United States, this saying is most often attributed to **Ben Franklin** as a quote found in 'Poor Richard's Almanac' in 1757.
- This was a collection of funny sayings, proverbs, poems, a yearly calendar, weather predictions, and political satire that was intended for the common man, to help them stay informed.
- The saying finds its roots in pagan **Greek** literature, primarily 'Aesop's Fables'. Though it is often repeated that the 'gods' help those they deem worthy. Some form of this saying appears in many ancient plays.
- The English wording of this saying was first attributed to an Englishman named **Algernon Sydney** in 1698 in his work called 'Discourses Concerning Government'. He was an English politician and political theorist.

2. We are utterly helpless

- When it comes to salvation, the bible paints a much different picture.
- **Romans 3:22b-24; "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."**
- **Romans 5:6; "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."**

- **Romans 6:23**; *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
- If God only helped those able to help themselves, we’d be in a lot of trouble. None of us has **anything** to offer Him.
- **Isaiah 64:5b -7a**; *“How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on Your name or strives to lay hold of you...”*
- God is the **Helper** of the **helpless** and the **hopeless**.
- **Romans 5:8**; *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- God’s Word also paints a different picture regarding His provision.
- **Matthew 5:45b**; *“He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”*
- **Matthew 7:25-34** tells us not to worry about the things we need, and that God already knows what we need and has made provision.

3. A **correct** concept?

- What about when it comes to day-in and day-out things?
- ***If I asked you to come to help me clean my house but then sat and watched you do everything, how would you feel?***
- ***If I asked you to come and help me move, but then only barked commands at you, how would you feel?***
- ***If I asked you to give me a job, but then I was a lazy and apathetic worker who constantly showed up late, called out sick, and didn’t get any work done when there, how would you feel?***
- Apart from salvation and daily provision, we might find some **earthly** application for this thought.
- However, many Christians often ask God for help and then expect God to do **everything** Himself according to **their** will.
- Some Christians are plagued with **inactivity**.
- When you are in need, pray and ask God for His guidance, His provision, His direction, and His open doors, and then, put your feet to the ground and do your due diligence to be obedient to His commands.



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