

CHOSEN TO BE YOUR SISTER'S KEEPER

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1 Thessalonians 5:11 KJV

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 MSG

So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep doing it.

SUBJ: Chosen to be your sisters keeper!

INTRO: As we close out Woman's Empowerment week 2026, I wanted to share with you ladies what God has given me about being his chosen.

John 15:16 KJV

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

(EXPOUND) God chose each of us and ordained us to bring forth fruit in the world that will remain.

The Apostle Paul who was chosen by God gives us a good example of what it looks in this text to be our sisters and brothers keeper!

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I am going give you a little of the back story that leads to 1 Thessalonians 5:11. In the book of Acts Paul and Silas traveled to Thessolonica to minister to the people about Jesus. After about a month many people started to believe in our risen Savior. This was a big deal because the city of Macedonia was a Roman established city filled with gentiles, Jews, God fearing Greeks, idols worshipers, manual laborers, and prominent women. Paul and Silas established one of the first church there with the new believers. But the word spread in Thessolonica that were new comers in town expressing allegiant to a new king (Jesus) and not the present king (Ceasar)or the idols they routinely worshipped. As the rumors spread about the new king there became unrest in the area between the people loyal, to king Ceaser and the new believers. This was partly because Paul and Silas were preaching to them to abandon the practice of idol worship, and as well as the political and social norms of that time. In Acts 17:7-10 amob attacked Paul and Silas for preaching about Jesus causing Paul to flee from the area for his own safety. But Silas and Timothy stayed behind. This left the new believers as targets of ill treatment and persecution at the from the mob of town people who did not like being called out for the way they were living. But Paul wanted Timothy to check on the church and the new believers there. Timothy sent word to Paul that the people may have been a battered and bruised but they were thriving despite everything that was going on there. That brings me back the topic at hand.

Turn and tell your neighbor, I know I am chosen but how can I be my sister's keeper? Am I chosen of God but how can I be united in love and service? In 1

Thessalonians 5:11 the apostle Paul is reminding the people to MSG to speak encouraging words to one another, building up hope so you all be together in this, no one left out, and no one left behind. And I know you're already doing this, just keep it up. Paul was writing this letter to check in with and encourage the people he loved at the Thessalonica church. He was saying I know you have been through a lot but do not forget to encourage one another. It's very interesting that Paul was writing a letter to check on the church of Tessolonica when he was on the run for his own safety himself. Sometimes when we have lot going on, our problems become so big that we forget others around us. Like right now you might be wondering how am I supposed to be my sister's keeper with everything I have going on in my life right now.

1. I'm being persecuted by my own family (they are dragging for me in the streets when I do not do what they want me to do or when they want me to do it).
2. I'm being persecuted at work (when my workload is enough for three people, my boss is still piling extra duties on me, and my co workers are talking behind my back.
3. You might say my finances are super tight right now, how can I encourage or help somebody else with the costs of gas, food, and housing steadily going up. There's not a whole lot I can do for anyone right now.

God knows what is going on with you and what you do and do not have.

Psalm 55:10

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.

The Word is saying here give all your burdens, cares, worries, and situations to the Lord and He will take care of you. The question is not what and how much you have, but how available are you to God and his will. How willing are you to do what God has called you to do in the mist of everything you have going on. I know it's hard but sometimes shifting your focus from yourself to encouraging and helping others but it is what we need to allow us to see our situation is not as bad as it appears. It makes you realize how blessed we really are and how we should pray for your sister who has it worse than you.

SO HOW CAN YOU BE YOUR SISTER'S KEEPER?

BODY:

1. YOU NEED A WILLING SPIRIT TO BE YOUR SISTER'S KEEPER.

You have to ask yourself how willing am I to let God use me to encourage others? As chosen vessels some of us may be called to minister God's word, feed the homeless on the weekends, work in the children's ministry, take care of our families, or work outside of the ministry. I want you to ask yourself how willing am I to allow God to use me of help others because as women we are involved in so much that we do not think we have the time for anything or anyone else, but with God's grace we actually do.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

I want you to understand it is the will and good pleasure of our Heavenly Father for us to get out of our feelings and do what He is calling for us to do. You may not care for your co worker because she is really messy but God is leading you to greet her with a smile and tell her she did a good job with the most recent project. Or Maybe you are on a church committee with sister so and so and she suggested the project should go in a different direction than what you intended. But after you prayed about it God is leading you in agreement with her. Do you go back and tell her, "You know, I prayed about it and your idea was better than mine. It would not benefit anyone if you insist things go the way you want them to go and not according to God's plan of how things should go.

This reminds me of a story I read Joyce Meyers Battlefield of the Mind book about a red dress. Expound and tell the story...

If the spiritual giant Joyce Meyer had an issue with yielding to the Holy Spirit to edify or bless someone what does that say about you and me. I don't know if I could have parted with the dress and the earrings, but God is still working on me.

2 Corinthians 8:12: KJV

For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to what he hath not.

This means we have to be willing to be obedient to the Holy Spirit even if costs me something. The Lord is not going to ask you to do or give something you do not have but He might have you to part with something that you do have. God wants to see if the material things we have has a hold or control over us? The key here is your willingness to yield to the Holy Spirit and not given in to the stubbornness of your flesh.

2. YOU CAN BE YOUR SISTER'S KEEPER WITH YOUR WORDS.

Ephesians 4:29 KJV

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29 NIV

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

As I was meditating the word edification, it means to build or lift up, or to strengthen. The Lord revealed to me that our Heavenly Father build the entire universe and mankind with the power of his mouth! In the book of Genesis chapter 1 we see the earth was void and without form when God spoke and created light from darkness. When you get home I want you to

read and study how God created everything by speaking it into existence. So what are you building or creating in the life of your sister or others? Are you speaking life and light? Or are you speaking doubt or darkness? Remember

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it.

This reminds me of the scripture in (Matthew 21:18-19) when Jesus was heading back to Jerusalem one morning and he was hungry. He saw a fig tree full of leaves from a far but when he came nearer he noticed there were no fruit on the tree. He said in verse 19, Let no fruit grow on you ever again and the tree immediately withered away and his disciples saw this. Remember what ever you speak has the ability to produce.

1. (Willingness) to be obedient to what God is calling you to do.
2. (Words) speak light and life into your sister's life.

CONCLUSION:

3. WHEN YOU ARE CHOSEN BY GOD YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR WALK.

You might say what do you mean by my walk? I am referring to how are you living. I'm talking about the lifestyle are you leading. Do you walk one way in church and another way when you are at work or at home. Are you living a life that is spirit lead, patient, loving, and serving others? Or are you living a lifestyle that is lead by the desires of the flesh, proudful, selfish, and unholy. You know the saying when people see the say you live that may be the only bible they will ever read.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The life you live can lead people to Christ which glorifies our heavenly Father or it can push people away from Christ. But when a sister sees you living your life according to God's word and using her talents to bring Him Glory, you bless others and encourage them to do the same. I saw a video of a young lady named Tunmise from Lagos, African talking about the power of influence. She had just ran her first 10 K race after she had a friend to recently train and accomplish the same. She said the scripture in Matthew 5:16 reflects the influence your life has on others. She said many times we do not even realize the power of influence from others in our lives and the influence we have on people when we walk in the Spirit of the Lord and that is so true.

Galatians 5:16-17

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

If you made up your mind you are going to follow Jesus then you will live a life that is pleasing to God and have a positive influence on theirs for Christ.

As I close I want to mention again that the church of Thesanolica thrived although they were being persecuted and mistreated. But how? How could they thrive as a church and a community inspite of everything that was going on. It's because they were each other's keeper. They were their sister and brother's keepers. They stuck together when times were hard.***Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*** Two people are better off than one, they can help each other succeed. If one falls the other can reach out and help him, A person standing alone could be attacked and defeated but two can back to back and conquer.

They looked out for one another.

Phillipians 2:4

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

They carried each other's burdens

Hebrews 6:2

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

They shared what they had with others

Hebrews 13:16 NIV

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased

As God's Chosen we have to remember not to forget about the importance of community and helping others while we are living out His plan, purpose, and promise in our lives. Amen.

Sent from my iPhone