

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

Store In My Heart

2Corinthians 9:6-7

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Do you want to receive? Then give. Do you want blessings? Then bless others.

Take what God has given you and give to those who are less fortunate. God expects His children to have love and compassion for their fellow man. He blesses us so that we will be able to bless others.

Though helping others should be our motive, by spreading our blessings among others we will receive even greater blessings ourselves. The joy of seeing someone supplied with what is needed is at least one additional way we can be blessed.



Alone!

Joe Fitch

Alone! Alone! What a stark, bleak, terror filled word. Solitary confinement is one of man's most dreaded and destructive punishments. Who has not felt the agony of being excluded and left alone? Bold and strong Elijah wilted under its lash and cried out, *"It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; ...I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts...and I, even I only, am left"* (**1Kings. 19:4,10**). No wonder God examined His creation and said, *"it is not good that man should be alone"* (**Genesis 2:18**). Nor is it surprising that Jesus gave special attention to His disciples when it was time to leave them. He assured them that they would not be left alone -- orphans (**John 14:18**), *"I will pray the Father and He will give you another comforter"* -- One called to the side -- *"that He may abide with you forever"* (**John 14:16**).

God provided for man so that he would not have to be alone. First, He put man in the family. To Adam He gave *"a help meet for him."* -- or a helper suitable to his needs. Family was endowed with the strongest and closest human ties -- a refuge against being alone. Likewise, God gave the nation to meet man's social needs for *"no man lives to himself."* Finally the local church was designed to put together men of like precious faith and hope in God. God knew that in spiritual matters *"it is not good that man should be alone."* Few -- if any -- can make it alone. We are

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Bill Venable is still recovering from surgery.

Joyce Venable has a kidney infection and some pneumonia.

Jon Ross Simpson was released from isolation. Glad they are back with us.

This evening at 5 pm our class on Judges will continue at chapter 8:29.

Our Wednesday evening class on 1Corinthians will start at 7 pm in chapter 12 about verse 18 or so.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

members *"in particular"* but solidly joined to the other members. None stands alone.

By design, the family, nation, and the local church should support and protect a man as he strives to serve God. Often that is not the case. The Lord prepared His disciples for being outcasts from family and society. And churches run by men like Diotrephes *"cast out"* righteous men. Even so, he is not alone. *"At my first answer no man stood with me:"* (**2Timothy 4:16**). We always have an advocate -- a friend by our side.

When "All men forsake us," we must not allow that to distort our values and perspectives. Elijah did. Things were not as black as he painted them. *"I only am left."* There were seven thousand who had not bowed to Baal. His perspective was warned. *"Take my life"* shows his values are out of focus. Many decide to go to hell with a crowd rather than stand alone.

Yet there are places we must go alone. No comrade can stand at our side. In the garden, Jesus prayed alone; the disciples were left behind. They could not share His pain or His prayer. He was alone in His sorrow. We also must meet sorrow alone. Our friends encourage; they want to help. They weep with us, but it is ours alone in the last analysis. We say, "There is nothing you can do." Again, duty stands us alone. Brethren exhort but I alone can do my job -- *"For every man shall bear his own burden"* (**Galatians 6:5**). And at last consider the final judgment where I stand alone even in so great a crowd. Churches and crowds are not judged here, but *"every man...receiving the things done in his body...good or bad"* (**2Corinthians 5:10**).

(I am concerned for those who do not gather with saints on the Lord's Day. They are unable to take advantage of the support that is available when we are together. At times it cannot be avoided but most often when that is the case there is still a desire to be with brethren. We need the support of those with a faith like our own. We need to be with others who care for the same ideals that we hold dear. As this article shows we need companionship. Let us make certain that we find company among those who worship and trust God. Pray, Study, Pray, Apply, Repeat! DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

