

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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Grandpa, I Need You

Vernon Teagarden

These are the words I hear quite often from my grandson, John, who is four. Usually the words mean that he has something to show me that he feels is worth taking an interest in. However, occasionally he really does need my help in some endeavor; like turning stones over to look for “warms,” or getting one of his favorite games down from the top shelf. Nevertheless, whatever his motive may be at the time, I like hearing him say, “Grandpa, I need you.” And although he doesn’t realize it, to hear him say it is not just delightful, but beneficial to me.

I believe all of us would agree that it’s nice to be needed. We like knowing that we have something worthwhile to contribute; to our mate, our family, society, and the church. The apostle Paul had to remind the Corinthians that every member in the body of Christ is needed and essential to the overall good and wellbeing of the church. Some in the church at Corinth, particularly those who possessed certain spiritual gifts, thought of themselves more highly than they ought to think while others, those for example, who did not possess spiritual gifts, had a very low self-esteem. Both parties had to be reminded of the importance of each member of the body and that each member is needed and has something worthwhile to contribute. To teach this lesson, Paul turns his attention to the physical body. He writes, *“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you;’ nor again the heard to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ No, much rather, those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually (1 Cor. 12:14-27,*

NKJV).

Paul’s point is that the church, just as the human body, is composed of many different members functioning in their individual capacity for the overall good of the body. It is not just one, but many members working together. Each member is important and each is needed.

Sometimes we lose sight of this truth. When this happens, then we become dysfunctional. We have forgotten that every member is needed and has a service to render and that the whole body will suffer when any member does not function as they should.

In Romans 12 verse 5, the apostle Paul says, *“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”* The idea is that we, in the body of Christ, are so united as to be mutually dependent. Each is of service to the other. As one paraphrase suggests, *“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others.”*

We ought to realize that we need each other. If the church here is to be a healthy body we need the work that everyone can do. Brother, sister in Christ, “we need you.” Isn’t it nice to be needed?

Note: This article appeared in a previous Sower from 2011 or ’12. It is reprinted here because from time to time Christians need to be reminded of its subject matter.

Southeast Church of Christ

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Service Times:

Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

Creatures with Little Power

Leon Mauldin

In a contrast illustrating four things on earth that are “small,” but are “exceedingly wise,” the wise man said, “rock badgers are creatures with little power, but they make their homes in the crags” (Proverbs 30:24, 26; NET). “Feeble or defenseless they may be, but they find safety in steep, rocky terrain. Their feet have suction-like grip that enables them to scamper among rocky out-cropping's. Their enemies easily overlook a rock badger stretched out motionless on a sun-warmed rock” (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary). The rock badger (also known as the *hyrax*, *coney*; the NAS transliterates *shephanim*) is thus praised as a defenseless creature that lives in places where they are protected from their enemies. They are not naturally strong, but are able to not only survive but thrive because of the way God has equipped them.

None of us is adequate of ourselves to win the battle against sin and Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11). But there is a source of strength at our disposal that enables us to be “more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37; NKJV). The first step in accessing the power of God is to gain entrance into Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “[W]ithout Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). In order to enter Christ, you must believe in Him with all your heart, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Him, and on that basis be baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).

Many passages show that we are not adequate of ourselves; our sufficiency is to be found in Jesus. “I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth” (Psa. 121:1, 2). “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Eph. 6:10). . . .

We, like the rock badger, have little power of ourselves, but through Jesus each one of us can say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13).

Note: Above article take from, “Biblical Insights,” Vol. 13, Number 7, July, 2013

Useful in Service

- author unknown

A great musician willed his beautiful violin to a relative with the condition that it never be played again. Soon the instrument that had made such beautiful music became warped and useless through neglect. This is a reminder that a life withdrawn from service to others becomes empty and useless. Keep you life tuned up and filled with meaning and joy by giving yourself in sacrificial service.

Money-Saving Tip

- author unknown

Here’s a great way to save money: Go to church on Sunday evening. The church’s electric bill won’t be any higher if the building is full, and your own bill will be less (because you won’t be using your lights and TV). You’ll be spiritually helped, the preacher and others will be encouraged, and the Lord will be given greater honor.