

The Helper

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It was early one Saturday morning. I announced to those gathered in the family room, "I am going to mow the front lawn." The quick response back from my then three-year-old grandson was, "Pa, I want to help."

There is not a whole lot of help a three-year old can provide in mowing a front lawn. However, not wanting to disappoint him, and in an effort to honor his worthy request and positive attitude, I agreed to letting him help.

I quickly realized that helping me push a power mower was not a good idea. Weeding the flower beds without pulling up the flowers required a level of skill he had not yet acquired. The easiest and safest chore appeared to be sweeping the sidewalks. After a few minutes of instruction, I gave him a broom that was literally twice his size. With no complaint about the Goliath broom, he went to work, joyfully sweeping here and sweeping there. When his sweeping was done, there was grass and dirt everywhere. I had more sweeping to do myself. However, my grandson was happy he got to help, and so was I.

When it comes to the role of one wanting to be our helper, we sometimes resist. We typically view helpers as novices. In our minds, helpers are inexperienced and need to be shown what to do and how to do it. When we have an important task that needs to get done, it is much easier to do it ourselves, as opposed to training someone to help us. We do not have the extra time to clean up the mess a helper might make.

Our view of helpers considered, how do you view the following very familiar passage of Scripture?

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18).

What is meant by the woman being called a helper? Does this make her a novice? Is she intended by God to be someone only qualified to hold a broom and take care of menial tasks? Maybe we need to rethink of our ideas of a helper. To challenge your thinking of helpers even more, consider this application of the word helper in Scripture:

*Behold, **God is my helper**; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.*
Psalms 54:4 (Emphasis Mine)

The Hebrew word for helper in this verse is the same word that is applied to the woman in the text in Genesis. Do we view God as only being qualified to hold a broom? As a novice? As one who lacks experience? I hope not! When it comes to God, we need His help (cf. Ps. 33:20; 46:1; 121:1-2).

Jesus promised His apostles a Helper. He told them, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may be with you forever" (John 14:16 Emphasis Mine). Here again, God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, is called, a Helper.

The truth is we all need help from time to time. Whether it is the help of others praying for us, or assistance with a particular task, mowing a front lawn, or whatever the situation may require. God created others to be a part of our lives so we would have helpers available: in marriage, in the family, and in the church. In this, He has shown Himself to be the Divine Helper. What do you need help with today?