

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

The Bible Doesn't Say That | Week 1

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John 8:31-32

1. The Cliché Says, “Try _____.”
Grace Says, “You Can’t Save Yourself.”

Ephesians 2:8–9

Grace begins where bragging ends.

2. The Cliché Says, “God Helps the _____.”
The Gospel Says, “God Came for the Helpless.”

Romans 5:6-8

The gospel is not
a helping hand.
It is a rescue
mission.



3. Grace Does Not Make Us _____.
Grace Makes Us Grateful.

*Good works don't earn grace.
They flow from grace.*

Ephesians 2:8-10

Questions for Further Study

1. What is your first reaction to the phrase, “God helps those who help themselves”? Why do you think it sounds so biblical even though the Bible never actually says it?
2. Where are you most tempted to have a performance-based relationship with God—believing He is happier with you when you are doing well spiritually and disappointed with you when you are struggling?
3. Compare Ephesians 2:8–10 with James 2:14–18. At first glance, Paul and James can sound like they disagree about faith and works. What is each writer actually addressing? How do the passages fit together?
4. Read Luke 18:9–14, the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Which man appears to have the better spiritual résumé? Which one goes home justified before God? How does Jesus’ story reinforce the idea that “grace begins where bragging ends”?
5. The sermon ends with the question, “Is that actually what God said?” What practical habits can help us become people who know Scripture well enough to recognize Christian clichés, half-truths, and ideas that only sound biblical?