

“We Need Help”

John 8:12-20

Have you ever been in a difficult, or even desperate, situation? Did you ask for help? If you didn't, why not? We find it hard to ask for help, don't we? We like to think we can handle life on our own. We think that asking for help suggests weakness. But that is not always true.

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope. We're an international Gospel media ministry. Each week our Bible teaching broadcasts circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Tens of thousands tune in each week for spiritual nourishment and blessing.

And how do we know they're listening? Because we hear from them. Here's just one example from a listener in Ethiopia. He shares his testimony and...he asks for help.

A couple of years ago, I was very sick. One day, I got the Heralds of Hope radio program and started listening with my father-in-law. We are not born-again Christians; we were Orthodox Christians. While we continued listening, the program attracted me, and I started praying by hiding myself. I took the phone number from the program one day and called the Call Centre. I spoke to the producer, and he prayed for me. After the prayer I am completely healed from the disease which I suffered a lot before. Even because of my pain I lost my work. Now I am very well. Please pray for my wife that God opens her heart to Jesus. Thank you!

Praise God for this man's healing; not only physically but spiritually too! What a tremendous testimony. But there is still a need. Did you catch it? He asks for prayer for his wife, so that she will open her heart to Jesus just like he has. So, let's pray for them right now.

Gracious, loving, Heavenly Father, we rejoice with this listener in his physical healing. But even more than that, we rejoice in his spiritual healing. He has accepted Jesus as His Savior and Lord. There is joy in Heaven because of his choice to follow Jesus.

And Lord, you have heard his request for his wife, that she would open her heart to You. We know you don't force anyone to follow and serve you. But you, Father, can arrange the circumstances of life to make her more willing to consider the claims of Jesus on her life. All of us who are praying this together right now agree in asking you to do this, Father. And we ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, if you've been tuning in regularly to *Hope for Today*, you know that we're studying from John's Gospel. Our Bible teacher for this series is the late Dr. J. Otis Yoder, founder, and

president of Heralds of Hope. Here he is with today's teaching; "We Need Help." And our Scripture portion is John 8:12 to 20.

The greatest curse of our time, my friend, is go it by yourself, do your own thing. It is not new. Men in other days tried that as well. Long before King David's time the Bible reports every man did that which was right in his own eyes. That is what we see today on every hand. Independence then brought a harvest of anarchy and society went to pieces.

We are living in days uncomfortably like those days long ago. WE NEED HELP to find the way in life. Our most important step in life is to admit our need. Why are we so slow to understand our problem?

A conversation Jesus had with the people of His day will provide us with some very helpful suggestions. It is recorded in John 8:12-20.

12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

13 *The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.*

14 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true; for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.*

15 *Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.*

16 *And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.*

17 *It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.*

18 *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

19 *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

20 *These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*

From these words of Jesus, I wish to point out to you the **REASONS** why we need help.

Reason one is The Prevailing Darkness of Self-will.

Jesus plainly set us the contrast. He said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness." Immediately by implication I understand that Jesus said anywhere else besides following Him is darkness. But there must be a yielding to follow Him. "If any man follows me, he shall not walk in the darkness."

Self-will is the path of darkness. You may think you have light when you don't, because Jesus said if you follow Him you will walk in the light, you'll not be walking in the darkness. So if you are not following Him, then you are walking in the darkness.

King David once said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." The prevailing darkness of self-will is one reason why we need help.

The second reason we need help is The Assailing Error of Human Judgment.

They came back to Jesus like this: "You bare record of yourself. Your record is not true." That had a very shallow basis; it had no footing. It was a response without depth. They had little time for reflection. It was one-sided evidence for Jesus said, "You judge after the flesh." They were not taking all matters into consideration. They had uncertainty because the flesh is shifting. It was unreal because it was partial. You can't make a partial judgment and come near reality.

We need help. Jesus said, "Your law says that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." I affirm, my friend, that God's law will give us help. I affirm we need help because human judgment is not enough. There is error in human judgment. We need help because of the assailing error of human judgment.

The final reason we need help is because of The Alienating Ignorance of the Rational Mind.

We were made to think. Oh yes, God made us that way. Our reasoning ability is part of God's gift to us. But the mind has sidetracks that separate us from God. These people got sidetracked. They said, "Where is your father?" Many left their minds throw up roadblocks.

This was a show of unbelief because they did not believe in Him. But Jesus said, "The Father and I are one." There was a union between Him and God. As the Son of God, Jesus could make such a statement: "If you had known me, you would have known my Father also."

Yes, my friend, we need help. We cannot take this step into knowledge without taking the step of faith. Our minds are too limited. Our rational mind is hemmed in with ignorance. Jesus will

open a whole new field of knowledge for you, my friend. We need help for the alienating ignorance of the rational mind keeps us away from God.

Your greatest step forward will be when you agree with me and God that you need help. Your self-will has you in darkness; Jesus can give you light. Your human judgment has you in error; Jesus can give you truth. Your rational mind has you in ignorance; Jesus can give you knowledge. You need help and He can give it to you.

My friend, there is no shame in admitting we need help. Proverbs 14:12 says, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*” I don’t want my life to end in spiritual death, do you? So, we need the help of God and others to find His way, the right way for living. Then, we can truly know the Heavenly Father.

My friend, I hope this teaching has blessed you. If you have questions, write to us here at *Hope for Today*. We will take your questions to God’s Word and find answers for you.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “I’d be happy to send one to you.

And friend, if you do not have a Bible, and you cannot afford to buy one, please let us know. We will gladly send a copy to you without charge. This offer is only for those who DO NOT have a copy of God’s Word and cannot afford to purchase one. If you meet those qualifications, you may request a copy of the Scriptures from us without cost.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, *We Need Help*.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD. Or ask for your free copy of the Bible if you do not have a copy and can’t afford to purchase one.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John’s Gospel with an important message titled “Understanding Yourself.” You won’t want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.