

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This is a most prevalent ministry which takes place quite a bit, but you hear very little about it in respect to the context of scripture.

**A. SCRIPTURAL SETTING** for helps ministry – I Corinthians 12:1-31, v.28

**B. DEFINITIONS**

**Ministry of Helps** means service and helps (*antilepsis* in the Greek), which means relief, take hold of intern, to participate. In Greek, *antilepsis* (ἀντίληψις) fundamentally means "a laying hold of," "apprehension," or "perception," but in Biblical Greek, it strongly signifies **help, assistance, aid, or a helping action/ministry**, often referring to practical support, especially in the church, like the "helps" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28.

**Helps** (ἀντιλήμψεις) deals with giving your time, talent, ability, influence, input, resources, etc. to someone or something for the purpose of assisting them in achieving a task. "Helps" refers to those appointed to provide practical aid and support within the Christian community.

**II. A LOOK AT GIFTS AND MINISTRY IN GENERAL** 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 31

**A. v.1** God wants us to know about gifts. He has not meant it to be a mystery to us. He wants us functioning.

**B. v.4-6** There are various gifts. These gifts help to serve in a variety of ways. They work differently in different people.

**EXERCISE** *One Incident, Same Room*

Romans 12:3-8 How do these gifts work in people sitting at a table and there is water spilled.

Prophet\_\_\_\_\_

Exhorter\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher\_\_\_\_\_

Mercy\_\_\_\_\_

Leader\_\_\_\_\_

Giver\_\_\_\_\_

**WHO SAID IT?**

A. "I understand you feel bad. I have been there, too. it will be all right."

B. "You get the towels, you get the glass, you do..."

C. "The way to avoid spilling it next time, set the glass like this..."

D. "Everyone makes mistakes, just clean up the mess, get up, and keep going..."

E. "I knew that would happen..."

F. "Do not worry about it. Here, take mine..."



**Note:** We must learn to appreciate diversity and not down on people because their gift is different than ours.

**Example:** Pastor Weems' gift of apostolic oversight  
 Pastor Sweeten's gift of administration  
 Pastor Russell's gift of music  
 Each pastor has a gift to teach

Each appreciates the diversity and work of the other and endeavors to grow in understanding. Yet, each understands their own personal gifting(s) and capabilities.

Remember that when we are faithful God will make us able.

In the body, all pastors may not be administrative, all ministers of music may not be gifted as a biblical teacher, but we all are gifted according to God's grace, as needed in Christ's Body.

### C. THE FIRST CORINTHIANS 12 GIFT LIST

- > v.28-30, two gifts left off in the questioning: 1. Helps 2. Governments
- > Maybe everyone can participate in, or will be affected by, those two gifts.
- > If you do not know your gift, find someone who knows their gifting(s) and help them; A wonderful way to explore your gifting is to help in the ministry of the local church.

### D. WITH HELPS, THERE MUST BE A DEFINED GOAL

- > This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit - *paraklētos*- one called alongside to help.
- > This is the basic ministry of a woman in marriage as the *help mete* (not a help that is weak, but a help that completes)
- > We have been involved in the *ministry of helps* all along, but maybe we have never brought definition to it (food preparation, media ministry, cleaning, crusade prep, etc.)

**EXERCISE:** Think about a well-known preacher or even a local pastor. Do you have a name in your head? Remember when you saw this preacher on a large platform or at a big event?

Do you think that one preacher set the stage, fixed the equipment, flew themselves to the location, prepared their clothes, setup the product display, did the sound checks, and etc. before they preached? No way! They probably would not have the strength to preach after. The gifts of the Body were in operation. Each joint was supplying the other, helping.

What areas have you assisted in? Plenty! Right?



### III. MAIN ASPECTS OF HELPS

**A.** The Helps service will aid the sinner in becoming saved through established ministry means.

> **Example:** Parking makes people comfortable. Greeting makes people feel welcome. Ushers make people feel at ease. Meet and greet makes people feel relaxed.

**B.** The Helps service will aid family members by providing services that make it easier for them to worship and reverence God.

> **Example:** Announcements and information services will do just that, *inform*. Office work is a help ministry. Preparing for communion helps people fulfill an ordinance.

**C.** Three levels of Helps

> the individual that is fulfilling a call

> assisting in the program of the local church

> assisting the growth of the entire body

### IV. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF HELPS AND OPERATION

**A.** John 6:1–13

Jesus made provision for food, but the disciples carried through the work of getting the food to the people and collecting the leftovers.

**B.** Mark 2:1–5

The paralytic was the primary beneficiary.

**C.** Matthew 26:17–20

The disciples were prepared to help and inquired on instructions.

### V. BENEFITS OF HELP TO THE HELPER AND THE HELPED

**A.** A closeness to the one helped – Ephesians 4, each joint *supplieth* the other.

**B.** An increase in knowledge of a particular function or work – earn what *is* or *is not* for you.

**C.** A relief of the burden or stress of a task - Many hands make the load light.

**D.** A broadened vision – being involved is better than hearing about it. Get firsthand insight.

**E.** A function passed on.



## VI. THE CHARACTER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF A HELPER

- A. Must not desire the spotlight or want to be seen.
- B. Must stay in their lane as a helper and never have a takeover spirit. When you lead the lane, you want cooperation.
- C. Must be humble.
- D. Must be flexible in relation to another's vision (They may change their mind after getting more information. The circumstances may require change that you are not aware of.).
- E. Must not be critical of the one you are helping.
- F. Must be submissive (dutiful, meek), "sub under the mission" of another's leadership.
- G. Must be a good listener.

## VII. WRAP UP

A. **Next lesson** focuses on people skills, faithfulness in helping practical ways to help around the local church.

B. **Example:** With different parts of my body, I can move a glass from one location to another. Yet, depending on what body part I use, the task will be done more effectively and efficiently.

**EXERCISE:** I can **wrap my arm around it** and carry it between the upper and lower arm. I can **place it behind my knee**, hop on one leg and get it there. I can **even lay it on the floor and push** or kick it with my feet and toes. The glass will get there, but how much more convenient if my hands were used to pick up the glass and let my legs walk us over. Each joint supplies the other. Do not have the toes doing your handy work!

C. One last time, referring back to page one, **what is:**

**Ministry of Helps?**

**Helps?**

CONGRATULATIONS! We are done with Lesson 1.  
Let's take a break and return for an exciting Lesson 2.



We hope that you have received a good understanding. You can be called to the *ministry of helps* or, if that is not your calling, you definitely always have some place in the local assembly *to help*.