

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. Are you tired of all the snow we've been having?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Have you ever heard the phrase, "God helps those who help themselves?" What has been the context or situation when you have heard this quoted?
3. According to Barna Group, 8 in 10 Americans believe it's found in the bible. Find it!!! Look in the book of Hezekiah.
4. This was quoted by Benjamin Franklin in 1757. But it was first quoted by a Greek fable writer named, Aesop, between 620-564 BC. The fable was titled, "Hercules and the Waggoner". He said, "Tut, man, don't sprawl there. Get up and put your shoulder to the wheel. "The gods help them that help themselves."
5. Is it easy to believe? Pastor Ruben talked about how many people see their relationship with God like a staircase. Can you identify with this image in your spiritual life? Compare with Psalm 18:1-6; 16-17.
6. Have you noticed, many people have a strange resistance to asking for help? Why is that?
  - a. What happens when we don't ask for help? What's the danger?
7. Related to salvation, what does Romans 5:6 tell us about "helping ourselves?" Compare Romans 3:10-12; 23. What do these verses say about our ability to help ourselves? Isaiah 64:6; 2 Cor 5:21; and Ephesians 2:8-9.
8. After salvation, we do see the bible gives evidence that God expects us to take action. What did God tell Moses in Exodus 14:13-16? Please read Proverbs 6:6-11. Why is it easier to do nothing?

9. St. Augustine said, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." What are your thoughts? Compare with 2 Thes 3:6-12.
  
10. Please read James 2:17-20. What is faith without works?
  - a. Should your faith produce action?
  - b. What kind of action should be seen in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ?
  
11. What are your thoughts about these quotes? "Don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet." (Unknown). "Faith without works is not faith at all, but a simple lack of obedience to God." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).
  
12. What action do you need to take?

**Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." - St. Augustine
- "Don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet." - Unknown
- "Faith without works is not faith at all, but a simple lack of obedience to God." - Detrick Bonhoeffer
- Believing alone is not enough. Even the demons believe.