

I Need Help Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Alone

A stark, terror filled word

Solitary confinement is dreaded, destructive punishment

Most have felt agony of being excluded and left alone

God provides help for us - **Genesis 2:18**

Family - strongest & closest human ties, a refuge against being alone

Nation to meet man's social needs for "no man lives to himself"

Jesus gave special attention to His disciples before leaving - **John 14:16-18**

Local church designed to support those of like precious faith and hope in God

Few -- if any -- can make it alone

We are individuals yet solidly joined to others

Forsaken

At times we may feel alone in this world

Companions pose a danger to having God in one's life - **1Corinthians 15:33; James 4:4**

At times we may be the only one standing for God

Moses and the Israelites at Sinai - **Exodus 32:25-26**

Joshua and the children of Israel - **Joshua 24:14-15**

Elijah Versus 450 prophets of Baal - **1Kings 18:21-22**

Paul - **2Timothy 4:16-17**

Jesus, our Example in garden - **Mark 14:50**

Pressured

Elijah's family/nation wanted him dead - **1Kings 19:1-10**

Things were not as black as he painted them "I only am left"

There were seven thousand who had not bowed to Baal

"Take my life" shows his values are out of focus

Worldly people never understand our faith & commitment

Many rather go to hell with crowd rather than stand alone - **1Peter 4:2-4**

Jesus warned against bowing to worldliness - **Luke 21:34-36; Matthew 13:21-22**

Paul warned Timothy - **2Timothy 2:3-4**

Never surrender conviction on what is unquestionably right

Courage of Daniel is required - **Daniel 1:8; Daniel 3:16-18; Daniel 6:10**

Surrender

At times we may feel alone - No comrade can stand at our side

In the garden, Jesus prayed alone; disciples were left behind

They could not share His pain or His prayer; He was alone in His sorrow

We also must meet sorrow alone - Our friends encourage; they want to help; They weep with us,
but it is ours alone in the last analysis; We say, "There is nothing you can do."

Again, duty stands us alone - Brethren exhort but I must do my work - **Galatians 6:5**

In final judgment I stand alone even in a crowd

Churches and crowds are not judged here - **2Corinthians 5:10**

Yet God promised to be with us if we follow Him - **Hebrews 13:5; Jeremiah 42:11; Revelation 2:10**

No worthwhile promise if surrender and compromise with world

Way not easy, especially in our time, but way to righteous living not impossible - **Hebrews 3:12-13**

We are small, in relation to world around us, and world is against us. This is more reason to serve
God in harmony with His will and at peace among ourselves - **Matthew 10:32-39**