MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Luke 18:27
- Philippians 4:13
- 2 Corinthians 11:8

SURRENDER MY WAYS

- Surrender Capabilities
- Practice Support (from God)
- Practice Support (from others)

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him,** for we will see Him just as He is." 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

"But he said, "The things which are **impossible with men are possible with God.**"" Luke 18:27 WEBUS

"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh**;" Philippians 3:3 WEBUS

"Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. For **when I am weak, then am I strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:10 WEBUS

"I can do all things through **Christ who strengthens me**." Philippians 4:13 WEBUS

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. **Where does my help come from? My help comes from Yahweh,** who made heaven and earth." Psalms 121:1-2 WEBUS

"I robbed other assemblies, **taking wages from them** that I might serve you." 2 Corinthians 11:8 WEBUS

"whenever I travel to Spain, I will come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, **and to be helped on my way there by you,** if first I may enjoy your company for a while." Romans 15:24 WEBUS

"But **let him who is taught in the word share all good things with him who teaches.**" Galatians 6:6 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your belief that you are always capable on your own and practice accepting support from others and to especially acknowledge that without God you can accomplish nothing good.

Pray this without ceasing: "God, I stand before You today and confess that I know I can't do it on my own; I am simply not capable. To claim I am able, have the capacity, possess the power, display the potential, or can exercise the strength on my own is a grave error. Today, I confess that it is okay to ask for help; I know I need support from others and especially from You, God. Alone,

nothing good or important is possible to achieve, but with You, oh Lord, nothing is impossible."

Whoever won't surrender their claim that they are capable on their own and instead practice asking for and accepting support from others, and especially God, simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THAT I CAN ALWAYS DO IT MYSELF!

1. Surrender My Ways: Surrender Capabilities & Practice Support

A. <u>Surrender Capabilities</u>

(1) **Introduction:** Surrender that I can ALWAYS do it myself!

(a) **Surrender Capabilities:** To claim you are able, have the capacity, possess the power, display the potential, or can exercise the strength on your own is a grave error.

1. "But he said, "The things which are **impossible with men are possible with God.**"" Luke 18:27 WEBUS

a) It is important to know who you are…

1) **Without God:** you are nothing and can do nothing of any real value.

2) **With God:** you are everything and can do great things with Him and for Him.

b) Even Y'shua Himself acknowledged…On my own I can do nothing!

1) *"**I can of myself do nothing…**"* John 5:30 WEBUS

(2) Approach and Perspective: Rubbish or the Excellency of Christ as your final destination?

(a) Confidence in yourself leads nowhere good…

1. "Beware of the dogs; beware of the evil workers; beware of the false circumcision. For **we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh**; though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. **If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I yet more:** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless." Philippians 3:2-6 WEBUS

a) The proper approach to and perspective on your capabilities, if you identify as one with a circumcised heart for God:

1) Worship God in the Spirit.
2) Rejoice in Christ Jesus.
3) Have zero confidence in your own flesh!

(b) The proper perspective on the gifts, talents, knowledge, capabilities, and skillsets you came with into the faith…

1. "**However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ.** Yes **most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus**, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and **count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ and be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith," Philippians 3:7-9 WEBUS

   a) If anyone thinks that he should have confidence in himself, do this to mitigate the error:

      1) Submit your previous gifts, talents, knowledge, capabilities, and skillsets to Christ for His consideration, and be willing to abandon any and all of them if necessary. They are of use only if they can be used to advance His agenda.

      2) When you consider any capability, every advantage, every privilege, all your training and gains in life, and anything you have ever accomplished outside of Christ, and then

measure them against the *"excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus,"* it is as if they all count for nothing more than a heap of trash.

3) **Safety-net Perspective:** You are nothing good and can do nothing right on your own. Anything good or right about you is because of Christ alone.

(c) Your new destination and how to get there…

1. "that I may **know him and the power of his resurrection**, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, becoming **conformed to his death**, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but **I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus**. Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do: **forgetting the things which are behind** and **stretching forward to the things which are before**, **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus**. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, **think this way. If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you.** Nevertheless, to the extent that we have

already attained, **let's walk by the same rule. Let's be of the same mind.** Brothers, **be imitators** together of me, and note those who **walk this way**, even as you have us for an example." Philippians 3:10-17 WEBUS

a) First meditate on a life without Christ. Imagine the best possible outcome. Where will your capabilities, gifts, talents, knowledge, skillsets, training, and accomplishments get you?
b) Now consider your destination with Christ!
    1) To be intimate with Christ and the power of His resurrection.
    2) To understand His sufferings; to die with Him and resurrect with Him as a new person with a new life.
    3) To aim for perfection—the goals that Christ has in mind for you.
    4) To put the past behind you and to focus only on the things Christ has for you in the future.
    5) To achieve the prize of His high calling in your life.
    6) This is the perfect way to think and if you are not quite there yet, God will reveal it to you.

c) But, to the extent that you are already in alignment with these new priorities, get to it! How? What should you do?

1) Do the things Paul did; walk like he walked as an example.

2) To know what that looks like, you ought to become a serious student of God's Word.

3) In the end, there is NO COMPARISON between the potential goals and accomplishments (the rubbish) of your old life and your new destination in the excellency of Christ!

(3) Y'shua said, "Disregard and renounce anything else when compared to your life in Me."

(a) **Disregard**

1. ""If anyone comes to me, and **doesn't disregard** his own **father**, **mother**, **wife**, **children**, **brothers**, and **sisters**, yes, and **his own life** also, he can't be my disciple." Luke 14:26 WEBUS

a) Prioritize Christ over every person in your life, including yourself!

(b) **Renounce**

1. "So therefore, whoever of you who **doesn't renounce all that he has**, he can't be my disciple." Luke 14:33 WEBUS
   a) Prioritize Christ over every possession you own, or will ever pursue!

(4) When I am weak, then I am strong.

(a) Just in case you are ever tempted to believe you are somehow capable on your own…

1. "**It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast**, but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. **I know a man in Christ** who was caught up into the third heaven **<u>fourteen years ago</u>**—whether in the body, I don't know, or whether out of the body, I don't know; God knows. **I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I don't know; God knows)**, how he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. **On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses.** For if I would desire to boast, I will not be foolish; for I will speak the truth. But **I refrain, so that no man may think more of me than that which he sees in me or hears from me.** By

reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, **that I should not be exalted excessively, a thorn in the flesh was given to me**: a messenger of Satan to torment me, **that I should not be exalted excessively**. Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me." 2 Corinthians 12:1-8 WEBUS

a) *"**Let another man praise you**, and **not your own mouth**; a stranger, and not your own lips."* Proverbs 27:2 WEBUS
   1) It is NEVER a good idea to boast of your own capabilities or accomplishments.
   2) Paul is so sensitive to this idea that he testifies of his accolades, as if he is speaking about another man. *"On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses."*
   3) If he ever feels the desire to boast about himself, even when the things he is tempted to say are absolutely true, he recognizes it would be a fool's errand.
   4) He wants no man to think of him more highly because of anything he might say about himself,

so he refrains from expounding about his own revelations, knowledge, capabilities, or accomplishments.

5) And just in case he ever becomes tempted to do so, he shows us that God purposely accentuates his frailties, absent his relationship with Christ.

(b) About those frailties, Paul is happy to boast!

1. "He has said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Most gladly therefore **I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.** Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then am I strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 WEBUS

a) The less capable you know you are WITHOUT God, the more capable you will be WITH God!

1) Your weakness accentuates God's power! In other words, God's grace is perfected in your frailties.

2) As such, you can consider your weaknesses without God as an invitation for Christ to intervene on your behalf.

3) Paul says that in order for Christ rise to prominence in his life, he gladly takes pleasure in his insufficiencies, wounds, lack, difficulties, and suffering.

4) This admission that he is incapable of anything good without God crescendos with these words, *"**For when I am weak, then am I strong."***

5) Or, as John eloquently concedes, ***"He must increase, but I must decrease."*** *John 3:30 WEBUS*

(5) Let it Rain!

(a) A fascinating story from the Old Testament that demonstrates what it means to "surrender your own capabilities" (1 Kings 18).

1. *The things which are **impossible with men** are altogether **possible with God**.* (Luke 18:27)
2. *We worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **we have no confidence in our own capabilities**.* (Philippians 3:3)

(b) Elijah used Obadiah to arrange a meeting between himself and Ahab (See 1 Kings 18:1-16).

1. "When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" He answered, "**I have**

not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house, in that you have forsaken Yahweh's commandments and you have followed the Baals. Now therefore send, and **gather** to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and **four hundred fifty of the prophets of Baal**, and **four hundred of the prophets of the Asherah**, who eat at Jezebel's table."" 1 Kings 18:17-19 WEBUS

a) The Accusation…

1) **Elijah Confronts Ahab:** *"You and your father's house have forsaken Yahweh's commandments and you have followed the Baals."*

2) Assemble your prophets!

(c) The Challenge…

1. "So Ahab sent to all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together to Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people, and said, **"How long will you waver between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people didn't say a word.** Then Elijah said to the people, "**I, even I only,** am left as a prophet of Yahweh; but Baal's prophets are four hundred fifty men. **Let them therefore give us two bulls;** and let them choose one bull for themselves, and cut it in

pieces, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bull, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under it. **You call on the name of your god, and I will call on Yahweh's name. The God who answers by fire, let him be God."** All the people answered, "What you say is good."" 1 Kings 18:20-24 WEBUS

a) Ahab presents 450 of Baal's prophets (the capabilities of men) against one man, Elijah, who depends on Yahweh alone.
   1) **Elijah gives an ultimatum:** *"How long will you waver between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."*
      a. The people would not commit to a side, so…
   2) **Elijah makes a claim:** I am the only prophet of Yahweh; Baal has four hundred fifty prophets.
   3) **Elijah offers a challenge:** We will each offer one bull as a sacrifice. Your 450 prophets will call on the name of your god, and I alone will call on Yahweh. The God who answers with fire that consumes the sacrifice is the true God.
      a. The people accept the challenge.

(d) Elijah lays out the rules of engagement…

1. "Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves, and dress it first, for **you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."** They took the bull which was given them, and they dressed it, and **called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon**, saying, "Baal, hear us!" **But there was no voice, and nobody answered**. They **leaped about the altar** which was made. At noon, **Elijah mocked them,** and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. **Either he is deep in thought, or he has gone somewhere, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he sleeps and must be awakened."** They cried aloud, and cut themselves in their way with knives and lances until the blood gushed out on them. When midday was past, **they prophesied until the time of the evening offering; but there was no voice, no answer, and nobody paid attention.**" 1 Kings 18:25-29 WEBUS
   a) The prophets of Baal can build their own altar and choose one bull.
      1) All 450 of them can **invoke the name of their god, but they cannot light a fire themselves.**
   b) When you depend on a false God for help…

1) They called on the name of Baal from morning until noon—nothing happened.
2) They jumped around in front of their altar—nothing happened.
3) Elijah mocked them to cry louder; maybe your god is distracted, or he's away on a trip, or perhaps he's asleep.
4) They cried louder—they made ritual cuts in their own flesh until they bled all over the place—nothing happened.
5) They prophesied until evening—nothing happened; there was no voice, no answer, no god to listen.

(e) Elijah's turn—a man who depends on Yahweh alone…

1. "Elijah said to all the people, "**Come near to me!**"; and all the people came near to him. He repaired Yahweh's altar that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yahweh's word came, saying, "Israel shall be your name." With the stones he built an altar in Yahweh's name. He made a trench around the altar large enough to contain two seahs of seed. He put the wood in order, and cut the

bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. He said, "**Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."** He said, **"Do it a second time;"** and they did it the second time. He said, **"Do it a third time;"** and they did it the third time. **The water ran around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.**" 1 Kings 18:30-35 WEBUS

a) NO MATTER how difficult it appears…

1) Elijah called the people near to watch.
2) He repaired Yahweh's altar—with twelve stones (one for each tribe of Israel); he built an altar in Yahweh's name.
3) He prepared the altar (with a trench around it) and the bull and the wood.
4) Then he proceeded three times to fill four jars with water, and to pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood—until the altar, bull, and wood were soaking wet.
5) Then he also filled the trench with water.

(f) When you depend on the true God for help…

1. "At the time of the evening offering, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "**Yahweh, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known**

today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. **Hear me, Yahweh, hear me, that this people may know that you, Yahweh, are God**, and that you have turned their heart back again." **Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench**. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces. They said, **"Yahweh, he is God! Yahweh, he is God!"** Elijah said to them, "**Seize the prophets of Baal!** Don't let one of them escape!" They seized them; and **Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and killed them there.**" 1 Kings 18:36-40 WEBUS

a) Elijah called on the name of Yahweh!
   1) You are God and I am your servant.
   2) I have done everything by Your word, not by my own capabilities .
   3) Hear me, Yahweh, so this people know that You are God, and so that they would repent.

b) The outcome!

1) Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and evaporated the water.
2) The people saw it, repented, and conceded that Yahweh is God!
3) Elijah seized all the prophets of Baal and killed them.

(g) Elijah had prophesied to Ahab that there would be NO RAIN

1. "Elijah the Tishbite, who was one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "**As Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word**."" 1 Kings 17:1 WEBUS

a) This prophecy in 1 Kings 17 (more on this in a bit…) is partly what inspired King Ahab to "search the world" to find Elijah (and NOT to thank him!)

1) **Obadiah Speaking:** *"As Yahweh your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my Lord has not sent to seek you…"* 1 Kings 18:10 WEBUS

(h) 1 Kings 18 began with Elijah prophesying that after three years the rain is coming (the drought is ending)…

1. "After many days, Yahweh's word came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab; and **I will send rain on the earth.**" Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria." 1 Kings 18:1-2 WEBUS
   a) 1 Kings 18 ends with the fulfillment of that prophecy.
      1) *"Elijah said to Ahab, "**Get up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."** So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down on the earth, and put his face between his knees. He said to his servant, "Go up now and look toward the sea." He went up and looked, then said, "There is nothing." He said, "Go again" seven times. On the seventh time, he said, "Behold, a small cloud, like a man's hand, is rising out of the sea." He said, "Go up, tell Ahab, 'Get ready and go down, so that the rain doesn't stop you.'" **In a little while, the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.** Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. **Yahweh's hand was on Elijah**; and he*

tucked his cloak into his belt and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." 1 Kings 18:41-46 WEBUS

b) Surrender Your Capabilities!

1) *The things which are **impossible with men** are altogether **possible with God**.* (Luke 18:27)

2) *We worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **we have no confidence in our own capabilities**.* (Philippians 3:3)

B. <u>Practice Support (from God)</u>

(1) **Introduction:** It's oaky to ask for help!

(a) **Practice Support:** You cannot do it on your own; you need God and others. Practice asking for and accepting support from others, especially God.

1. "I can do all things through **Christ who strengthens me**." Philippians 4:13 WEBUS

a) Without God you can do nothing of lasting value; with Him you can do everything He empowers you to do!

(2) You need God's help!

(a) Where does your help come from?

1. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills. **Where does my help come from? My help comes from Yahweh,** who made heaven and earth." Psalms 121:1-2 WEBUS
   a) **First stop:** You need help and that help comes from God!
      1) *"**Don't you be afraid**, for I am with you. **Don't be dismayed, for I am your God.** I will strengthen you. Yes, **I will help you.** Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10 WEBUS*

(b) The rest of the stops…

1. "He will not allow your foot to be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **Yahweh is your keeper. Yahweh is your shade on your right hand.** The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. **Yahweh will keep you from all evil. He will keep your soul. Yahweh will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forward, and forever more."** Psalms 121:3-8 WEBUS
   a) If you don't believe you can do it on your own and you seek His help…
      1) Yahweh will guide your steps.

2) Yahweh will preserve your life.

3) Yahweh will protect your work.

4) Yahweh will guard you from evil.

5) Yahweh will nourish your soul.

6) Yahweh will illuminate your path.

7) Yahweh will watch over you forever.

(3) How does God make His help available to you?

(a) Power!

1. "For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, don't cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know** what is **the hope of his calling**, and what are **the riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints, and **what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us** who believe, according to that working of **the strength of his might which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule,

authority, power, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come. He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the assembly, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:15-23 WEBUS

a) It begins with **faith** in the Lord and **love** for one another! Then, in the Spirit…
   1) **Seek…** wisdom and revelation to understand what it means to live in an intimate relationship with Christ.
   2) **Open…** your heart to everything God has for you.
   3) **Discover…** what God has called you to do.
   4) **Accept…** the magnitude of your glorious inheritance in Him into eternity—which begins NOW!

b) Believe the above and…
   1) His power available to you will **exceed the greatest of anything you can imagine.**
   2) It's the same power the Father used to **raise Christ from the dead.**

3) That power is what gave Christ His seat at the Father's right hand; a power far above any other rulership, authority, dominion, or name.
4) This power put everything into subjection to Christ and made Him the head over all things.
5) His church (that's you!) now has access to that same resurrection power to come to the fullness of Christ.

(4) What is the magnitude of what is available and how?

(a) With God's help, it's more than you can imagine!

1. "For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that **he would grant you,** according to the riches of his glory, **that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person,** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, **to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strengthened to comprehend** with all the saints what is **the width and length and height and depth, and to know Christ's love** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.** Now **to him who is able to do** exceedingly abundantly above all that

we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us**, to him be the glory in the assembly and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21 WEBUS

a) It's worth the cause…

1) Be strengthened with power through His Spirit.
2) Be rooted and grounded in love.
3) Be strengthened to comprehend the width and length and height and depth of Christ's love, which surpasses head knowledge.
4) Be filled with all the fullness of God.

b) And then accept that…

1) He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the resurrection power** that works in us.

C. <u>Practice Support (from others)</u>

(1) **Introduction:** It's oaky to ask for help from others!

(a) **Practice Support:** You cannot do it on your own; you need God and others.

(b) Receiving/Accepting Support

1. "Or did I commit a sin in **humbling myself** that you might be exalted, because **I preached to you God's Good News free of charge? I robbed other**

assemblies, taking wages from them that I might serve you. When I was present with you and was in need, I wasn't a burden on anyone, for the brothers, when **they came from Macedonia, supplied the measure of my need.** In everything I **kept myself from being burdensome to you,** and I will continue to do so." 2 Corinthians 11:7-9 WEBUS

a) Paul preached the Good News without demanding a salary.
b) However, he happily accepted the financial support that was necessary for him to serve.
c) He certainly had needs and those needs were met by what others supplied.
    1) Various versions of verse 8 say Paul: received support, accepted support, or accepted financial support, for his ministry.
d) When he wrote a letter ahead of his visit to Rome, he explicitly mentions the help he needs.
    1) *"Therefore also I was hindered these many times from coming to you, but now, no longer having any place in these regions, and having these many years a longing to come to you, whenever I travel to Spain, I will come to you. For I hope*

to see you on my journey, ***and to be helped on my way there by you,*** *if first I may enjoy your company for a while."* Romans 15:22-24 WEBUS

(c) Helpful Links

1. Surrender My Giving: God's Resources
2. Surrender My Giving: God's Talents
3. Surrender My Giving: God's Time

(2) You need others to help you…

(a) Paul and his disciples received support…

1. "However you did well that you shared in my affliction. **You yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the Good News, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only.** For **even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need.** Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account. But I have all things and abound. I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus **the things that came from you,** a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable and **well-pleasing sacrifice to God**. **My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in**

glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever! Amen." Philippians 4:14-20 WEBUS

a) Sometimes the support is sparse…

1) In the matter of giving, I received from you only.

2) By the way, when you give, it benefits both the giver and the receiver.

b) And about the support that comes from others…

1) It is a sweet-smelling, acceptable, and well-pleasing sacrifice to God.

2) It is God who supplies every need for those who are giving to support those doing the the work of the Gospel.

(3) It is more blessed to give than to receive.

(a) At the end of his third missionary journey, when Paul is seeing his supporters for the final time, he says…

1. "**I coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothing.** You yourselves know that these hands served my necessities, and those who were with me. In all things I gave you an example, that **so laboring you ought to help the weak**, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, '**It is more**

blessed to give than to receive.' "" Acts 20:33-35 WEBUS

a) Covet no one's stuff!

b) You ought to help the weak.

c) It is more blessed to give than to receive.

(4) Provision for those working for God

(a) Trust for provision when you work for God!

1. "Don't take any gold, silver, or brass in your money belts. **Take no bag for your journey,** neither two coats, nor sandals, nor staff: **for the laborer is worthy of his food.**" Matthew 10:9-10 WEBUS

   a) Don't worry about providing for yourself; God knows the laborer is worthy of support!

(b) Expect provision from those being served.

1. "But **let him who is taught in the word share all good things with him who teaches.**" Galatians 6:6 WEBUS

   a) Those benefiting from your ministry should support the ministry.

(c) If you serve faithfully, you should expect a double portion of provision.

1. "**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor,** especially those who **labor in the word and in teaching.** For the Scripture says, "You

shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain." And, **"The laborer is worthy of his wages.""** 1 Timothy 5:17-18 WEBUS

a) If you labor to study the word and teach it, you are worthy of the support you need to continue in that work.

(d) If your occupation is to serve God, then it is God-ordained that your provision come from that work.

1. "Don't you know that **those who serve around sacred things eat from the things of the temple**, and **those who wait on the altar have their portion** with the altar? Even so **the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News.**" 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 WEBUS

a) If you serve in sacred things, your needs are to be provided for from that service.

b) It's not just acceptable to do so, it's ordained by God to do so!

1) *"The Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News."*

(5) Pride and Humility

(a) Pride: The Support Prevention Line

1. "**Pride** goes before destruction, and **an arrogant spirit** before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 WEBUS
   a) If you are too prideful to ask, you will be too prideful to receive!
      1) *"When **pride** comes, then comes **shame**, but **with humility comes wisdom**."* Proverbs 11:2 WEBUS

(b) Humility: The Support Help Line

1. "**Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and **he will exalt you**." James 4:10 WEBUS
   a) If you are humble enough to ask, then you will be humble enough to receive.
      1) *"Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to the elder. Yes, all of you **clothe yourselves with humility** and subject yourselves to one another; for "God **resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*** **[from Proverbs 3:34]**."" 1 Peter 5:5 WEBUS
   b) Remember, we just saw how Paul humbly accepted support because he, "preached free of charge."
      1) *"Or did I commit a sin in **humbling myself** that you might be exalted, because I preached to*

you God's Good News free of charge?" 2 Corinthians 11:7 WEBUS

(6) Where does my help come from? If comes from GOD AND OTHERS.

(a) A fascinating story from the Old Testament that demonstrates the "practice of accepting support" from God and from others (1 Kings 18).

1. Help from God…
   a) *"I can do all things through* ***Christ who strengthens me****."* Philippians 4:13
2. Help from others…
   a) *"For I hope to see you on my journey,* ***and to be helped on my way there by you,*** *if first I may enjoy your company for a while."* Romans 15:24

(b) Help from God

1. "Elijah the Tishbite, who was one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain** these years, but according to my word." **Then Yahweh's word came to him, saying,** "Go away from here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is before the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook. I have commanded the ravens

to feed you there." **So he went and did according to Yahweh's word**, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith that is before the Jordan. **The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.** After a while, the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land." 1 Kings 17:1-7 WEBUS

a) God's help in the "dry times…"
   1) There shall not be dew nor rain for a season!
b) Yahweh's provision (obey His leading and look for His provision in the dry seasons)…
   1) You shall drink from the brook (he drank from the brook).
   2) I have commanded the ravens to feed you (the ravens brought him bread and meat).
c) Be vigilant when it seems that Yahweh's provision has dried up…
   1) The brook dried up because there was no rain.

(c) That is when God provides help from others…

1. "**Yahweh's word came to him, saying,** "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there. **Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you.**" So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when

he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink." As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "**Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." She said, "As Yahweh your God lives, I don't have anything baked, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jar.** Behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." **Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid.** Go and do as you have said; but make me a little cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward make some for you and for your son. For **Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of meal will not run out, and the jar of oil will not fail,** until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the earth.'" **She went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, he, and her household ate many days. The jar of meal didn't run out and the jar of oil didn't fail, according to Yahweh's word, which he spoke by Elijah."** 1 Kings 17:8-16 WEBUS

a) Listen for His voice… *"Yahweh's word came to him, saying…"*

1) Go, I have commanded a widow to sustain you.
2) So, he arose and went.

b) Ask for what you need…
1) "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."
2) "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

c) Ask even if it seems impossible that the one of whom you are asking could every provide help…
1) I don't have anything!
2) I'm down to the last bit of my own provision!

d) Reminder, when you are called to support God's servants, the provision comes from God: *"**God will supply every need of yours** according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:19 WEBUS
1) "Don't be afraid. Yahweh says, 'The jar of meal will not run out, and the jar of oil will not fail.'"

e) Believe that God is ALWAYS faithful!
1) The source of the support obeyed God…
2) They ate for many days…
3) The provision never failed!

(d) Miracles follow God's Provision: *"Tell your testimonies and God will give you more testimonies to tell."*

1. “After these things, **the son of the woman,** the mistress of the house, **became sick;** and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, you man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to memory, and to kill my son!” **He said to her, “Give me your son.”** He took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the room where he stayed, and laid him on his own bed. **He cried to Yahweh and said,** “Yahweh my God, have you also brought evil on the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?” **He stretched himself on the child three times, and cried to Yahweh and said, “Yahweh my God, please let this child’s soul come into him again.” Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.** Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the room into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, “**Behold, your son lives.” The woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that Yahweh’s word in your mouth is truth.**”” 1 Kings 17:17-24 WEBUS

a) Sometimes when God uses you to support his work, you will be tested!
   1) The woman's son died!
b) Sometimes the source of your miracle comes from the one you supported!
   1) Three times Elijah prayed, "*Yahweh my God, please let this child's soul come into him again*."
c) Sometimes the whole reason you might be called to support the work of God is actually for you!
   1) Yahweh heard Elijah; *"Behold, your son lives."*
   2) **The Testimony:** The woman said to Elijah, *"**Now I know** that you are a man of God, and that **Yahweh's word in your mouth is truth.**"*
d) Both those being supported and those doing the support must share their stories: *"Tell your testimonies and God will give you more testimonies to tell."*
   1) *I can do all things through **Christ who strengthens me**."* Philippians 4:13
   2) *"For I hope to see you on my journey, **and to be helped on my way there by you,** if first I may enjoy your company for a while."* Romans 15:24

Prayer: I SURRENDER CAPABILITIES ***(Father, I stand before You and confess that I know I can't do it on my own; I am simply not capable. To claim I am able, have the capacity, possess the power, display the potential, or can exercise the strength on my own is a grave error.)*** I WILL PRACTICE SUPPORT ***(Today, I confess that it is okay to ask for help; I know I need support from others and especially from You, God. I will practice asking for and accepting support from others, especially God. Alone, nothing good or important is possible to achieve, but with You, oh Lord, nothing is impossible.)***

ASSIGNMENT #12

1. **Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:**
   A. *"For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**"* Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
   B. *"But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed,** nor hidden that will not be known."* Luke 12:2 WEBUS

C. *"For **God will bring every work into judgment**, **with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it** is evil."* Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS

D. *"For **no one can lay any other foundation** **than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is."* 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

E. *"For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God?"* 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Capabilities:** *"But he said, "The things which are **impossible with men are possible with God.**""* Luke 18:27 WEBUS

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

1) Do you confess that you know you can't do it on your own, that you are simply not capable?

2) Will you release any claim that you are able, have the capacity, possess the power, display the potential, or can exercise the strength on your own?

3) Will you acknowledge that alone, nothing good or important is possible to achieve, but with the Lord, nothing is impossible?
4) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to surrender your belief that you are capable on your own?

3. **Practice Support:** *"I can do all things through* ***Christ who strengthens me****."* Philippians 4:13 WEBUS

A. Are you ready to surrender your belief that you are always capable on your own and practice accepting support?
1) Will you admit that you need the support from others and especially from God?
2) Will you acknowledge that without God, you can accomplish nothing good?
3) Do you confess that it is okay to ask for help?
4) Will you practice asking for and accepting support from others, especially God?
5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to practice asking for support?