

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Who Told You That? and the Lies We Believe

Week 9: The Lie—God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

The lie: “God helps those who help themselves.”

THE DEVIL KNOWS EXACTLY HOW TO DESTROY YOU

The devil just wants you to trust yourself instead of Christ.

WHY THIS LIE FEELS SO TRUE.

It is legalism dressed up as wisdom.

LEGALISM & LAWLESSNESS ARE TWINS.

The devil doesn’t care which ditch you fall into—just as long as you don’t walk the narrow road of grace.

WHY WORKS-BASED SALVATION IS SO TEMPTING

Galatians 1:6; 3:1; 5:1.

Legalism pets our pride. Grace crucifies it.

THE DANGER: LEGALISM MAKES YOU PROUD OR DESPAIRING.

Legalism produces two kinds of people:

1. The Proud: “I’m doing well. I’m better than others. God must be pleased with me.”
2. The Despairing: “I’m failing. I’m not enough. God must be disappointed in me.”

THE TRUTH: GOD HELPS THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES

Ephesians 2:1–5; 8–9.

The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary.

THE DEVIL LOVES THIS LIE BECAUSE IT KEEPS YOU WORKING.

A hopeless Christian is an ineffective Christian.

THE ARMOR OF GOD IS NOT YOUR WORK—IT IS GOD’S WORK.

You fight the devil not by helping yourself... but by hiding yourself in Christ.

THE GOSPEL ANSWER: COME EMPTY-HANDED

The Pharisee prayed: **Luke 18:11-12**. The tax collector prayed: **Luke 18:13**.

GOD HELPS THE HELPLESS.

The devil hates this truth—because it sets captives free.