

“Recognize People Trying to Help You”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov., 9, 2024. (It was previously posted on our website for the weekend of Nov. 9 2024.)

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Recognize People Trying to Help You.” This presentation was a follow-up to a presentation that I gave on the previous Wednesday night titled “Recognize People Trying to Hurt You.”

Let’s begin with a short reminder about last week’s article—about recognizing people trying to hurt you.

Son of God recognized danger

- Matthew 16:21—The Son of God told His disciples that he was about to suffer many things from the elders, chief priest and scribes—before they would kill Him.
- John 8:59—When the people took up stones to throw at the Son of God, He hid.
- John 10:39-40—When the people sought to seize the Son of God, He escaped to the area beyond the Jordan River.
- John 11:53-54—When the religious leaders plotted to kill Him, He would no longer walk openly among the Jews.
- John 12:36—The Son of God departed and hid from the crowd.

Now, let’s spend the rest of the time recognizing people who are trying to help us.

Son of God appreciated help

- John 19:25—Four women stood by the cross of the Son of God—His mother, His aunt and two people named Mary.
- John 19:26-27—His disciple named John was also there.
- John 19:28-29—Someone at the cross gave Him something to quench His thirst.

Appreciating actions of service

Let’s notice some other examples of appreciating help.

- Acts 9:36-39—The widows greatly appreciated the good works that Tabitha (translated Dorcas) did for them.

■ Acts 11:28-29—When there was a famine throughout the world, the brethren in Antioch sent relief to the brethren in Judea.

■ Acts 16:40—After Paul and Silas experienced a major episode, they met the brethren in the household of Lydia (a wealthy businesswoman—mentioned in verses 14-15).

Appreciating seven gifts

Have you ever considered how much a congregation would appreciate the seven gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8?

- Gift of prophecy
- Gift of ministry (meaning service)
- Gift of teaching
- Gift of exhortation
- Gift of giving
- Gift of leading
- Gift of showing mercy

More examples in Paul's life

- Romans 16:1-2—Paul appreciated the serving attitude of Phoebe.
- Romans 16:3-4—Paul appreciated the serving attitude of Priscilla and Aquila.
- Romans 16:5-15—Paul mentioned many other people whom he appreciated.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4—Disciples appreciate friends who offer meaningful comfort.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7—Disciples appreciate cheerful givers.
- 2 Corinthians 10:1-2—Disciples appreciate those who offer meekness and gentleness instead of boldness.
- Galatians 6:1—Disciples appreciate people who try to help with a spirit of gentleness.
- Galatians 6:9-10—Disciples appreciate people who seek to do good toward others.
- Philippians 2:19-23—Paul appreciated the serving attitude of Timothy.
- Philippians 2:25-30—Paul appreciated the serving attitude of Epaphroditus.
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18—Paul appreciated the serving attitude of Onesiphorus.