

- set up tables and chairs
  - decorate for parties
- pick up people for church (children, widows)
  - pick up guest speakers at the airport
- deliver meals and flowers to the sick
  - ushers
- volunteer secretarial work (typing, filing, mailing)
  - advertising committee
  - preparing the elements for the Lord's Supper
    - serve as a deacon
    - serve as a deaconess
  - work in the sound room (set up, maintain, and run audio equipment)
    - tape ministry

### THE CONCEPT OF HELP

1. A has something he wants to do.
2. But he can't do it alone. Some jobs are too big for one person.
3. He needs help from *B*.
4. *A* asks *B* for help, or *B* sees the need and volunteers to help.
5. Together they can do what one person can't do alone. What's impossible for one is possible for two.

6. Helping demands cooperation: "One...two...three...lift!" You can't pull in opposite directions.

7. Helping provides fellowship and a sense of oneness (closeness). You're on the same team working toward the same goal.

8. Helping speeds things up and lessens the work load of each. The job can be done faster and with less effort.

9. *A* needs *B*. He can't do it alone. That makes *B* important—and needed.

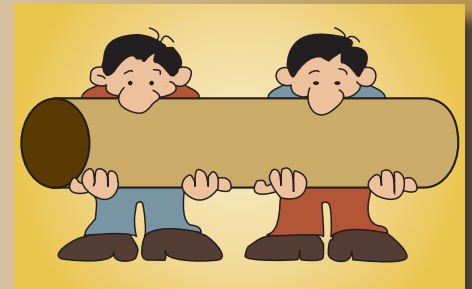
10. *A* owes his success in part to *B*. What would have failed becomes successful with *B*'s help.

11. *A* should appreciate *B*'s help; he couldn't do it alone.



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# The Gift of Helps



**A**nd God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.  
 ~1 Corinthians 12:28~

**A**nd since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly:  
 if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;  
 if service, in his serving...  
 ~Romans 12:6-7a~

## THE GIFT

1. Helps is a serving gift (cf. 1 Peter 4:11).

2. The gift of helps is mentioned only once in the Bible (1 Cor. 12:28).

The noun *antilempsis* 'help' occurs in the plural and should be translated "helps" or "helpful deeds." The verb *antilambano* is used of helping the weak (Acts 20:35) and the intensive form *sunantilambanomai* is used of Martha asking for help in the kitchen (Luke 10:40).

In extra-biblical Greek, the noun *antilempsis* is used of (1) the Jews helping Judas the Gaulanite fight for freedom (Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.4), (2) an official helping a person get what he wants by sending his request to a higher official (Paris Papyri 26.40), (3) God's help in returning to Jerusalem from Babylon (1 Esdras 8:27), (4) God's help in keeping people alive during persecution (LXX Psalm 21:19; cf. 3 Maccabees 5:50; Sirach 51:7), (5) God's help in battle—God helped Israel defeat the Assyrian king Sennacherib by killing 185,000 soldiers (2 Maccabees 8:19; cf. 15:7).

3. The gift of helps (1 Cor. 12:28) and the gift of service (Romans 12:7) are

the same gift.

4. The gift of helps is the backbone of the local church. It's an important gift, not a consolation prize.

5. The gift of helps is a practical gift: it's lending a hand around the church.

6. The gift of helps is given for the benefit of the church—to help others (cf. 1 Cor. 12:7).

7. The gift of helps frees those with speaking gifts to devote more time to prayer and ministering the Word (Acts 6:1-6). This gift takes care of time-consuming details and releases others to spend more time using their gifts.

8. The apostle Paul took a team of helpers with him on his missionary journeys (Acts 13:5; 19:22; 20:4). They freed him from making tents so he could concentrate on preaching, teaching, and evangelism.

9. The gift of helps was not given to help the poor, sick, aged, widows or orphans. That's the gift of showing mercy.

10. Those who have the gift of helps (service) make the best deacons.

11. Women can have the gift of helps (Romans 16:1-2).

12. More people have the gift of helps than any other gift—as much as 50% of a congregation. Why? Because spiritual gifts are given in proportion to the need.

13. The gift of helps puts your natural talents, abilities, training, and expertise to work. A carpenter with the gift of helps, for instance, may spend his time making necessary repairs around the church.

14. Church leaders appreciate the gift of helps because it distributes the work load and keeps people from burning out.

15. Here are some ways you can use your gift of helps around the local church:

- care for the church building and property (trustees)
- cooking meals (youth fund-raising dinners, pot-luck suppers)
  - work in the nursery
- preparing materials and crafts for Sunday school teachers
  - VBS helpers and directors
  - youth work (directors, chaperones, drivers, helpers)
- bus drivers and mechanics