

The Outstretched Hand

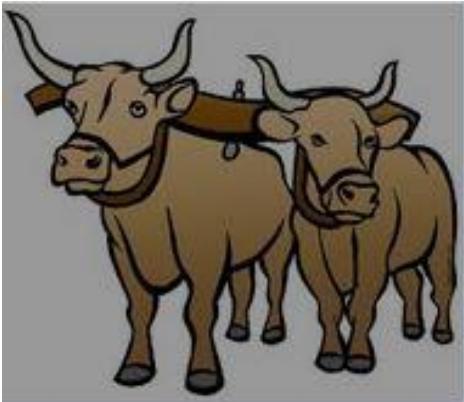
One of the familiar scenes in cartoons and movies shows a person hanging onto something for dear life. When their grip is slipping they know that a fall will lead to certain death. Above them is a person reaching out their hand in an attempt to save them. With great fear the person in peril reaches up for help. The scene goes into slow motion as you see the hands of the rescuer and victim inching towards each other. The rescue will only happen if the person in peril reaches for the rescuer for help. After an agonizing, long-drawn out ordeal the two hands meet and the person is pulled to safety. Even though we know the eventual outcome, we hold our breath during the whole ordeal.

Do you hold your breath when asked to do something out of your comfort zone? While you may have faith in God you hold back about certain tasks He wants you to do. In a chapter entitled “Come to Jesus” Oswald Chambers describes our resistance very well, saying we will “argue or evade” doing something we are uncomfortable with. Chambers said, God is saying “Come to me.” He will see us through and equip us to handle what He wants us to do. “The Holy Spirit will show you what you have to do, and it will involve anything that will uproot whatever is preventing you from getting through to Jesus. ... The Holy Spirit will search out that one immovable stronghold within you, but He cannot budge it unless you are willing to let Him do so.” We have to let it go and trust God.



There is more than one outstretched hand. Chambers goes on to say that “God has stood with His hands outstretched not only to take you but also for you to take Him.”

The Bible says: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew



11:28-30). The image of a yoke is that two oxen are sharing the burden of a task. When you accept God’s invitation to come to Him He will share the burden of the task you had previously resisted.

The man hanging for dear life on the cliff has his hand outstretched to the rescuer. The rescue is made when both hands extend towards each other and meet. God’s hands are outstretched to you. Stretch out yours and take His. When you do that God will meet you and carry you through whatever difficulty you face.

Question: What task do you know God wants you to do for Him but you are resisting?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We think we know our limitations and avoid anything that would stretch us beyond our comfort zone. We pray that we will give in, and stretch our hands to meet your outstretched hand of support. The outcome is never in doubt if we trust that God will be there with us. Amen.