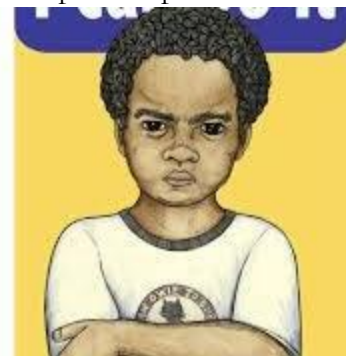


I Do It Myself

If you have been a parent to young children, you can probably relate to this example. When you offer to help a two-year-old, sometimes you get the response, “I do it myself.” The youngster is eager to grow up and be independent. Even though the parent is ready and willing to help accomplish a task, the youngster wants to go it alone. Perhaps there is more to the story – the child wants to do it *their* way, not necessarily your way.

Don't we do the same? We know God is ready to help us, but we want to do things ourselves whenever possible. And our way may not be God's way. The online picture I saw with the “I do it myself” caption depicts a child with an “attitude” when he tells a parent, “I'll do it myself.” It is a picture of a child with a rebellious attitude. Is it possible that we have a rebellious attitude when we ignore God and do things ourselves? We call on God only when we think we need Him. The rest of the time, we seek to do things our way.

One of my readings this week was the October 10 writing in Jesus Calling (a daily devotional by Sarah Young). If you haven't read this book, the author writes each devotion as if Jesus were talking directly to you. The words are based on scripture, not the author's imagination. While Sarah Young didn't interview Jesus, the Bible tells us this is what He would say to us.



It reads: “Trust Me enough to let things happen without striving to predict or control them. Relax, and refresh yourself in the Light of My everlasting Love. My Love-Light never dims, yet you are often unaware of My radiant Presence. When you project yourself into the future, rehearsing what you will do or say, you are seeking to be self-sufficient: to be adequate without My help. This is a subtle sin – so common that it usually slips by unnoticed.

The alternative is to live fully in the present, depending on Me each moment. Rather than fearing your inadequacy, rejoice in My abundant supply. Train your mind to seek My help continually, even when you feel competent to handle something by yourself. Don't divide your life into things you can do by yourself and things that require My help. Instead, learn to rely on Me in every situation. This discipline will enable you to enjoy life more and to face each day confidently.”

We forget that God is always present in our lives. He wants to guide us if we listen to Him. It is human nature to think we can do some things ourselves and only call on God when we face a difficult task or situation. God wants to be part of our entire lives, not just when we reach out to Him. If we are one with God, His light shines through everything we do. In doing this, we live in the present and in God's presence.

The Bible Says: *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. (Psalm 37:3-6)*

Prayer: Most loving, Heavenly Father. You are right beside us as we go through each day. We pray that we will open our hearts and include You in all our decisions and reflect Your light in all we do. Amen.