

Lean on Me

## LEAN ON ME

Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on  
- Bill Withers "*Lean on Me*"

I feel no shame in telling you that I need some help from time to time. In his song, *Lean on Me*, Bill Withers takes the time to speak about his feelings of loneliness after moving to another city away from family and friends. I believe that part of the appeal of this song is that it taps into a desire we all have inside to feel connected to others and part of a larger community.

However, in the quest for success, this desire is often pushed aside as we pursue our unfettered dreams. You and I live in a fast-paced society urging us to go it alone and to do things on our own. And, although it may seem very noble to take on the world alone, is that really the way God has called us to live? Does being independent also mean that we have no need for help or assistance in anyway?

In the very beginning, God looked at His newly minted man and made the statement that it was not good that man was alone (Genesis 2:18). Now, while we often take this to the logical point of marital relationships and the like, another meaning has a much broader and deeper application. You and I were never meant to face this world in isolation, but in a community connected with God and with each other (Romans 12:5). Indeed, even our salvation is not something that we can enter into as individuals, but is described as a community event as we ALL rise to meet Jesus in the air at His return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

If God desired us to go it alone then the Bible would speak more about individual achievement and excellence. But it doesn't. Scripture instead speaks of many an individual who decided not to go it alone, but instead reached outward and upward for help in their times of need. Just look at these examples:

- David conquered Goliath with the power of the Holy Spirit, not by his own strength (1 Sam 17:37, 45–47). Later on “mighty men”, who encouraged and protected him until the throne was his, (2 Samuel 23), were his constant companions.
- Noah built the ark with God's guidance (Gen 6:11–17).
- Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt with God as his guide and the help of a sidekick named Joshua.
- After His anointing by the Holy Spirit, Jesus preached the good news with the help of 12 disciples.

Do you have goals you wish to achieve? Lean on one another and depend on the Holy Spirit, then those dreams can step into reality. Doing things on our own is exactly what the evil one wants us to do. Instead of depending on self, depend on God. Instead of going it alone, gather in community. We all need someone to lean on, and there is no stronger support than Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Refuge (Psalm 71:3).

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