

YOU ARE NEEDED!

John Isaac Edwards

As every part of the physical body is needed for it to function properly, you are needed in the body of Christ! Paul wrote, *“Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary”* (1 Cor. 12:22). Let me call to attention some specific places you are needed. You are needed...

1) IN SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE. Good examples are hard to come by these days! The Bible exemplified in your life will make you an example worthy of imitating. Jesus taught, *“Ye are the salt of the earth.... Ye are the light of the world....”* (Mt. 5:13-16). Your salt needs to be savour-filled (v. 13). Are you letting your light to so shine that your Father is glorified (v. 16)? The Corinthians were informed, *“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men”* (2 Cor. 3:2). What are folks reading? What does your epistle say? Timothy was taught, *“...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Tim. 4:12).

2) IN ATTENDING THE SERVICES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH. The Scriptures teach

such a thing as local church membership where individuals are identified to work and worship with the church of Christ at a specific locale. A good example is when Saul *“... assayed to join himself to the disciples...”* in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26). As a member of the local church, you have the privilege and responsibility of being present for all the assemblies of the church. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”* (Heb. 10:25).

3) IN DOING PERSONAL WORK. Teaching others the word of God is not just the work of elders and preachers. It is the personal work of every Christian! First-century Jerusalem church members stand out in this respect. They *“...went every where preaching the word”* (Acts 8:4). Thus, lost souls were saved, churches were planted and *“...increased in number daily”* (Acts 16:5). I challenge you to be a Cornelius, who *“...called together his kinsmen and near friends”* (Acts 10:24) to *“... hear all things that are commanded thee of God”* (Acts 10:33). Perhaps, you are in greater position to have more good influence on your kinsmen and near friends than anyone else! How about setting up a

Bible study in your home this week? I'll come teach it.

4) IN HAVING A GOOD ATTITUDE. There are entirely too many bad attitudes today. Negativity, envy, pride, murmuring, ingratitude, selfishness (and the list goes on), are all around. Have we learned, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”* (Prov. 23:7)? It is up to each of us to control our thinking. How about representing *“...all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love”* in your attitude (Eph. 4:2)?

5) IN BEING EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, AND TEACHERS. These are gifts given by the Lord to equip the church to do its Christ-directed work (Eph. 4:7-12). There is a real shortage of such today. The church needs those who are faithful and able to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers...”* (Heb. 5:12). There is a great need for men and women to be what bishops (pastors, elders) and their wives must be (1 Tim. 3:1-7, 11) so as to have Scripturally qualified men to feed and lead the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28). We need more men like

Isaiah who say, “...Here am I; send me” (Is. 6:8). “...how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14). Will you step up to the plate?

6) IN PROMOTING PEACE AND UNITY. Among the things the Lord hates is “...he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov. 6:19). In fact, Romans 16:17 teaches, “...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17). Unity is good, pleasant and precious (Ps. 133). The Lord prayed for it (Jn. 17:20-21). The apostles pleaded for it (1 Cor. 1:10). You must be “Endeavouring to keep...” it (Eph. 4:3)! This requires speaking the same thing, being of the same mind, and walking by the same rule (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16). Are you following “...after the things which make for peace...” (Rom. 14:19)?

7) IN DOING GOOD WORKS. This very thing will bring about a great separation of people in the judgment (Mt. 25:31-46). Women like Tabitha, who “...was full of good works and almsdeeds which she

did” (Acts 9:36) are much needed in the twenty-first century! Among the credentials for a widow taken into the number is, “Well reported of for good works...” (1 Tim. 5:10). Christ gave Himself for us to be a people “...zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). Does this describe you?

8) IN SUPPLYING YOUR PART. Ephesians 4:16 teaches every joint supplying and every part working. “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16). All it would take for the church to increase in many places is for there to be more supplying members! Just think if several joints and parts of your physical body didn’t supply or work! The church is handicapped from reaching its full potential when you don’t supply your vital part! “...the body is not one member, but many” (1 Cor. 12:14). Look for ways you can be involved, “...always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye

know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

9) IN OBEYING THE LORD. The book of God teaches obedience to God. Read the book of Deuteronomy sometime — its keynote is obedience! Jesus preached, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). Christ is “...the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9). Initial obedience to the Lord is expressed by hearing, believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:22; 16:31; 17:30; 8:37; 2:38). Have you?

10) IN BEING FAITHFUL. Few are faithful! Read Hebrews 11 to learn traits of the faithful. Do you possess these? The Lord said, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). You are needed in being “stedfast” and “unmoveable” (1 Cor. 15:58).

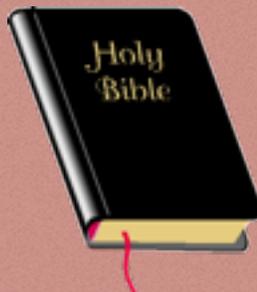
Remember, you are needed!

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