

MisQuoted “God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

July 24, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

According to the Barna Research Institute...

_____ % of Americans agree strongly with this statement

_____ % of “born-again” Christians agree with it, and

_____ % of non “born-again” Christians agree with it.

How is this statement sometimes _____?

1. God _____ me with my abilities and talents. Grace!
2. God _____ me by sending his Son, Jesus. Grace!
3. God _____ me by sending his Holy Spirit. Grace!
4. God _____ me with earthly blessings. Grace!
5. God _____ me eternal blessings in heaven. Grace!

⁸ *The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.* **Proverbs 19:8, NIV**

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” **John 14:23, NIV**

¹ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ² *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—* ³ *“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”* **Ephesians 6:1-3, NIV**

In the context of _____, God does reward my faithful obedience according to his _____ and _____.

¹⁵ *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.* **James 5:15a, NIV**

¹⁰ *For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”* **2 Thessalonians 3:10, NIV**

In a _____ sense, God frequently uses natural means to _____ my prayers for help.

⁴ *You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall...* **Isaiah 25:4, NIV**

How is this statement _____? First, God loves to help those who _____ themselves.

¹⁰ *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”* **Romans 3:10-12, NIV**

Second, there is _____ who *can* help themselves spiritually in God’s sight. We are _____ helpless to do good.

⁶ *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* **Romans 5:6, NIV**

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—* ⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.* **Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV**

Third, Christ helped the powerless by _____ alone.

MEMORY VERSE

⁴ *You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress...* **Isaiah 25:4, NIV**

Bottom line: In grace, God helps those who *can’t* help themselves. In grace, he also rewards who by faith *obey* him.

What’s your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.