



Sermon Series: Thrive: Living on Purpose

To be used with Session 5: Purpose Expressed

Sermon Title Possibilities: I Need You to Survive

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Thrive: Living on Purpose” this sermon teaches us that the church, as the body of Christ, thrives when its members actively care for and support one another. This collective effort strengthens the entire community, allowing it to flourish and fulfill its divine purpose. Paul’s teachings call believers to embody this principle, ensuring that everyone in the community can thrive spiritually and remain faithful to God’s calling.

The beauty of this sermon is that it is a reminder that we do not walk alone; we are called to support one another while still holding responsibility for one another. It is an individual calling and a collective calling that is God-honoring, Christ-centered, and mutually supportive. As we examine Paul’s directives to the Galatian church, may we be challenged to support one another in ways that draw us closer to God and strengthen the body of Christ. Let us embrace this mutual responsibility, recognizing that our collective faith and commitment can lead to a more profound and unified spiritual journey.

Introduction: In 2007, Hezekiah Walker released a self-titled album, *The Essential Hezekiah Walker*. Among the many great songs on this album, the most popular was “I Need You to Survive.” This song’s essence speaks to the collective strength of people supporting and encouraging one another to overcome life’s challenges and obstacles. The first line of the song states, “I need you, you need me, we’re all a part of God’s body.” While simple in message, it underscores the collective, individual, and selfless responsibility believers have for one another.

Such is the case in our text. Paul is preparing the church of Galatia to collectively live out the principles of the faith through the guarding and protecting of one another. While the responsibility for one’s faith is individual, the support of one’s faith is the responsibility of the entire body. Paul emphasizes that the community of believers must work together, nurturing and uplifting each other to ensure that everyone remains steadfast in their walk with Christ. This

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mutual support system is crucial for overcoming the challenges and temptations that threaten their spiritual journey.

1. Collective Survival (Galatians 6:1-3).

Paul, overwhelmed by how quickly the Galatian church fell away from the faith (Galatians 1:6), implements a method for restoring those overtaken by wrongdoing (v. 1). He acknowledges each individual's responsibility to manage themselves, but he is also aware that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we must collectively respond and support one another. In doing so, no one is left behind, and no one walks alone on this journey of life.

Carrying one another's burdens is the call of the spiritually mature and Paul specifically calls out those individuals who possess the kind of spirit and anointing needed to handle those overtaken in sin, guiding them gently back to the fellowship of the Galatian church. Paul reminds them that carrying one another's burdens fulfills the law of Christ and prevents individuals from becoming puffed up and arrogant, considering themselves something when they are nothing (v. 3).

This collective responsibility for the spiritual sanctity of the fellowship is paramount for maintaining God's order and commands. It is a responsibility that can reap dividends as individuals are won to Christ by the way the body of believers loves one another. Paul's directive encourages the community to be a supportive and restorative force, reflecting Christ's love and grace. This approach not only strengthens the faith of individuals but also builds a resilient and compassionate community that honors God.

2. Individual Survival (Galatians 6:4-8).

Despite the support given from the body of Christ, there is also a significant responsibility placed on the individual. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul requires the Corinthian church to examine themselves before taking communion. This theme of self-examination is a hallmark of Paul's teaching, and in Galatians 6:4, Paul instructs each person to examine their own work without comparing it to others, reminding them that everyone will have to carry their own load (v. 6).

This "individual responsibility" is essential. We all know people who blame others for their mistakes or expect others to support them without taking ownership of their actions. Although collective responsibility is emphasized in the first three verses, Paul does not forsake individual responsibility. It is one thing to give a handout, but it is another to give a hand up. Many people will not take responsibility for their own actions and blame others for failing to meet godly standards.

While this may be a game to some, Paul reminds them that God is not mocked and that a person will reap what they sow (v. 7). While the church body provides support, it is the individual's responsibility to sow to the Spirit so that they may reap eternal life from the Spirit (Galatians

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6:8). This dual focus on collective and individual responsibility ensures that while believers support each other, each person must maintain their personal accountability before God. By balancing these aspects, the community of faith can grow stronger and more faithful in their walk with Christ.

3. Selfless Survival (Galatians 6:9-10).

Paul finishes his plea to the Galatian church with a reminder to keep doing good. This directive carries significant weight for several reasons. First, it acknowledges that they are already engaged in good works, encouraging them to continue in their efforts. Second, it emphasizes that others are the beneficiaries of their good deeds, urging them to keep being a blessing to those around them.

Moreover, Paul highlights the natural value of doing good by pointing out that there is a reward to be received. While believers do not engage in good works with the primary intention of receiving a reward, the byproduct of selfless acts is indeed a reward. This reward serves as a divine affirmation of their efforts. In Galatians 6:9-10, Paul encourages the believers to not grow weary in doing good, for in due time they will reap a harvest if they do not give up. Therefore, as opportunities arise, they should continue to do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

By urging the Galatians to persist in their good works, Paul reinforces the importance of sustained effort in living out the faith. This persistence not only benefits the community but also aligns with God's purpose, ensuring that their labor is not in vain. Thus, Paul's message underscores the dual aspects of responsibility and reward in the Christian life, motivating believers to remain steadfast in their commitment to doing good.

Conclusion: Hezekiah Walker's song has biblical backing and reminds us of the importance of needing each other. It's not just to help get through this thing called life but also to fulfill the mandate of Jesus Christ in making disciples of all nations. If we fail to keep our eyes on this reality, the loss will be substantial, and the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ will be in vain. Let us remember to bear one another's burdens for the sake of the cross. Let us examine ourselves for the sake of the cross. Let us not grow weary in doing good for the sake of the cross. We need each other to survive so that we can uphold the blood-stained banner of the cross.

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