

Bearing Those Who Bear The Lord

*II Cor. 11:28 “Beside those things that are without,
that which cometh upon me daily,
the care of all the churches.”*

*Acts 20:28 “...over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the
church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

*II Cor. 1:-7 “ And whether we be afflicted, it is for your
consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which
we also suffer:
or whether we be comforted
it is for your consolation and salvation.”*

*I Thes.1:8-9 “So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted
unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto
us. For ye
remember, brethren, our labor and travail: for laboring night and day, because we would
not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.”*

*Phil. 2:17 “Even if my lifeblood must be poured out as a drink offering upon the
sacrificial offering of your faith, still I am glad to do it and congratulate you all on your
share in it.”*

Introduction

There is the spirit of the Lord's dying that works in leadership to bear and care for the Body of Christ. Jesus Himself said that those who have authority in His Kingdom are servants to all and that they minister by laying down their lives so that others may gain (Mat. 20:25-28). Paul spoke of daily bearing the care of the churches among the many other hardships that he endured as a minister and bond servant of the Lord (II Cor. Chapter 11). There is a weight of care for others given to those that God has put in oversight for His Church. Those who stand for us in this way do so at the cost of their own lives in so many ways.

It can be so easy to assume that it is just the leader's job to endure the many hardships that are involved in caring for and bearing the needs of the Church. At times we may even stand afar off and be uncaring or even critical. Yet the spirit of Christ is meant to work in the whole Body so that we would all bear the burdens one of another (Gal. 6:2).

While we can never remove the specific burdens of God's ordained and anointed leaders, we can lift their arms up. We can help them bear their load in the spirit of love through the nature of Christ.

The Example of Moses

One great illustration of this attitude at work in God's people is the example of Aaron and Hur holding Moses' arms up.

Exodus 17:9-12 "And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."

There is no doubt that Moses was the man carrying God's authority in this situation (Ex. 3:12). Although Aaron and Hur could not take on Moses' authority and carry the rod, they could care for the arms that were holding the rod up. There came a time where God's leader got tired and needed a stone to sit on and someone to help uplift his weary arms.

If you look at a picture of Moses lifting the rod up with Aaron and Hur holding his arms, it would look much like a picture of Jesus on the Cross, only there would be someone on each side holding the arms up. Only Jesus, the Lamb of God, could bear the death that would bring victory over sin and death to us all. His hands were nailed to the tree, for this was the "rod" He alone could lift up to bring our victory. Yet, even with the Son of God, there were those who ministered unto Him during the time of His death. Mary of Bethany anointed Him for burial (Jn. 12:7). Simon of Cyrene helped Him carry His Cross. The Apostle John and Jesus' mother were there at His death. None of these people could get on that Cross and die for Jesus, but they could be with Him in ways that demonstrated their care.

Certainly Moses was bearing the care of the congregation in many ways daily, for leading an enormous multitude of complaining people through a hot desert for forty years would bring many burdens upon the leadership. Yet there were those there who were mindful of Moses' needs, such as Aaron and Hur. It was the same with Jesus. As He was daily ministering to the needs of others there was always a few who took care of His needs (Mk. 15:40-41). They could never replace what only Jesus could do, but they could strengthen the man who lived to pour out to others. Their passion and ministry was to care for the needs of Jesus as He cared for the needs of the multitudes. Rather than seeking Jesus out only to receive something from Him, they thought upon His needs and sought Him out to care for Him.

Simon of Cyrene

Mat. 27:32 “And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name:him they compelled to bear his cross.”

When Jesus went to die on the Cross to bear all the sins of the world, He grew tired and weary and eventually fell down. Thank God for Simon of Cyrene who was there for the Lord in this hour of sacrifice. Although Simon was not responsible to die on the Lord’s Cross, he was called upon to help Jesus bear the weight of it. The scriptures declare that Simon was “compelled” to help Jesus. In the midst of being mocked, spit upon and beaten, Jesus became physically exhausted by the weight of the wood. Even the Roman soldiers saw the need for someone to help Jesus at this moment, therefore compelling Simon to step up and bring support.

There are times to “step up and bring support” to those who bear the dying of the Lord Jesus for the care of the Body (II Cor. 4:10-12). It may be our prayers and intercession that rise to the occasion. It may be a small gesture that notices some area where we have the time and ability to help out and lighten the load. It is in the simplicity of being mindful of others that we will find ourselves caring for their needs, even as Paul asked the Colossians to “Remember my bonds” (Col. 4:18).

The Spirit Of Uplifting The Arms

These are just a few ways that the spirit of uplifting the arms can be demonstrated. We can intercede for those who care for the needs of the Church, remembering them in our prayers (Rom. 15:30). We can keep a guard on our tongue to speak words that sow peace and the unity of the Spirit among the brethren rather than stirring up strife and problems (James 3:5, Phil. 2:1-2, Eph. 4:3). We can financially care for the needs of those who spiritually sow into our lives (I Cor. 9:9-15).

Those who care for the churches have needs just like everyone does. Because so much of their time is spent on the needs of others, there can be many opportunities to remember their needs. It may seem temporal and meaningless to bring a fellow saint a glass of water, or put down a pillow where a stone was being slept on. But these things can help lift the load in ways. Such thoughtful care can help make a difference.

The scriptures exhort us to remember those who are in bonds (Heb. 13:3, Col. 4:18). Another way of saying this could be to remember those who are the bond servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, and consider what they go through for the needs of others. Paul was put in harms way and endured many hardships so that he could care for the needs of the churches (Eph. 6:20, Phil. 1:7, II Tim. 2:9).

The scriptures exhort us to make it easy on those who give an answer for our souls (Hebrews 13:17). Apart from just mechanical obedience to this mandate, there is an attitude that can work in our hearts fulfilling the spirit of this request. Our attitudes and actions can, at times, be like added weight on the shoulders of those who are already carrying an enormous load. We can “take some of the weight off” by simply allowing

Jesus to live through us!

As we think on the needs of others we begin seeking first the Kingdom where Christ esteems others above Himself. We will find the nature of Christ activated within as we begin to see outside of ourselves into the many sacrifices that are made constantly on our behalf. The love of Christ will constrain us to stop and take note of the needs of others as we allow the royal law of love to guide our path and fill our hearts.

Conclusion

Christ is magnified in His Body as together we bring forth the fruit of His indwelling nature. Within each function and through every member there is the need for the support and care of the other members. Through the love of God we can edify one another, strengthening and supporting each other as we truly manifest what it is all about, more of Jesus filling all things!***

“And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen” (Rom. 15:29-33).