

Does God Help Those Who Help Themselves?

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Introduction:

10 Things the Bible Doesn't Say that Christians Often Do (Janet Denison)

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

I. Where did this idea come from?

- Greek writers/philosophers (Sophocles, Euripides, Orestes, Ovid)
- The Koran
- English writers (George Herbert, Algernon Sidney)
- Puritan Ethic/Work Ethic/American Dream
- Ben Franklin (*Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1736)
- Henry Clay/Self-Made Man
- Horatio Alger (Rags-to-Riches stories)
- American Self-Help Culture/How to...Books/DIY

II. What does the Bible say about personal agency and taking initiative?

- The Danger of the Half-Truth Proverbs 13:4; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-13
- The Problem of Self-Help-ism—5 Deceptions (Dan Foster)
- Prosperity Gospel/Theology Matthew 16:24-26; Romans 7:17-24
- Charles Spurgeon

III. God helps those who cannot help themselves.

- Proverbs 28:26--
- Isaiah 25:4--
- 2 Corinthians 5:21--
- Romans 5:6, 8; 3:10-12 (Psalms 14:1-3); 4:4-5--
- Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9--
- Matthew 14:30--
- Matthew 15:25--
- "He Lifted Me"

Conclusion: Have you ever had that sinking feeling?