

Earth Angels!

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'Tis the season to give! We are all compelled to share what we have with those who are less fortunate than us. We may find ourselves with conflicted emotion when we struggle to help those who are in a self-induced financial predicament verses giving to children who are in need because they are in the care of parents who are not able to provide for them. Do we help only those who are not able to help themselves or do we also help those who can help themselves?

I am reminded to exercise grace in my attitudes as I reflect on my own history of need. For me, it was painful to be a hungry teen that learned to live without. However, it was equally painful as an adult to do without because of my own unwise choices. Some may say that doing without because of my own choices is a lesson I needed to learn in self-control. I would agree! However, this does not negate the fact that I also needed compassion. I was fortunate in both of these predicaments because I eventually received compassion from what I refer to as **'earth angels'**.

It is good to be in need! It is not fun or comfortable, but it is profitable!! To be in need enables us to increase our appreciation of what we have presently. It not only gives us precise clarity regarding our priorities, it also serves to mature and purify our hearts toward others.

Have you ever been in a position where you were so hungry that you chose to deviate from your natural character and steal food from another? There are children in this country who are hungry at this level. They have been placed in circumstances that are beyond their control or influence. As a teen feeling hunger at this level forged within my mind and heart that I must **never forget** from where I came. With this comes a reminder to be especially **grateful** and to **remain compassionate** regardless of why another is in need! Our senses become especially sensitive when we have done without the necessities of life. To prove this point just look at how food tastes to you when you eat your first meal after a fast. Our taste buds become more alert and sensitive!

Maybe the need in others is because of circumstances beyond their control or perhaps the need is self-induced. Either way, compassion and grace is always appropriate! Our unwise decision making can be a conduit for learning to make wise decisions. If my creator has allowed me to be in need, then His love for me dictates that good will come of this need. **Adversity gives us opportunity** for either growth or bitterness. It is entirely my choice how it will affect me and if my future will be enhanced by my present need.

We must examine our hearts this time of year as we celebrate our Savior's birth by giving to those in need. Can we exercise compassion because we readily accept that if circumstances were different, this could be me? If it were me, what would I want others to respond with? The need for comfort is greater than the need for criticism. Will my own adversity leave me with a heart of bitter disillusionment or of gratefulness? A bit of faith brings thankfulness for the hunger. Faith demands that I trust in His abundant & marvelous love for me. A love that prompted Him to send His son to this earth for my sake! Because of His love we can all be a **thankful 'earth angel'** regardless of circumstances! Have a grateful Merry Christmas!!

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