

You can put this under the category of “famous last words”; “No, I got this, I don’t need any help.”

It didn’t seem like that big of a deal to me. I had to replace a copper tube that went from the back of the refrigerator to the water thingy in the wall so that the ice maker could make the ice. I found out we had this problem when I came home and found a puddle of water on the kitchen floor and so I expertly traced the leak to the back of the fridge and that’s when I saw the copper tube leaking so I turned off the water at the thing in the wall and I took the copper tube off and I went to the hardware store to get another one so that we could have ice for our drinks.

Easiest thing in the world.

Before I went to the store I asked my handy man neighbor about it and he told me what I needed to do and what kind of tube to buy and he told me that it was pretty tricky to do it without breaking the tubing and he offered to come and help me because he had worked with copper tubing before.

“No”, I said, “I got this, I don’t need any help.”

I got the copper tubing and a couple of suggested accessories and I pulled the refrigerator back from the wall and I figured I’d be done before Ellen got home so that she could see the fruits of my handy work.

I hooked the tube up to the thing in the wall. Then, I went to put the tube in the back of the fridge but when I started to put the tube in the deal it had to be turned at a weird angle and just before I got the tube in the deal it broke or “crimped” as they like to say in handyman world. So, I did it again. And again. And again. It crimped every time.

After five or six tries I was sweating and my hand was bleeding and I was throwing temper tantrums and kicking the side of the refrigerator. I eventually ran out of tubing so I went all the way back to the store to get some more and then I came home and I kept crimping the tube and man I was getting angry and that’s when Ellen walked in. I peeked around the back of the fridge and she said, “you got it fixed yet?”

I was sweating and bleeding and my face was red with anger when she said; “why don’t you get the neighbor to help you?”

“NO”, I got this, I don’t NEED any help.”

I wound up calling a plumber who fixed it in about five minutes’ time. Total cost of the copper tube replacement?

About \$150.00 if I remember it right.

I don't know what it is, but, here lately when I have been praying about what God would have me say to you on Sunday mornings I have been drawn to this prayer that we call the "collect of the day".

This morning it reads, "Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy."

That prayer stings just a little; especially the part that mentions the "proud who confide in their own strength" and the part that says that God will "always resist them".

I don't know if that prayer speaks to you but I can assure you that is most definitely speaking to me because I have a hard time asking for help.

You would think that asking for help would be one of the easiest things to do. It is not. In fact, it is one of the more difficult things that we can ever do because we like to say or think these words; "no, I got this, I don't need any help" even when we know we do.

We do that because we incorrectly believe that if we ask for help that it is a sign of weakness, like, we can't handle our own business or something like that. We like to think that if we ask for help then people will see that we really don't know what we are doing or that we aren't as smart as they thought we were.

We incorrectly believe that asking for help will place such a tremendous burden on someone else that they will then see us as “the person who’s always asking for something.”

Or, we believe that if we ask for help it will mean that we are not in control of things, and, who wants to think that?

In other words, “pride in our own strength” kind of stuff.

You know, something like that happened to Jesus.

A man once came to Jesus and pleaded with him to heal his daughter but before Jesus could get there the man’s friends came and told him that his daughter was already dead. Then they said, “don’t bother Jesus with this anymore, stop being such a burden, he’s got no more time for you.”

Jesus overheard it and stopped what he was doing and he went right over to the man’s home and he raised his daughter from the dead.

It would not have happened if the man hadn’t kept asking for help.

It says in the prayer that God will “resist” those who take pride in their own strength, which means that he will try to prevent it and that he will fight against it.

God will use other people to do this. Yes, I just said it, God brings people into our lives who are ready and willing

and able to help us do the things that we cannot do on our own. These are the people who love us. These are the people who care about us, these are the people who would be honored to do whatever needs to be done. These are the people that are waiting on you to say “yes”, I cannot do this on my own, I cannot do this in my own strength; yes, I need your help.

Think about it. You can probably name at least one person who has either made or would make the offer to be there for you. If you can't think of anyone then you've got a room full of people around right now who would. If you're in the habit of saying, “no, I got this, I don't need any help” when you know good and well that you do, then maybe it's time to say yes.

Look, the reality is that no one accomplishes anything on their own. Not really. Anything and everything that we have ever accomplished in life has come through the help and support of someone else. We do nothing on our own.

And even when we think we do. Even when we think that we have done something through the power of our own strength it turns out we have not. For it is the power of Christ who strengthens us; this is how we do all things.

See, we might as well ask for help because, whether we know it or not, someone already is...

AMEN

