

HELP THE WEAK

These lessons are designed to encourage church age believers, dealing with the covid-19 crisis, to share the word of God with spiritual solutions with others dealing with the same crisis.

This is the fifth current lesson in the series entitled, “**Let not your hearts be troubled.**”

This lesson reminds us to be good neighbors “by concerning yourselves with the interests of others who are not able to do for themselves, maybe even doing it over your own.”

We are encouraging you to be good neighbors using two Greek words:

- **Help** antechomai (p.m.impv.2pl)
- **Weak** ton astheneo (p.a.ptc.nsm).

This lesson will study four aspects of “**Help The Weak**” as part of the series “**Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled.**”

Let me begin by saying I am confident that the congregation of DSBC is reaching out to their neighbors, our church family, and personal families. This is norm and standard for a spiritual mature church.

I am so proud of you that you are spiritual frontline workers.

We will begin by studying these two Greek words for Help the Weak.

1. The Greek word for help is antechomai (p.m.impv.2pl) (a command).

It is a compound word (**anti**) [against] **and echo** [to have and hold].

It literally refers to hold something against oneself. It is a deponent middle verb, omai, and the form is middle, but the function is active – meaning reflecting on oneself.

It means to concern yourself with the interests of others over your own. The ministry life of Jesus Christ reflects this doctrine of Helping the Weak.

One example was Jesus healing Peter’s mother-in-law and then many of her community (Matt.8:14-17).

2. The Greek word for The (tou) [the one who is] Weak (astheneo/ p.a.ptc.nsm) consists of alpha privative (a) [meaning without] plus the verb stheneo (strength).

Astheneo refers to **lacking the strength to perform a necessary task:**

- **physical:** prepare meals, dress and bath, go to store, doctor appointment, clean house, take care of yard, etc (James 5:14).
- It could also refer to believer lacking the strength to perform necessary task because of **divine discipline** (Heb.12:5-12 1 Cor.11:30) (**weak, sick, number sleep**).

- Finally, astheneo could refer to lacking strength to perform spiritual task because of immaturity known as weak in faith (Rom.14:1; 15:1).

3. Spiritually Advancing Believers can be spiritually weak when they operate under power of old sin-nature (OSN) rather than walking under the power of indwelling Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.6:19-20; 1 Cor.3:1-3; Rom.13:14; James 1:14-15; Gal.5:16-17; 1 John 1:9, 7).

- Jesus warns us - “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt.26:41)
- “Who is led into sin without my intense concern?” (2 Cor.11:29/ Luke 22:31-32)

4. Spiritually Advancing Believers can be weak in faith because of old man thinking in certain areas of their Christian Way of Life (old man cosmos diabolicus) (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

- This is especially true with immature believer’s faith (**John Mark**/ Acts 13:13; 15:37-39/ Rom.14:1; 15:1).
- But it can also be a problem with spiritual mature believers (Matt.16:21-23/ **Peter**; John 20:24-29/ **Thomas**).
- We are told to accept the one who is **weak in faith** for restoration not for criticism (Rom.14:1, 17-20).
- We are told to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves (Rom.15:1, 7).
- We are told that the weaknesses of God are greater than the strengths of men (1 Cor.1:25).
- We are told Helping the Weak is a sign of a spiritually healthy church (1 Thess.5:14/ 12-28).
- “Who is weak without my being weak?” (2 Cor.11:29)