



Lesson 9 The Glory Is His, Not Ours Teacher: Beth Seifert

Read Galatians 6:1-2, Romans 14:1 and 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-15. How are we to interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

What are some ways you can carry each other's burdens?

Read Ephesians 6:18 and James 5:13-16. What are we to do on all occasions?

Read 2 Corinthians 12: 6-10. Why is Paul grateful for weaknesses, insults, and hardships?

Carrying each other's burdens does not mean doing everything for someone else. God has given everyone unique responsibilities....and we will all be held accountable for those responsibilities. (Romans 14:12)

Knowing your own responsibilities helps you to know where you can help and when you need to say no. A speaker I once heard shared that, when someone was ill or needed meals brought to their home, she knew that she was not the one to organize those meals. The thought of trying to organize someone to bring a meal to that family in need terrified her. However, she also knew that she could make an amazing chocolate cake to minister to that family, and she would happily work with someone who was able to bring a meal on a night and she would bring dessert. She knew that she could make—from scratch—an amazing cake, but planning a meal or a series of meals was beyond her.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 2 Corinthians 10:18, 2 Corinthians 11:30-33. Where does our strength come from?

Whom are we to boast in?

There are two types of pride, what one of our pastors terms “turtle” pride and “peacock” pride. Turtle pride says: “Poor, pitiful me. I can’t do anything. You have to do everything for me.” What that really says is, “I’m more important than you are and I’m gonna try to make you responsible for all my needs and for all my responsibilities.” Peacock pride says: “I’m amazing. I can do everything and don’t need any help.” Peacock pride will continue to say this, and refuse to ask for help, even when their world is falling down around them.

Think of the example of the woman who could make a fabulous cake, but couldn’t put together an entire meal for another family. What are some tangible ways that you can spare others “sorrow upon sorrow”, without neglecting your own responsibilities or stressing yourself out to the end of your rope? (Examples: making a meal for someone else; offering to watch their children for an hour or two; offering to help a new mom out by cleaning the bathroom or holding the baby so she can take a nap; sending a card to encourage someone who is struggling, etc.)

Post your list where you can see it daily. (I like to hide lists inside of my cupboard doors so I see ‘em every time I get out a glass or a plate, but from the outside, no one else can see ‘em.) Refer to this list often, and pray over it. Ask God to open doors for you to bless others with the things on this list over the next couple of weeks.