

Meeting the

SPECIAL NEEDS

of CHRISTIANS

I. There are children and people in the world with special needs.

II. Likewise, there are “special needs people” in the church!

A. “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young”-Isaiah 40:11.

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”-Isaiah 40:29-31.

1. Among other things, God is revealed to us in the scripture as a shepherd.

2. And He recognizes that His sheep have special needs!

B. “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault (trespass, ASV), ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”-Galatians 6:1.

1. Note: Nearly all other versions go with the translation of, “spirit of gentleness!”

2. I have found that kindness is a must when helping brothers and sisters who need corrections in their life!

**C. *“Bear ye one
another’s burdens,
and so fulfill the
law of Christ”***

-Galatians 6:2.

D. “*Comfort the fainthearted*”-I Thessalonians 5:14.

The fainthearted (oligopsuchos); literally, ‘smallsouled,’ is a reference to those who are discouraged and despondent.

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones”-Isaiah 57:15.

E. “*Support the weak*”-I Thessalonians 5:14.

May those who are stronger in the faith never turn away from those who are ‘strengthless’ (asthenes)!!

“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted”-Hebrews 2:17 & 18.

“Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir”-
Genesis 33:14.

**Jacob wanted to “travel slowly” so that the children and flock would not die-see verse 13.
HE WAS CONSIDERATE OF THE WEAK!!
F. Sometimes we need to give the “Barnabas touch” to others!**

See the record in Acts 13:13; 15:36-41.

**Barnabas gave John Mark a “second chance;”
whereas Paul had said, “No!”**

G. Consider the special attention God gave to Hagar and Ishmael after they had been “cast out.”

Surely they both thought “the end of the world” had come for them, but God was merciful towards them and provided “special needs” for them!

See the record in Genesis 21:9-20.

H. Consider the high accolade given to Timothy by the apostle Paul.

“For I have no man likeminded, who will sincerely care for your state”-Philippians 2:20.

I. Only 50 days after all the apostles forsook the Lord and fled, the Lord used them to establish the church on the day of Pentecost.

- Those brothers needed to know that though they had miserably failed the Lord, He had faith in them and wanted to use them in a very powerful way!**

J. Christ is the supreme example in providing for the “special needs” of others!

See I Peter 2:24 & 25.

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.

For ye were as sheep going astray; but now are returned unto the shepherd and bishop of your souls.”

**WITHOUT CHRIST’S DEATH, NO MAN
COULD EVER BE SAVED!!**

**CHRIST IS PLEADING WITH ALL
THOSE WHO ARE LOST TO
RESPOND TO HIS INVITATION AND
BE SAVED!!**

*“Go ye into all the world and preach the
gospel to every creature.*

*He that believeth and is baptized shall be
saved; but he that believeth not shall be
damned”-Mark 16:15 &16.*