

*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.*