

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. This letter was posted on October 4, 2010

12th letter God isn't going to help me... Phil. 4: 13 John 15:5

The first sentence in one of Miles Stanford's chapters in "The Principles of Spiritual Growth" sets many men into a defensive position. He says 'God did not help you become a Christian and He does not intend to help you live the Christian life'.

Usually their first response is if God won't help me I can't do it. Well they are correct in one way but way off base in the other.

If you think about our entry into God's family when we became a follower of Christ it was probably much like mine. The more the Holy spirit convicted me and drew me to Jesus the more willing I became to follow Him so I would ask 'What do you want me to do', I would get no answer. This would frustrate me and I would think of more things I could do to be accepted in the beloved; but the more I tried the more I felt left behind. Finally in utter frustration I gave up; I told God I just couldn't do it, and He spoke to my heart and said 'well done my son, I have already done all that is necessary for you at the cross; you need to do nothing but receive my free gift and it is yours'. That day I did and good to His Word God adopted me as His child.

My next great struggle though was not to trust Him in my walk with Him in the same way to do nothing apart from Him. I tried very diligently to do as much as I could to develop new godly habits and turn from the ungodly acts in my life. I began to see change but not to have real peace. However, the Holy Spirit continued to speak to my heart and to draw me to God's Word where I began to see that 'apart from Christ I could do nothing' but that 'I can do all things through Christ Jesus who lives in me'.

This is not just a mind game, this to me is practicing the presence of God; it is praying without ceasing; it is loving God with all my heart, and all my soul and all my mind. It is trusting Him and realizing that I died at Calvary and now it is no longer I who lives but Christ Jesus who lives in me and the life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

What God is teaching me through Miles Stanford's statement is that God has done all, both to bring me to Himself and to keep me to Himself. He is conforming me to the image of Christ. Rom. 8:29