

# Something to Pray About

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December 2011/January 2012 – Cindy Sears

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

--1 Timothy 6:18

## Do for the One...

We are in the season of giving. Everywhere you turn, someone is trying to sell you something to give as a present—to someone else or even to yourself. On top of that, there are many organizations asking you to provide funds for them to help them help others. This year is especially bad for many people. Many of the unemployed have run out of benefits; some were never eligible to receive unemployment checks. Finding a job is difficult the longer you are out of work, and for those who have made mistakes in their lives, the hunt is even less likely to lead to a good job or any job. Even people with jobs are finding it difficult to make ends meet as the cost of gas and food and other necessary items continue to rise, but their wages remain static. Even those with jobs and medical benefits can have their earnings and savings devastated by medical bills.

The Lord has called us to share with those in need. We are also called to take care of our own (blood family and the Christian family—see Galatians 6:10). There are many people we know who are hurting. There are many more that we have heard of, but do not know personally. As children of God, we feel a strong desire to help. Yet, as humans, we also feel that we cannot give to every cause—worthy or not. We have limited resources; plus, we have obligations to meet ourselves. I am one person. I can only give so much. Even if I gave it all away, it would only be a drop in the Grand Canyon of need. So, do I not give at all, because I can't help everyone?

Remember when your parents or teachers refused to give you something or do something for you, and their excuse was, "If I do it for you, I'll have to do it for everyone." But that is not so! Because you do something for one person or give something to one person does not obligate you to do the same for everyone. After all, "nobody said life was fair," and it isn't. There is always someone who will receive more than you; who will be blessed with more things or better health or a better paying job, and so on.

There is no reason to believe or feel that you must do the same thing for everyone in need. God does not expect you alone to save the whole world—that's His job, not yours. But He has called you to help others, to show the love of Christ to people. Through the UMC, you can give to many people. There is power in numbers. But there is also power in one. A personal gift is always better—more appreciated—than a gift given by someone you do not know or have never met.

So, give to the church and other organizations that can reach many people. But, keep in mind that God also wants you to give personally and sacrificially. "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" Hebrews 13:16. Do not be afraid to do for the one what you wish you could do for everyone! It is possible—probable—that God has set you in a certain place and put a specific person in your sphere of activity (your neighborhood), so that you can show Christ's love and care to that specific person. Do it! "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" Ephesians 2:10.

If we all did for the one what we wish we could do for all—then many more would be helped. And when that person you helped has passed out of his point of crisis and is back on his feet; then, he can do the same for someone else. Let God in you reach out to someone, and let the Lord continue the movement. Do for the one!

\*(Special thanks to the Sunday night radio preacher who taught on this subject.)