



I. C. E.

In Case of Emergency

Guidelines for Emergencies and Disasters

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

The phrase "God helps those who help themselves" is a popular motto which emphasizes the importance of self-initiative. Mistaken by many to be a Bible quote, the phrase does not occur in the Bible. In fact, some Christians believe that it denies the grace of God and is therefore, not a proper statement to follow.

There is a modern day parable that floats through disaster circles. A severe rain storm was coming, the ground was fully saturated and the rivers were running high. The newspapers, radio and television warned of the impending disaster. There was a pious man living on the river bank and his friends, concerned for his safety, offered to help however they could. He replied "No thanks. I don't need to worry, God will take care of me."

The storm broke, the river rose, but before it got too high a Sheriff's patrol car stopped and a deputy advised him to evacuate while the road was still clear. He replied "No thanks. I don't need to worry, God will take care of me."

The river rose more, the road flooded and the water lapped at the door of his house. A rescue boat stopped and told him to get in so they could take him to safety. He replied "No thanks. I don't need to worry, God will take care of me."

The river continued to rise and it reached the second story. He was clinging onto his roof when a helicopter came over, dropped a rescue harness and told him to climb in. He replied "No thanks. I don't need to worry, God will take care of me."

Finally the house gave way to the massive force of the water and started floating down the river. The man fell into the river and drowned in the swift current.

Reaching heaven he pleaded with God. "Why didn't you take care of me? I lived a good life, did all that my church asked of me, and I trusted in you to take care of me, yet you let me drown!" God replied "What more could I have done? I had the news media warn you of the storm, I had your friends offer to help, I sent a deputy to

ask you to leave, I sent a rescue boat to take you out and I sent a helicopter to lift you off your roof. You ignored each of these things I offered you, so what more could I do?"

Just as in Aesop's fable, the moral to this story is: God helps those who help themselves. Just be aware that sometimes we aren't acting completely on our own.



**Some day,
in some way,
a disaster will befall
you or someone you
love.
Have you taken steps
to prepare?**

By all means, trust in God, for God will take care of you. God started by giving you intellect, free will and empowerment. Have you done your part? Do you have rudimentary survival supplies; first aid kit, flashlight, fire extinguisher, water, food and clothing? Are they located where you can reach them if your house collapses or burns? Have you planned what to do when disaster strikes?

Don't know where to start? Take a Red Cross class in emergency first aid or a CPR course. Listen to others and read available information. Follow the Disaster Ministry and its work.

Or perhaps you don't need to do anything as God will take care of you!