

*“And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, **And Strengthened His Hand In God.**” 1 Samuel 23:15-16 KJV*



Believers are often discouraged in the “wilderness of Ziph.” (Ziph means tar or pitch) Although, even knowing God and trusting that He Will Lead us through, our Faith often wavers when Satan whispers, “You’re all alone, and nobody cares!” The need for a reassuring human touch of comfort when depressed means we sometimes just need a hug. God does not hug us in a physical sense, but in the Church, the Body of Christ, *“members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.”* Have you seen a fellow believer in distress and prayed for the Lord to comfort them? Did it ever occur to you that you are the member of the Body of Christ that will comfort the distressed member? If you hurt your elbow, do you rub it? Sometimes, a smile, a hug, a kind word, or a firmer than usual handshake will *“strengthen [another’s] hand.”* And don’t stop there! Remind them of God’s Promises and pray for them. *“Faith cometh...by the Word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all Saints.”* Be aware and discerning for doubt and discouragement in fellow believers. Strengthen each other in the Lord! An arm around the shoulder, a card, a note, or a plate of cookies may be all that’s needed to chase away Satan’s whispers and bolster Faith. Don’t wait to be asked. You know about it, because God Has Impressed it upon your heart. Go where they are, even if it is the “wilderness of Ziph.” When the Spirit Prompts us to kindness, we often use the excuse of not wanting to “impose.” Kindness is never an imposition! *“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's Sake Hath Forgiven you.”* A bit of kindness may save a soul from despair. There’s no need to be overt about it, because “alms” don’t need heralds or acclaim. *“By Love serve one another and be ye kind one to another. In lowliness of mind (humility) let each esteem other better than themselves.”* Whether we help or neglect other believers, we are doing it to Christ, because He Said, *“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of These My Brethren, ye have done it unto Me. Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*

Lift feeble knees from off the ground,
And raise the hands all hanging down,
Cheer the tearful and woeful face,
Remind them of our Saviour’s grace. –CGP

We sometimes go out of our way to be kind to those outside of Christ, so that we may win them to Christ. Do our brothers and sisters in Christ deserve less? Shouldn’t we love “family” more than strangers? Love is the Bond of Perfection. *“God Is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God In him. Herein Is our Love Made Perfect. We love Him, because He First Loved us. And This Commandment have we from Him, ‘That he who loveth God Love his brother also.’”* Let God’s Love for you constrain you to kindness and love for those for whom He died!

“A New Commandment I Give unto you, ‘That ye love one another; as I Have Loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My Disciples, if ye have Love one to another.”
John 13:34-35 KJV