

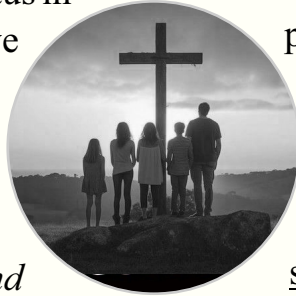


SHEPHERD'S DIARY

A MINISTRY OF WORD PASTURE CHURCH

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In his teachings in Ephesians 2:11-19, Apostle Paul reminds us of our status in Christ. He begins by stating that we were once strangers to God's family and without hope in this world, then he goes further to assert clearly that by the blood of Jesus and our simple faith in Him, we are "no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God". You should know that the church is a gathering of members of the household of God.

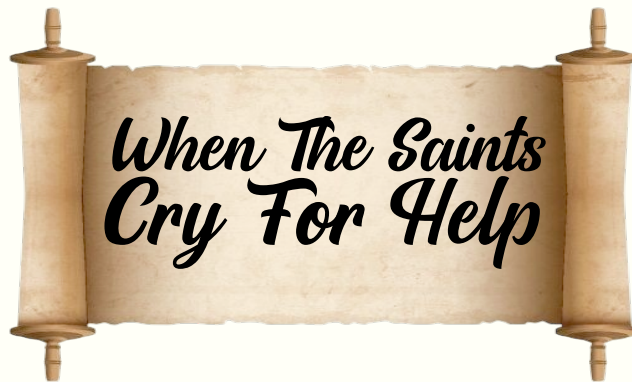


Now, being part of the church family can be both a blessing and a challenge – a very serious challenge. Once in the family you are confronted with great relatives. You suddenly become related to Moses and Elijah, the apostles and a host of other great men and women (in heaven and on earth) mightily used by the Lord. When you look around, you tend to think everyone is better than me. The struggle begins. You strive to feel connected, while navigating your own perceived imperfections. The desire to fit in kicks, and you find yourself wearing a mask to hide your flaws. You block the desire to reach out for help and enter into pretend mode – and if we are to call it what it really is, slow-death mode. Diagnosis made.

But Christ hasn't called us to hide or put on a camouflage. Rather He brought us into His great family so that we may easily find help in times

of need. If you think about it, it's just like a fellow living in a neighbourhood of medical practitioners having access to medical help in case of an emergency that is if he is not too shy or proud to ask. Calling for help is not a sign of weakness, but a testament to the strength of our faith.

Consider James 5:16. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." We are encouraged to confess our sins/faults one to another and not to hide them. Why? That's the way we get help. You receive the greatest help ever – Prayer! And prayer brings the healing/wholeness you need.



Remember, along the journey of life, every man would need help at one point or the other. In our struggles and challenges, the support and love of our church family is crucial to our victory. We must also always remember that the Church Family is not a place for perfect people, rather it is a place of refuge, a haven where we can find support, understanding, prayer and love. Embrace the power of vulnerability and community and call out for help when you need it. In this act of trust and surrender we find true strength in Christ. Grace to your heart. Amen.

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