



WORDS FROM *Pastor Randy*

A man brought his aging father into see the psychiatrist. “Doc, I’m really worried about my father,” he said. “My father has a junk wagon and his horse’s name is Joe. But he’s getting really confused. He’ll drive the poor horse down the street and say, ‘Come on Joe! Come on Steve! Come on Sam.’”

The psychiatrist turned and said to the old man, “Your son here says that the horse’s name is Joe.” The old man nodded, “Sure is, it’s Joe. But if ole Joe thought he was pulling that wagon all by himself, he’d have quit a long time ago!”

It’s easy to get to feeling like you’re all by yourself in the work of the Lord. From the Bible, we sometimes refer to it as the **“Elijah Complex.”** It’s that occasional feeling that God’s in such a fix that I must be the only one He’s got left to serve Him!

The Prophet Elijah said to the Lord, *“I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”* In other words, “It’s just me, and if Jezebel kills me, what’s God going to do?” As you recall, God quickly reminded Elijah that He had *“seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal.”*

Pity parties are quite common for God’s servants. Moses, Jonah, Martha, and a lot of others had to deal with those feelings of “aloneness” in their service for the Lord.

I remember hearing **Dr. Jerry Falwell** give this advice several years ago. He said that when things are bad, they’re never as bad as they seem and when things are good, they’re never as good as they seem.

Take heart. It’s not that bad! Don’t let the Devil defeat you. You’re not alone! What you’re doing for the cause of Jesus is not in vain! God has always had His people. You’re not serving Him by yourself. Look around you and see that you are joined by others who love the Lord Jesus and want to live for Him as you do.

It takes a lot of average ordinary people to get the work of the Lord accomplished. We are as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:9, *“Laborers together with God.”* God still uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary!

I want to encourage you to be sure to be in church this Sunday. It is the beginning of Fall Break and there will be many of our people away. If you are in town, please do your very best to be faithful to your Sunday School class. I have invited my good friend **Dr. Wayne Hamrick** to preach for us. He has a ministry of encouragement. God has used him throughout the years to rescue many hurting churches and work with them to see them flourish again. He and his wife Joan now travel extensively in evangelism. We’ll be blessed to hear Brother Wayne. **The Fishermen Quartet** will also join us on Sunday evening. These men have been singing southern gospel music for a long time. Their blend of four-part harmony will bring back the sounds of the “olden days.” You’ll enjoy it!

Looking forward to a great day on Sunday,
Pastor Randy