

## Do You Want a Magic Wand or a Mighty Hand?

*“...Thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand.” Exodus 32:11*

Too often we Christians have tended to view God like a genie ready to grant our wish, or a fairy that can wave her **magic wand** and miraculously change events without us having to do anything. This kind of thinking is what I call the “diet pill syndrome,” that is, hoping we could take a diet pill and become slim and trim without having to exercise or change our diet. We want God to solve our problems, get us out of a mess, deliver us, reform us, and transform us, without us making any changes or putting forth any real effort. Unfortunately, it just doesn’t work that way.

The other extreme is expressed by the popular, but unscriptural saying, “God helps those who help themselves.” This concept suggests that you only ask for God’s help after you have exhausted your strength and possibilities. It is, in reality, **working independently** of God.

The proper Biblical concept is to be a **co-labourer with God**. *“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building”* (1 Corinthians 3:9). We need to acknowledge that we cannot work independently of God. The Psalmist wisely observed this: *“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain”* (Psalms 127:1). Note that we must put forth effort: *build, keep, labour, and watch*, **and** that the LORD must do these things with us. Jesus said, *“...for without me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5). We must depend on His strength—His mighty hand—and not our own strength. *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Philippians 4:13).

Having said all this, there are times when we are in a desperate situation and there is humanly nothing we can do. Our God has a mighty hand that can do **miracles**—things that are beyond the normal and the natural. A miracle is a supernatural event. God can part the waters, feed the multitude, turn back the enemy, heal the sick, etc. God puts us in these situations so that we can see his great power and men will glorify Him.

I want the mighty hand of God, not the make believe magic wand of some non-existent fairy!

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