

# (The Full Gospel) 21. Helping God!!

by Zac Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of waiting on God and trusting in His plans and timing, rather than trying to help Him according to our own understanding.*

**Scripture:** Genesis 15:5, Exodus 17:6, Numbers 20:7, 2 Samuel 6:6, Ecclesiastes 10:8, Matthew 11:28, John 5:19, Acts 17:26, Romans 2:4

**Topics:** "Gods Sovereignty", "Faith And Obedience"

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## Description

Zac Poonen preaches on the dangers of using human reasoning and trying to help God according to our own understanding, as seen in the stories of Abraham, Moses, and Uzzah. He emphasizes the importance of seeking God's will and guidance in all decisions, rather than relying on man-made plans. Poonen highlights the consequences of stepping outside of God's boundaries and the need to trust in God's ways, even when they may not align with our own thoughts or methods.

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## Transcript

We can create a lot of confusion in God's work and in our own lives when we use our human reasoning and try to help God according to our own understanding.

"The Lord said to Abraham, 'Look towards the heavens, and count the stars. So shall your descendants be.' ....Now Sarah had borne Abraham no children ....So Sarah took Hagar, the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to Abraham as his wife ....And Hagar bore Ishmael to him ....And Abraham said to God, 'Oh that Ishmael might live before Thee'. But God said, 'No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son ....and I shall establish My covenant with him'"

(Genesis 15:5; 16:1, 3, 16; 17:18, 19).

God had promised Abraham seed as countless as the stars. Yet Sarah was barren. Abraham and Sarah must have both feared that God's Name would be dishonoured, if the promise was not fulfilled. So at Sarah's suggestion, Abraham took another wife and had a son through her, in order to help God out of a tight spot!!

What Abraham did not realise was that God needs no such help. The help that he offered God (by producing Ishmael) finally caused problems not only for his wife, but also for his son Isaac and his descendants.

How often we feel that without our help, God's promises will not be fulfilled. And so we move and act when God hasn't told us to move or act. We trust in our man-made plans and efforts to do God's work, and don't believe sufficiently in waiting on the Lord to direct us.

Jesus never did anything in His life without seeking His Father's will and guidance (John 5:19, 30). But most believers don't seek God's will and guidance like that, because they trust more in themselves than in God!!

Our lack of prayer and our leaning on our own understanding (or our wife's understanding, as in Abraham's case above!!!) in the decisions that we take, is what brings confusion in our homes, and in God's work.

"The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the rock that it may yield its water'.... Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod.... And the Lord said to Moses, 'Because you have not believed Me, you shall not bring this assembly into the land' (Numbers 20:7-13).

God had asked Moses only to speak to the rock this time. But Moses decided to help God by striking the rock twice. How true it is that the flesh would rather strike hard (and twice) than speak gently (once)! We feel that God's purposes will be accomplished quicker with a bit of human hardness, even when He commands us to be gentle (Matthew 11:28). But it is through His kindness that God leads people to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Moses may also have felt that since God had asked him to strike the rock once before (Exodus 17:6), it must be so every time. Many imagine that the Holy Spirit must always work in the same way as He did earlier or elsewhere! And so they try to help Him with psychological gimmicks to bring "revival", to "heal" the sick, and to get people to "speak in tongues". What they don't realise is that the Holy Spirit works differently at different times, and does not need any soulish help to manifest his gifts.

"Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there" (2 Samuel 6:6, 7).

Uzzah's intentions were good. He really longed to protect the ark of God's testimony from falling down. But he was not a Levite, and so he had no right to touch the ark. He went outside his boundaries. This was so serious a matter, that God slew him. We cannot trifle with God's laws.

In the church too, God has given different responsibilities to different ones and drawn boundaries around each one. When we see a lack in a certain area and seek to help God by trying to resolve the problem, we need to first ask ourselves whether the Spirit is leading us to do that, or whether it is our own human reasoning that is urging us to do something about it. God respects everyone's boundaries, even if we don't. And God does not need any help from us, outside the boundaries that he has drawn around us. Only within those boundaries can we find God (Acts 17:26, 27). Outside them, we will find only the Devil (Ecclesiastes 10:8b).

The application to our lives, of the principles outlined in the above examples, are manifold. Let us ask God then for light on this matter in relation to our own life and ministry.

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