

# Your Father Helps You

**D**o you ever feel miserably unfit, unskilled, untrained, unequipped, and inadequate for the mission to which the Lord has assigned you? Maybe your new school overwhelms you, your parenting duties weigh heavily on you, your marriage conflict makes you tremble, or your employment situation melts you into weakness.

Take heart, child of God, for your heavenly Father is near to help. Jacob speaks of how the Lord helps the harassed children of Abraham: *"His bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob. . . from the God of your Father who helps you."* (Genesis 49:24-25)

Alexander Maclaren comments: "As a father in old days might have taken his little boy out to the target range, put a heavy bow into his hand, and given him his first lesson in archery, directing his unsteady aim by his own firmer finger, and lending the strength of his wrist to his child's feebler pull, so God does with us. The sure, strong hand is laid on ours, and effectively directs the shaft to the bull's eye."

So your heavenly Father helps you, child of God -- even when you feel like the legendary William Tell, called upon to split an apple on his son's head, surgically hitting the mark or damaging something very dear. "The evil against which we have to contend is often so closely connected with things very precious to us, that it is hard to strike the one when there is such danger of grazing the other." Your hands shake. Your heart throbs. "Oh Father, please help me!"

Take heart, He loves to visit, steady, and strengthen us when we so call to Him for help. Maclaren writes: "The enemies may surround you like bees, but in the name of the Lord you can destroy them. Their arrows may fly thick enough to darken the sun, but, as the proud old boast has it, *then we can fight in the shade*; and when their harmless points have buried themselves in the ground, you will stand unhurt, your unshattered bow ready for the next assault, and your hands made strong by the hands of the mighty G of Jacob."