

You and I were created in the image and likeness of God – part of that likeness is to be dependant rather than self sufficient. The Godhead functions as three individual persons acting as one, but with distinct roles; separate but never functioning in independence. Often Father wills a thing, the Son agrees to do the Father's will, and the Holy Spirit empowers the action.

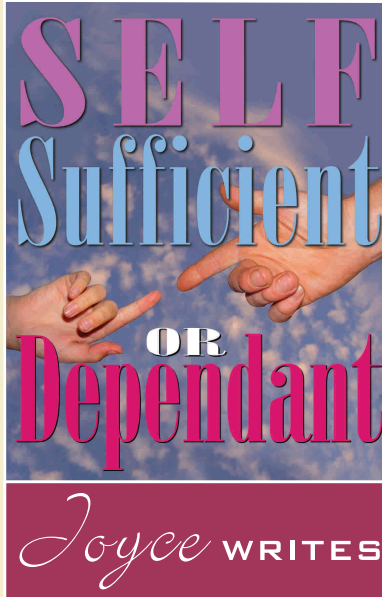
God has designed us to function in a similar way – our own mind, will and emotions in harmony and unity, resulting in a body exhibiting health and well being, but also living in total dependence on God - dependence on His wisdom, His unlimited resources, His help, His direction.

Adam, the first man, functioned in this kind of relationship – willingly dependant and yet free to exercise his own judgement and authority within the sphere of the responsibility God had given him. However, since man's first act of disobedience and independence there seems to be in us an inbuilt bias "to go it alone".

We see this illustrated in the life of Jacob – He began by running away from a family crisis – messy, full of trickery and deceit, and fleeing for his life. In the midst of this, God meets with him and promises his help and blessing. But Jacob chooses to do his own thing! His own summary of his 20 years of relying on his own resources is given in Genesis 31:6-7, *"You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times."* Later he declares, *"God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands."* Genesis 31:42

During those years there is no record of Jacob praying or seeking God's help, he does acknowledge that God has watched over him, and in a vague way has blessed him – but Jacob has been

primarily trusting in Jacob – until Jacob's resources run out. Fear of his brother Esau, fear of the future, accountability for the past all cause pressure which leads to prayer.



God has been waiting for this, lovingly standing in the background, until Jacob divests himself of everything but God. He sends his wives, children, possessions and gifts ahead of him. He is now left alone with God. God's pressure becomes tangible. He wrestles with a man until daybreak – until his own resources are seen for what they are – useless. Then he cries out for God's help, blessing and resources. His name is changed, his nature is transformed, and his limp is a constant reminder of his continual need of help from on high. Jacob has become Israel.

We all battle with independence and self sufficiency. We so often forfeit the blessing that comes from dependence. God is not a control freak, rather an enabler who wants us to connect with unlimited heavenly resources. How? Through prayer, through the inner gaze of the heart that constantly mouths *"Help me"* *"I need you"* *"Not my will but yours."*

Don't stay in the cycle of self sufficiency, hard work, gritted teeth, exhaustion that are so often symbolic of independent behaviour. Let go and lean on God, your loving heavenly Father and on his Holy Spirit your helper, friend, comforter, wisdom and enabler.

An old man in a refugee camp in Burundi, who had lost everything, said these words, *"When Jesus is all you have got, you realise Jesus is*

all you need."

Choose to lean heavily in dependence on God today!

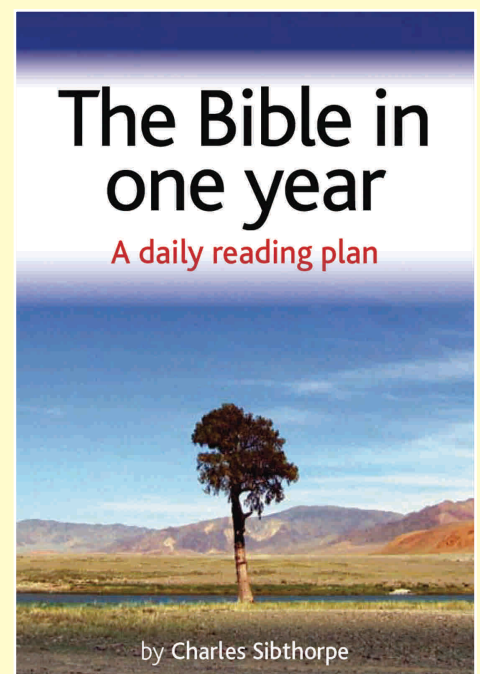
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