

I NEED YOU TO...

Romans 15:1: "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves." **Galatians 6:2:** "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

There is this song written and composed by Hezekiah Walker, it carries the base word "I need you," which drives the main idea of the gospel hit. "I Need You to Survive" is certainly a religious song, but for a piece of music that assures listeners that "It is His will that every need be supplied," it's centered on the idea that humans have profound responsibilities to each other.

The singers pledge "I won't harm you /With words from my mouth." They promise to pray for each other. And each of these vows culminates in the restatement of an almost stunningly intimate idea: that "I love you / I need you to survive." That last line hits as hard as it does not least because it has a double meaning. It can be read to suggest that the speaker can't go on living without the object of the song, or to demand that the listener live for himself (Alyssa Rosenberg, 2015). The song goes:

*I need you, you need me.
We're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me, agree with me.
We're all a part of God's body.
It is his will that every need be supplied.
You are important to me, I need you to survive.
You are important to me, I need you to survive.*

*I pray for you, you pray for me.
I love you, I need you to survive.
I won't harm you with words from my mouth.
I love you, I need you to survive.*

*It is his will, that every need be supplied.
You are important to me, I need you to survive.*
(Hezekiah Walker, The Love Fellowship Choir)

In Acts 2:41-47, the earliest believers showed through their daily encounters how much they understood they needed each other in the Christian race. They shared food, money, material and immaterial possessions. Today, even some believers are reserved and quite selective when it comes to giving people gifts, in this, may God help our hearts and lead us. True, the days are evil, and one may find it hard to know who is who, but in obedience to the God's word, we are kept safe every day.

As a Christian teenager, do not allow what people will say to keep you far away from someone God brings closer to you to receive of your goodwill, maintain your personality in Christ. You, see, that he would be mocked, reviled (insulted), and killed by the people he came for never made him cease from saving man.

You have obligation to love: Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law (Rom. 13:8 NIV). You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that.

I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." (Matt. 5:43-48 MSG)

The song one may say is one of the anthems of a contemporary church choir. The word "I Need you" is often being used either passively or actively by several believers today, but the challenge is in how much saints mean and practice this simple statement. If you look through the lyrics of that song again, you'll notice, it spells out clearly how that God places a believer side by side another believer, for the mutual benefit of each other.

As Christian a teenager you have an obligation to love everyone, you also deserve to be loved. Adopting the truth that *"I need you, you need me"* actually makes it much easier for you to live with this knowledge that you are not self sufficient, and no man created by God is. The common saying that "a tree does not make a forest" is true here.

In God's design of the church, they should be mutual coexistence amongst Christian folks, regardless of their differences. In his death at Calvary, Jesus broke the line of division, and united all Christians into one body, hallelujah. You need the other church denominations, despite their differences in doctrine from your local assembly or denomination. You need other members of the church to support your ministry. No man is fashioned to do ministry or survive here on earth all alone. Some people have closed their minds to receiving others' help, and giving others help, life is a company of direct and indirect mutualism. The strength for the weaknesses of a brother has been put by Christ into another brother or sister [who is also in Christ]. Just as God has provided the strength of a man's weakness in his wife, so also, the weakest believer has been provided for, in the body (the church). Every Christian is like a building block in the body of Christ. Each block needs every other block to remain firm in the wall. No doubt, you are stronger than someone and someone is stronger than you, and vice versa, but all the same, you are needed and you are also definitely in need!

You need your parents; siblings; friend(s); colleague(s) at work place; you need the next door neighbour; you need the government; you need the less privileged; you need the orphans; widows; beggars; the poor; the rich; the weak/strong; beloved; the aged; you need others and others likewise need you to survive through their pilgrimage on earth.

See the scriptures below: **Isaiah 1:17**: "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." **Matthew 5:16**: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." **John 15:12**: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." **1 John 4:19-20**: "We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." **Hebrews 13:16**: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." **Ephesians 2:10**: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God

prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Galatians 2:10**: “Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.” **Luke 6:30**: “Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. **John 15:13**: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” **Romans 12:10**: “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **Romans 12:13**: “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” **Romans 12:20**: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **1 Thessalonians 5:11**: “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”