

Christian Accents

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We have been brought up on the doctrine of self-reliance, not original with this land. It was drilled into us that we must stand on our own feet, look out for our own self, paddle our own canoe, and take care of the integrity of our own mind. Beyond self-reliance is the truth of God-reliance. There may be times when it is best to say, stand upon your feet, believe in self. Other times it is better to say, get on your knees. Believe in one greater than self. Reach out for that which exceeds your own capacities. This is the time when we need to hear less of the doctrine of self-reliance and more of the Christian doctrine of God-reliance.



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Note the affirmation, "God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble." To rely on God means, as the preacher says: "God, thou art the proclamation, I am the trumpet," the physician, "I dress wounds, God heals," the musician, "I am the instrument, God makes music," the mother, "I bear, God gives life," the nation says, "not unto us, O, Lord, but unto Thy name give glory."

That is what it means to rely on God, to recognize that all of our strength comes from Him and not from ourselves.