

That Old Leaning Barn

Thursday's *Perspective* was on the appeal of old barns. Recently, I read an article, by an unknown author, about an old barn. Here it is:



Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well, Sir, you see, it's like this. I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time. It's withstood a lot of weather, it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day, I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit.

So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time. I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in my life. I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing, too.

But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side so we will stand straight and tall again to glorify the Lord."

There is truth for us in that analogy. God put people together to prop one another up on their leaning side – the times when adversity and challenges and storms come our way. But the Lord is available to help us, too.

I am certainly one who needs propping up from time to time.



To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy (Judge 24 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter