



DON'T WE ALL?

I was parked in front of the church, cleaning out my Jeep. I was waiting for someone.

Coming my way from across the street was what society would consider a bum. From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous, but there are other times when you just don't want to be bothered.

This was one of those "don't want to be bothered" times.

I hope he doesn't ask me for any money, I thought.

He didn't.

He came and sat on the wall in front of the bus stop, to wait for the bus. After a few minutes he spoke. "That's a very pretty Jeep," he said.

He was ragged but he had an air of dignity about him. His scraggly blond beard kept more than his face warm. I said thanks, and continued cleaning out the Jeep.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened, something inside said, *Ask him if he needs any help.*

I was sure that he would say yes, but I held true to the inner voice. "Do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I will never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments. I expected nothing but an outstretched grimy hand.

He spoke the three words that shook

no matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too.

No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can *give* help.

Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that.

You never know when you may see someone that appears to have it all. They may be waiting on you to

give them what they don't have—a different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos—that only you through a torn world can see.

Maybe the man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets.

But maybe he was more than that. Maybe he was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in himself.

Maybe God looked down, called an angel, dressed him like a bum, then said, "Go minister to that man cleaning the Jeep. That man needs help."

Don't we all?

—Nathaniel Bronner
(*MountainWings.com* – *Wings Over the Mountains of Life*)

We all need help, and we all need to give help. In the giving is often where the true blessing and pleasure lies.

But we must be careful and see that our giving is not with an attitude of superiority or condescension or to establish our own self-worth. It must be humbly done because it is needed and because we are able, knowing the day may come, if it hasn't already, when we will be on the receiving end of someone else's giving. The Bible says, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7 NKJ)

—David Brandt Berg

me. "Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a bum on the street, until those three words hit me like a twelve-gauge shotgun.

Don't we all?

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help.

Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much you have,