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July 8, 2013

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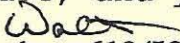
Dear Dan,

Among the many fires burning in our country has been the Black Forest fire northeast of Colorado Springs, which is coming to an end. My secretary, Joyce McKelvey, lives in Black Forest. By God's grace their home was spared, for which we give Him thanks. It matters not where we live, if God wishes to test us He has a plethora of "tools" available - fires, floods, earthquakes, riots, tornados, etc. Like little children, we are helpless and dependent.

The Apostle Paul admonishes: "As for you, **always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry**" (2 Timothy 4:5). Although written to Timothy, this charge applies to all of God's people; all of us must incorporate into our lives these four characteristics.

It occurs to me that when we **"fulfill our ministry,"** it entails helping people in a direction that is the exact opposite of what the rest of life is seeking to teach them. The world educates people to be independent; people must depend on themselves, earn their own way in life, make something of themselves, learn to live independently. In part, **our ministry in the lives of others is to teach them to be completely and totally dependent upon God.** Jesus said, "...without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Throughout the New Testament we are taught that we seek to please only one Person in the universe, and we look to Him and Him alone for the meeting of our needs. "God will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We are not dependent upon others precisely because we are completely dependent upon God.

God's dependent slave, and your grateful friend,

  
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