\*AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER? \*

The true Christian living is all about being of help to one another, both: spiritually and physically.

 \*"The Lord said to Cain: where is Abel your brother? he said I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?"\*.

Gen 4:9.

I have been thinking deeply lately; as a result of some certain occurrences that have befallen people around me that seemed very avoidable.

My thoughts have been centered majorly on the brotherly role we play to one another.

I feel we are not doing enough for ourselves in this generation of Christians.

The bible says:

 \*"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour,if either of them falls down, one can help the other but pity anyone who falls and has no one to help him".\*

Ecc 4:9&10.

Never assume everyone who laughs or smiles is happy. Most people cover up and suffer in silence because there is no one to \*lean on.\*

It reminds me of the song : \*lean on me:\* 🎹

🎤Sometimes in our lives, we all have pain, we all have sorrow but if we are wise, we know that there is always tomorrow ..

🥁Lean on me, when you are not strong and I 'll be your friend, I 'll help you carry on , for it won't be long till I 'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

We all need a shoulder to lean on. The bible places a duty on us to be of helping hands to one another.

Being your brother's keeper can come in two major perspectives:

Firstly, it's being of help to your fellow brothers and sisters’ welfare.

Jesus said:

 \*"For I was hungry you gave me food, I was thirsty you gave me drink, I was a stranger, you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick you visited me,in prison; you came to check on me"\*

Matthew 25:35&36.

How much of these do we do for one another?

Jesus said when you do it for one of your own, you have done it for Him. \*Matthew 25:40\*

Christianity is \*GOOD\* a way of life; but It’s gradually turning to a" \*Class society".\* contrary to Christ's intention

Many people are going through issues of life that, they won't share with their friends unless you come very close to them.

Christian homes and marriages are going through turbulent times.

" \*A stitch in time, they say saves nine".\*

When certain unfortunate things happen and you knew you have exerted all the available means within your reach to preventing the occurrence and yet the thing happens; you probably conclude that \*it was meant to be\*.

However, if you know within yourself, you could have remedied the situation had you acted on time; then it will leave an inner feeling of guilt in you for a long time.

The widow of Zarephath and her son were so close to death, if not for timely intervention of Elijah:

 \*"I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal to eat and then my son and I will die".\*

1 Kings 17:12.

Definitely, we can not all be 'a prophet Elijah', but we do have what it takes in cash, food and support that could save the lives of people around us.

 \*"where there is no guidance the people fall, but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety".\*

Prov 11:14.

The counselling, welfare and follow up departments in our Churches should be the \*core\* of the Church: very vibrant and busy.

 \*"Bear one another's burden and so fulfil the Law of Christ"\*

Gal 6:2.

Depression is on the high even among believers.

Unfortunately, if you are the very committed one you would have lost many friends and perhaps your closeness to family members would have been equally jeopardized.

 \*Luke 14:26\*

Consequently, In situations when your fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord fail to help or support you, then you will experience what it means to be in \*the midst of people but still feels lonely.\*

The Second major way of being our brother's keeper, is bringing back people that are wandering away, back to the path of God.

\*"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins".\*

James 5:19-20.

You have a duty to correct every erring fellow you know in love; \*if he fails to listen speak out;\* the bible permits it.

 \*"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them".\*

Ephe 5:11.

When you speak about how things are being done and said wrongly in the Christendom today, you will be labelled and hated.

However, the bible says:

 \*"All scriptures are inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting and for training in righteousness so that the man of God might be perfect and equipped for every good works".\*

2 Tim 3:16&17.

Significantly, the fellow that is being corrected \*must also heed to correction.\*

" \*Never correct conceited people; they will hate you for it but if you correct the wise they will respect you".\*

Prov 9:8.

Nobody is above correction. God used the donkey to correct Balaam but \*Balaam struck the donkey.\*

\*Num 22:21-34\*

 I \*PRAY for you: wherever you have used your hand to hit the chosen one of God in anger and ignorantly, the Mercy of God will avail for you"\* 🙏🏼.

Allow word of God to \*correct\* you same way it \*encourages\* you.

 \*"If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person and have nothing to do with him that he may be ashamed yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warm them as you would do to a fellow brother or sister".\*

1 Thess 3:14&15

Never give up on your fellow brothers and sisters; for Christ did not give up on you.

\*Romans 5:8.\*

In conclusion, the bible says:

" \*A man of many companions may come to ruin but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother".\*

Prov 18:24.

\*JESUS is the only true friend\* who sticks closer than a brother: He will not forsake you throughout your journey of life;

However, Jesus commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

\*Mark 12:31\*

 \*"Whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ".\*

Col 3:23&24.

Being your brother's keeper is about \*winning souls\* and sharing the \*love of Jesus\* with others.

\*"Do not merely look out for your own personal interest alone but look out for the interest of others".\*

Phil 2:4.

 \*JESUS Reigns\*

Signed, Bro Cole