

January 28, 2018

A Strong Faith

Daniel 10:10-19

On December 10, 2017, Chandler Self, the winner of the women's division of the Dallas Marathon, received help from Ariana Luterman, a high school relay team runner. "Self began collapsing over the final half-mile" and fell several times before reaching the finish line. Each time, Luterman pulled Self up. "The only thing I could think of to do was to pick her up," said Luterman, "So I picked her up with all my might. Right when we got to the finish line, I just kind of pushed her in front of me so she would be the one to cross that line."¹ In the world of good sportsmanship, helping others to finish the race is often more important than winning.

Our student book author writes, "After Daniel's strength and energy had crashed, the man pulled Daniel to his hands and knees."² Daniel had reached his physical limits and needed the assistance of another to even stand. "Daniel could find courage and assurance that he was not alone in the fight."³ He drew upon another being's strength so that he could regain his own.

One of the blessings of having a church family is knowing that you are never alone in life's struggles and trials. Whether it be the death of a loved one, a health crisis, a job loss, or the struggle of raising teenagers, brothers and sisters in Christ can give us some of their strength until we can regain our own. When it is our turn to give strength and reassurance to others, we gladly do so. We are also reminded that we are always in Christ's presence from whom our strength comes.

1. When have you needed someone else to help you to stand? How do you feel when you need someone else's strength to accomplish a simple task?
2. How does knowing you are never alone in life's fights bring you courage and assurance?
3. When has your church family walked with you in a struggle or trial? How have your gifts provided the presence of Christ to someone in need?

Katie Shockley is a licensed local pastor and serves Community United Methodist Church in Copeville, TX.

¹From "Watch a Young Runner Help Struggling Woman Finish—and Win—Dallas Marathon," by Cindy Boren in *The Washington Post* ([washingtonpost.com/news/early-lead/wp/2017/12/10/watch-a-young-runner-help-struggling-woman-finish-and-win-dallas-marathon/?utm_term=.b75423eb5092](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/early-lead/wp/2017/12/10/watch-a-young-runner-help-struggling-woman-finish-and-win-dallas-marathon/?utm_term=.b75423eb5092)).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2017-2018, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2017); page 65.

³From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 66.