He Needed Nothing

“Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”
—Acts 17:25, ESV

We know what it means to be needed.

Someone depends upon our work. Someone waits for our help. Someone would struggle if we were not there. Being needed can give us a sense of purpose. It can also quietly become the way we measure our worth.

Then we come to God.

And He needs nothing.

Paul spoke those words in Athens, where people surrounded themselves with objects of worship. He proclaimed the God who made the world and everything in it. This God did not depend upon His creatures to provide what He lacked.

He was the One giving them life and breath.

Even the breath with which a person denies Him is a gift from His hand.

That brings us to a truth we may acknowledge more readily than we understand: God has never needed us.

He did not create because He was lonely. The Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world.
God’s life was already full.
John 17:24

There was no emptiness we could fill.

There was no weakness our strength could remedy.

There was no shortage our gifts could supply.

When we give to God, we give what first came from Him. David understood this when the people brought their offerings for the Temple: “For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”
1 Chronicles 29:14, ESV

We never place God in our debt.

At first, that may seem to diminish us. If God does not need me, does my life matter? Does my service matter? Does He care whether I come to Him?

But need is not the measure of love.

God’s love does not arise from something He hopes to obtain from us. He is not drawn to our usefulness or dependent upon our ability to meet His needs.

He has none.

That means His grace is freely given.

Consider what happened when the Son of God came among us.

The One through whom all things were made entered the life of His creatures. He knew hunger. He grew weary. He asked for a drink. These were real experiences of the humanity He had taken to Himself.

He had not ceased to be God.

He had humbled Himself.

The One who needed nothing came to serve people who needed everything.

And He went to the cross.

We sometimes speak as though our love persuaded God to love us. Scripture gives us the opposite order.
“We love because he first loved us.”
1 John 4:19, ESV

Our love is an answer.

Our obedience is an answer.

Even our gratitude begins with something already given.

That should change the way we serve Him.

We do not pray to keep God interested. We do not give to keep His work from collapsing. We do not obey to make ourselves indispensable.

He graciously gives us work to do. He uses our words, our gifts, and our care for one another. Those things matter because He appoints them and because the people we serve have real needs.

But the strength comes from Him.

And when our strength diminishes, His love does not diminish with it.

There may come a day when we can no longer do what we once did. Our world may become smaller. Other people may take up responsibilities we carried for years.

We will not have become less precious because we have become less productive.

Our place with Him was never secured by His need for us.

It rests in His grace toward us in Christ.

He needed nothing.

Yet He made us.

We sinned against Him.

Yet He gave His Son.

We brought no riches He lacked, no wisdom He required, and no strength He could not do without.

We brought our need.

And in Christ, He received us.

Have we been trying to make ourselves necessary to God, when He has invited us to rest in a love we could never earn?

Just a Thought.

JOSHUA HOUSE BOOKS

John L. Wheeler

© 2026 John L. Wheeler / Joshua House Books, LLC. All rights reserved.