

1. Even though we fail God, He never fails. Genesis 26:12 shows us God blessed Isaac exactly as He said He would.
2. God chose Jacob to lead the family and the nation, yet Isaac sought to move against God's clear directive. (Gen 25:23, 27:1-4)
3. The desires of the flesh take control, even in believers, that's why we need the Fruits of the Spirit.
4. Rebekah believed she needed to help God using a human solution. (Gen 27:5-15)
5. Many think the Bible contains the proverb, "The Lord helps those who help themselves", but it does not. Rather, the Lord helps those who come to the end of themselves!
6. Jacob conspired with his mother, impersonated his brother, repeatedly lied to his father, and was deceitful about God's actions (Gen 27:8-27)
7. Isaac's fears were alleviated through his son's betrayal and deception and the patriarchal blessing was given to Jacob.
8. Isaac quickly realized he pitted himself against God's will and is horrified. (Gen 27:33)
9. "Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord will stand". Proverbs 19:21
10. God observes and intervenes in the ways of mankind to bring good out of evil. That does not mean everything will feel good at the time, but God does cause things to turn out for His good purpose.

## HEBREW WORDS

**Charad** (khaw-rad´) - to shudder with terror; hence, to fear; (with anxiety) be (make) afraid, discomfit, quake, tremble.

## QUOTES

To what fearful lengths will sin quickly lead us once we take the first wrong step! ...the one who “walks” in the counsel of the ungodly will soon be found “standing” in the way of sinners, and then it will not be long ere he is discovered “sitting” in the seat of the scornful.

**Dr Arthur W Pink - 1940**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Mark tells us how Isaac has created his own problem by putting his son Esau before God.

1. What is something in your life that you put, or are tempted to put, before God?
2. What hope does that thing seem to offer to you?

Please take a moment to confess your misplaced hope to God and ask him to show you how He is the only trustworthy source of your hope.

In changing a few words, Mark takes the familiar phrase, “The Lord helps those who help themselves”, and instead offers the phrase, “The Lord helps those who come to the end of themselves” as being more aligned with biblical truth.

1. How do you agree or disagree with Mark’s assessment?
2. What do you think the new phrase means?
3. How might you apply this proverb to your own life now?