You say you're down and out
And need some help to get you through each day
Well, here's a thought or two
I've used and like to pass them on your way
I found them lying there
The answers that you say you're looking for
Make what you will of them
And you can change the way it was before

You got to make it by yourself
You know you got to make it by yourself
I'll be your friend and I'll lend a helping hand
But you got to try and help yourself before I can

I hear you talk of all the happiness
And emptiness you've known
Well, let me reassure you
Never were you really all alone
They say in quiet desperation many people cannot see
They cannot see the simple truth
That's not the way it has to be

You got to find it for yourself God helps the man who helps himself, amen I am your friend and I'll lend a helping hand But you gotta try and help yourself before I can

We got to help each other (each other)
You got to help your brother when you can
When you can

Now don't you think that I was preachin'
I'm just reachin' out for you
Cause that's the only way
That I know how to get the message through
Then you in turn and got to learn and teach it
To somebody who
Who felt the happiness and emptiness the same as you