

Love's Liberty at Work

Ye being rooted and grounded in love
He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us.
Unto him be glory world without end. -Ephesians 3:17, 20, 21

Most of the Lord's church is still living in bondage to the law.

A widely known preacher says, "When I got saved, I was told,
Wow go to work for the Lord,' and that was it"

Most of us are still trying to work to be accepted by God when we
are already "accepted in the beloved" by grace alone through
faith in Christ, (Ephesians 1:6, 2:8-10).

Law told us we have to perform in order to be accepted. We have to achieve.

How often when I've introduced people to the life of rest in God have I been told that this will
lead to do-nothing carelessness and irresponsibility.

True grace leads, however, not to inaction, carelessness, and irresponsibility, but to aggressive,
if compassionate and humble service for God.

To enter into His rest is not to quit doing but to do more effectively, more easily, in love, peace,
and joy ... in a quietness of spirit and manner that is a delight to behold.

Grace has set us free from the bond-, age of the have-tos of law, to the joy of the want-tos of
love. Grace has set us free, not so we need not obey the laws of righteousness, but so we love
to obey them. Grace, rather than striving to be accepted of God because of our good works,
loves to please God because we have already been accepted of Him.

How Wonderful!

What a wonderful thing it is to be shown this way of spiritual freedom. To be taught that we can
be delivered from legalism by the magnanimous grace of God is something beautiful.

What a delight to see that we no longer have to try to appease a difficult God by the self-efforts
that ended so often in failure!

If you long for this delight to be realized in your life, let me encourage you to get a copy of my
book, *A Christianity That Really Works*. A letter just received moments ago says, "It is
awesome! It captures and continually brings us back to the essence of what salvation is. I gave
a copy to a friend who was experiencing depression. God used it in her life. "



Information or Transformation?

Still, it's all too possible to learn a great deal about walking in the grace of God in love, in rest, and in peace without learning to walk with God in love, rest, and peace.

The first may be largely mere information, as exhilarating as that may be. The second is dynamic spiritual transformation authored by God and bringing Him eternal praise.

The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. -II Corinthians 3:6

Now, my purpose isn't to bring those who have already started down this road into doubt and discouragement. Hardly! You have far too much of these already.

But I want you to let God put you on His examining and operating table under the knife of His Word in the hand of

His Holy Spirit. There I want you to be honest with Him about you.

If you're still living after the flesh, under bondage to the law, I invite you to turn to the Lord in humble recognition of your need.

Let Him show you how incapable you are of doing by yourself one single thing to bring about the spiritual transformation you so desperately need.

I invite you to let go of your own self efforts. Ask Him to take entire charge of doing it. Trust Him with the doing. Give Him entire freedom in the doing regardless of the means He chooses, be they pleasant or very unpleasant. Rest in Him and His limitless love for you.

Soak yourself in His Word and prayer that features more praise, thanksgiving, and worship than anxious pleading. Wait patiently on Him in His peace no matter how long it takes before you see anything very tangible by way of results. After all, it's not primarily personal benefit you're looking for but His pleasure and praise.

Under God's Knife

While my purpose isn't to bring those who have already started down this road into doubt and discouragement, it is, as I've already said, to encourage you to let God put you on his examining and operating table.

It's too easy to say a hearty amen to all the teachings of the grace of God. They have great appeal to the reborn spirit that doesn't necessarily mean, however, that you're willing to allow the heavenly surgeon to cut deep into the self-life, so it can increasingly be replaced with the life of Christ, (Galatians 2:20).

It's possible to refuse the heavenly surgeon the right to cut away the self-centeredness and self-deception that allow you to continue living as selfishly or as legalistically as you did before you were shown the Christ-life of grace and glory. Yes, it's possible to be self-deceived, to believe the Christ-life of grace and freedom is yours, perhaps to have experienced some of its wonderful realities, but to be allowing the flesh to retain or regain too much control.

Is yours a life of glad service and willing sacrifice in the service of the King? Or do you have too little compassion for the desperate plight of both carnal Christians and lost and dying souls?

Are you one of those whose daily needs the Lord so graciously meets, even if not as you wish, yet who gives not at all, and couldn't possibly tithe? Have you forgotten the widow's mite?

If you're a member of the Worldwide Revival Prayer Fellowship, if you promised to pray and to participate in the ministry as fully as God teaches, are you neglecting your promise?

Are you willing to distribute the Christ-life message if it costs you nothing, but unwilling to accept any responsibility for the cost of printing or taping these messages by God's enabling?

Have you grown discouraged in this walk with the Lord? Do you wonder if it works? Do you blame your instructors, charging them and their teaching with responsibility for your failures?

Have you stopped spending sufficient time with the Lord in the Word, prayer, fellowship, communion, love, worship, praise, and thanksgiving?

Have you been neglecting what you've learned: - to seek the Lord, wait on Him, rest in Him and His peace, rely on Him, focus your attention on Him, turn to Him in each situation, live in broken-heartedness for your sin, in meekness and humility, in regular repentance recognizing your neediness and sinfulness? Have you become unwilling to take up your cross daily to follow Jesus?

And even with all this, are you still charging your instructors with responsibility for your failure?

Let me urge you to reread this message immediately. Ask the Lord to put you back on his examining and operating table. Ask Him to reveal you as you really are. Wherever you may be along this road of the Christ-life from law to grace and glory; let him lead you into the next step, however small it may be.

May today be the beginning of a renewed walk in the Christ-life from law and works, to faith, grace, and glory.

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