*Friday, June 10, 2011*

**A Strong Weakness**

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. (9) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (KJV)

So who and what is your real source of strength today; is it really the grace of God that you rely on, or has something else crept in that is having more of an influence than our Lord? Do you really desire to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might? Then you will only find it when you become weak to what you thought would work. Now that you are a new creation in Christ, old things and ways need to be dying and passing away, so that all things and what results from them will become new, bringing strength to the inner man.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (10) But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (KJV)

In the past Paul thought that he was strong and doing good by running down the people of God and persecuting the Church. How many times do we crucify our Lord and His doctrine when we step out of grace and back to our own works? Paul found strength in weakness, and found that it was not by his works that made it work rather it was Christ within Him. Can you really make the statement today that it is by the grace of God that you are what you are, or have you gotten in the way and are walking more by sight than faith?

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; (6) Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. (KJV)

Your walk with God is not based on how much of the Bible that you read, rather it now becomes how much of the Spirit are you allowing to manifest in your walk. We still have many who still hold to the old law and outward rituals which were done away by the grace of God, who sent His Son to fulfill all that so that His people would no longer be in bondage.

John 6:63-65 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (64) But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. (65) And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (KJV)

God does the choosing as far as who He desires to use concerning ministry work. Do keep in mind though that when God makes His choice it is based on the motive of the heart and not by our works. Simply put, if you desire a stronger relationship with our Father then you will find that it will be established by grace in what He has done for our benefit and not what we think we need to be doing for His.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)

So what really works for God’s people? How about grace through a simple faith that eliminates us from the equation so that someone else can take over. Your strength is made perfect by weakness, because when you can truly get out of the way with your limited carnal thoughts and ways then someone else can show you the way that He planned and ordained before the foundation of this world. Given the fact that there is none good but One, then let that One show you the only way that will get you home.