*Wednesday, August 3, 2011*

**Grace Works**

Ephesians 3:19-21 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (20) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, (21) Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (KJV)

To those that truly know God and how His plan of salvation really works they know it is based on love and His grace. Many people quote verse 20, and it is exciting when one reads it, however, few really know how to tap into this verse and see it actually manifest in their own lives. You have the Lord inside of you Church; nothing on the outside is ever going to satisfy or fill that spiritual void in the heart. The question now becomes, how many or should I say how few really will allow God to have His way in their lives, and find out how to unleash that power within them?

James 2:14-16 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (KJV)

I recently heard a preacher claim that James was mistaken concerning his writings on works and that he was still preaching Old Testament stuff. Actually James was right on, because faith is a fact that demands an act, and this is where many are dead in the water and show up on heaven’s door DOA concerning salvation.

James 2:17-19 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. (19) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (KJV)

Faith without allowing the Lord to work in and through you is a dead end. I will say this as fact; many begin with the Lord with zeal, however, their commitment and walk with the Lord comes to an end because they never act on what they hear from Him. The devils themselves know there is a God and believe, but they are not going to heaven. Many people claim that they know God, and have actually walked with Him for a season, but that season came to an end when they never respond in faith.

James 2:20-24 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (KJV)

You think you got it rough? Well, how about Abraham who was promised a son; he waited till beyond what the physical limitations would say it could take place, then having finally had that son he was asked to give him up. Talk about a step of faith. Many of God’s people sit around like a bunch of deadbeats waiting for God to do something, when the reality is that God is waiting for them to step out in faith so that He can show them just how much above and beyond their limited comprehension He would like to do on their behalf.

Galatians 5:6-8 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (7) Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (8) This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. (KJV)

Reminds me of football sometimes, like when one team on paper looks so much better than the other one, and is considered a sure thing. However, in the end we realize that the letter kills and the Spirit gives life. The underdog team decided to take a step of faith and show up anyway, and in the end they walked away with the prize. How many times have you allowed yourself to be talked out of the realm of the Spirit because you spent more time looking at things according to the outward appearance? That sure didn’t come from our Lord did it?