*Wednesday, September 12, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

1 Corinthians 15:9-11 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 labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (11) Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed. (KJV)

I find Paul’s writings interesting as to how many times he makes reference to grace. While many of the other disciples were hanging around Jerusalem still incorporating the old law with the new covenant of grace I see where Paul knew that it was not his works that were effective rather it was allowing the Lord to work through him by grace. I see a man who knew how to get out of the way so that someone else could take over and have His way through him. A man who was one of the most diehard Old Testament law abiding persons had done a complete turnaround, learning what salvation really is about.

2 Corinthians 12:6-10 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. (7) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. (8) 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)

Now come on, really; would you take pleasure in hardships and persecutions, or when a necessity comes up, is that something that you really take pleasure in? Well, when you are willing to let go and you have built your trust and confidence up enough in the Lord then you see another opportunity for Him to come through again for you. In a world where people are always trying to be larger than life, our Lord’s realm is just the opposite, waiting for us to become smaller. I have found for myself that when I truly do become weak, then it opens the door of grace for someone much stronger to go to work on my behalf, as well as the Church.

Galatians 2:20-21 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (21) I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness comes by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (KJV)

Everything this man Paul had been taught by people from his past, those he had looked up to and respected were no longer going to work for him. He had to do a complete change in order to be used by God; which when you read the epistles you see that he was the guy that wrote the majority of them because he allowed Christ to take over and have more of an influence on him than anyone or anything of this life.

1John 4:3-5 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. (KJV)

God so graciously allowed us access into His realm, and is now asking us to let Him into ours. Are you fed up with the same vain empty results and would like to see something greater happen? Well so would God, all you have to do is let go.