

faithmatters

1 Kings 22:14 - "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak."

It is my commitment to the Lord and to men, that I speak nothing more or less than that which God has given us through the power and grace of His Word.

Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

But *how* do we live by faith?

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Our faith is more than a belief in the *existence* of God and of Jesus. One tiny glimpse at Creation shows us that there *is* a Creator. **James 2:19** - You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! Ours is not only a faith that Jesus walked on the earth, but that He was the perfect and complete sacrifice for our sins. That God Himself is also faithful and true to His Word. That His promises are for us and have been given to us by His grace. We have faith that the Lord lives today, and rules. **Despite the appearance of our surroundings.** We have faith...

that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. (**Romans 8:28**)

We have faith that God will deliver us from trials and sufferings and temptations. That He *will* be the source of our strength.

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

The apostle Paul tells us of a time when he was put to the test, but he trusted in the Lord, and Jesus said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2

Corinthians 12:9)

The Lord is faithful, and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear (1 **Corinthians 10:13**) and He will deliver us from our struggles when we walk with Him and put our trust in Him. Unless we give everything we hold onto up to God, He *cannot* work in us or through us. The only way to overcome Satan is through the power of Christ. Many times I have fallen short of the glory of God through unrighteousness. And the only way I was able to overcome was by giving it all to Christ. We *are not able* to bear the burden of our sins. Jesus can, and **He already has**, when He died as a propitiation for our sins. He *became* sin for us that we might **become** *righteous*.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the weak,
And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall,
But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Remember where your strength comes from. Without God, we are nothing. Without God, we don't *exist*. The only way we can live is by putting our faith in Jesus Christ and following Him. Therefore,

Hebrews 10:22-23 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

Ephesians 2:1-10 - And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Until we come to the point where we totally surrender ourselves and our lives and our works to the Lord *without restraint*, God cannot do anything for us or through us or with us. The power of Christ cannot have any affect on us until we surrender our will to Him. We do not seek our own, but the perfect will of the Lord. God is always there to take us in. Remember the wayward son (**Luke 15**). God never moves. We may either move towards Him or away from Him. See to it that you are continually growing closer to God. He waits patiently for us to return to Him. And when we do, there is much rejoicing in heaven and on earth.

James 4:7-10 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

If there's anything you need, please feel free to let me know. If I can pray about something that's going on in your life, I gladly will, or if you need any kind of advice, don't hesitate to ask. Contact me anytime.

paul herrin_423-773-8633_pherri20@student.scad.edu