

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Doing Extra And More for the Lord. (2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Doing Extra and More for the Lord.

On the Whitney Houston memorial T.V. show Whitney told her interviewer that as a child she was raised in a Christian home to be perfect to live a life to high standards of morals and ethics to always help the poor and if she did these things God would accept her and carry her through. Her singing began in church choirs so she would of have had a consciousness of God and a certain understanding of the Christian faith.

Whitney had beauty many women would have envied, enormous fame, the most fantastic voice, tremendous riches and the world loved her, yet her life was taken by drugs and maybe suicide. When I hear stories like this I always think it is so sad, if only she (and the many others like her) had known the depth of God's love and His grace she would have survived the lying and tormenting voices in the mind, the depression, the despair, the great depth of hopelessness and that deep feeling of being alone.

Though Whitney was raised in a Christian environment it is likely it was one of works and not of grace since she was told if she did all the right things God would accept her (her words not mine).

Now I say all that to say this, in many religious meetings (certainly not all) of any sort, the underlying focus is often upon getting faithful Christians to do more to do extra. I have seldom been to a church where the minister has said to his congregation, "Wow guys fantastic, congrates for enduring in your faith, God would be so thrilled that you have been a faithful husband, a faithful wife, a great mother or obedient teenager, and lived with integrity amongst all the temptations, hardships and struggles of the world. Mostly the only ones who get this kind of praise are those who are doing more and doing extra to add to the growth of the church in some way.

The reason I am highlighting this is because I know a sixty year old woman (but she is only a symbol of many other faithful Christians who I have known throughout my many years of Christianity) who feels worthless yet she has not only walked with the Lord all her life, but has survived her husband deserting her, raised two beautiful teenage daughters, cares for her grandchildren and been faithful to the Lord. She has done nothing spectacular and now because of religious teaching (I believe) feels she is an unworthy servant of the Lord, because she is not doing more and doing extra.

Rarely is praise given to a brother or sister who may have been divorced; been a terrible parent; been a rebellious teenager; committed adultery; been a drug addict; been bankrupt or been unfaithful etc., who has repented and turned back to the Lord with a passionate heart to do what is right. These people seldom seem to be given praise and encouragement from those behind the pulpit unless they are involved in some form of church ministry.

No matter what troubles and hardships a faithful brother or sisters' faith has survived or is still struggling with the underlying message to the congregation of many churches (certainly not all) is about doing more and doing extra to add to the growth of the church in some way.

I know in years gone by I (and other married men who I have known) never had mental rest or peace because we felt mentally driven that we must be doing something more something extra something over and above our everyday life to be really worthy of the Lord. To make this worse I and those I knew were just struggling to financially survive life, let alone do something more something extra.

Most of us who love the Lord worldwide are simply going to be faithful servants in our everyday life by doing what we have to do to provide for our families and just survive the hardships and struggles of life. I long for the day when I hear messages from behind the pulpit that tell the faithful in their congregations that all they have to do is live their life (whatever path that maybe) in honesty, integrity and showing kindness, acceptance, friendliness and compassion etc., to those who come into their life and share their faith when they are able.

James the brother of Jesus us tells us: -

- If you fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shalt love your neighbour as yourself,” you do well. (James 2:8)

The expression, “You shalt love your neighbour as yourself,” means do-good to others and not harm. If this message was taught and applied to our everyday lives I am confident preachers would not have to be always trying to find ways to motivate faithful Christians to do more and to do extra and it is likely far more people would be attracted to the Christian faith if the extra and the more those in their congregations were doing was fulfilling the royal law, “love your neighbour as yourself,” as they went about their everyday lives.

Don’t get me wrong I am sure that God does call certain people to do more and to do extra (i.e. the prophets, apostles and amazing men and women today who give their entire life to ministry etc.) but the majority of followers in the Bible were simply called to fulfil Jesus command, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” as they went about their everyday life.

My heart goes out to those Christians who are faithful, but don’t have the gifts of leadership, the knowledge to teach, the boldness to declare the Gospel and are so timid in character and nature that there is no way they can confront strangers with their Christian faith, but who do live a life of honesty, integrity and doing-good to others because of their faith in the Lord and they let those around them know that they are Christians without being forceful or imposing their faith onto them.

This I believe is all the Lord expects of most of those who belong to his global family, but from my experience of Christian life those who live this way are rarely given credit and praise from those behind the pulpits unless they are doing more and extra (i.e. something over and above their normal everyday life and something that is adding to the ministers church).

If faithful brothers and sisters who live their lives according the royal law “Love your neighbour as yourself,” were encouraged and praised for their faithfulness even though they are not involved in the ministries of the church instead of being pressured to do more and do extra (mostly to add to the church) it would prevent those who like the faithful sixty year old woman (and there are many like her of all ages) I spoke to from feeling like an unworthy servant after years of walking faithfully before the Lord.

No marriage would survive if all the husband and wife did was to tell each other that they should be doing more, nor would any child mentally grow into an emotionally strong and healthy adult if all the parents did was tell them that they should be doing more yet many preachers (certainly not all) seem to think this is what they should be doing (perhaps they are driven not so much by the Spirit of the Lord, but by the desire to have a big church).

Personally, after fifty years in the Christian faith I don’t need peoples encouragement to motivate me, my love for the Lord and the Gospel does that, but I do greatly appreciate it and it does thrill me to know that someone is being helped by what I do and because I recognise this in myself it makes me aware of how much there is a lack of encouragement in the body of Christ toward the average brother and sister who are faithfully living their life as best they can with honest integrity and faith toward the Lord and according to Jesus command, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Added to this not everyone in the global body of Christ is strong in their faith and many are battling with financial struggles, family break-downs, painful sickness, the loss of loved ones and all sorts of other trials, tribulations and struggles.

FOOTNOTE: almost all Christians would be fully aware that it is an abomination in the sight of God to exalt and esteem each other. (Luke 16:15). This could be one of the reasons for the lack of encouragement and praise. Some may feel by praising or encouraging a brother or sister they are in some way exalting or esteeming them, but praise and encouragement is as different from exalting and esteeming as the East is from the West.

Should any faithful brother or sister be feeling like an, unworthy servant remember the words of Jesus brother James: "If you fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shalt love your neighbour as yourself," you do well. (James 2:8)

For further information concerning, love your neighbour, see the title: -

- Love your Neighbour as Yourself in, Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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End.