

Live by Faith not Works

Paul tells us in Romans 14: 23 whatsoever is not of faith is sin. The line between faith and works is very fine, so fine in fact that an onlooker may have no idea whether we are living by faith or by works. Whether we are living through the indwelling power of God or are simply a legalist, living by our own strength.

We are living in the very last days of earth's history and the time of trouble is not far away. During which time we won't be able to buy or sell if we are following God faithfully. See Revelation 13: 11-18. During this time we will have to be living totally by faith in God to take care of our every need.

Dose this mean that it is OK to live by works before this time? No one will or ever has been saved by works. The time of trouble is simply a time that will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt whether we are living by faith or by works. All who will be saved will have been saved because of their faith not because of their works. The only difference between then and now and the coming time of trouble is that if we slip and fall into living by works now, we can be forgiven but once probation closes if we have not learned to live by faith and faith alone we will be lost because there will no longer be a second chance. See Revelation 22: 6-21 specifically verse 11.

In fact, the Sabbath test that will come to everyone once Sunday Laws are passed is all about this. The question is, will we have total faith and trust in God to sustain us spiritually and physical or will we depend on ourselves. We won't suddenly begin to have this faith and trust once the crunch comes, we must build that now. The only way we can build it, is by living it, now!

There are many who want to make trusting in God only a spiritual thing, But Jesus made it very clear that this is simply not the case. He said: No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (trust in money, earthly things). Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, **O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6: 24-34

This should make it very clear that faith dose not stop with spiritual things. If we make God's Kingdom (sharing the gospel) and His righteousness (becoming like Him) the focus of our lives, which it must be if we are Christians, that God will take care of all our physical needs as well as our spiritual needs. If we don't learn this prior to the time of trouble we will never learn it and we will be lost. It is that simple. Faith and Faith alone will save us.

I have a strong tendency to do-it-myself, I don't like asking for help. It is a real battle for me to let God do things for me and the Devil knows that and does everything he can to keep me from depending totally on God. Some may not have this battle. Because of this, I realize that I must allow God to lead me in a very obvious way or I can to easily get caught up in doing it myself. The western culture (worldview) is built around this do-it-yourself mentally. Pick yourself up by your own boot straps. I did it my way. This is not God's way and I have come to realize that. I want to do things God's way. So, for me, in order to break the do-it-yourself mentality in my life I need to go about living in a more radical trusting in God way than most may have to do. This is the path that God has called me to go on and I must go on it. I am not the only one that God has called to go on this path. Many have gone before me and are also doing it today. It is the path of total faith and trust in God, and it dose fly in the face of western culture and almost everything we have been taught and the worldview we have grown up with.

You may say, but I need security I can't just trust in God. I have to get a job so I can pay the bills. I can appreciate that. We all have a strong need for security. But, can you trust in your employer to pay you. My question for you is, What is more secure than trusting in God? **For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with having a job, it is when we trust in that job and get our security from it that it becomes a problem.

If you don't begin to live by faith now, when are you going to begin?