

The Basis of His Work in our Lives

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Luke 15:17-19

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NKJV) And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 **that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

Luke 15:17-19 (NKJV) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. **Make me like one of your hired servants."**

Introduction

These verses give us insight into the things the Lord has been doing in our lives and form the basis for understanding how God uses the most unlikely of human instrumentalities.

Sing the Song: Give Them All to Jesus

- I. Coming to God with a messed up life
Luke 15:21 (NKJV) "And the son said to him, 'Father, **I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'**
 - A. Acknowledging our sins and failures
 - B. Realizing He is not required to accept us
 - C. Realizing we have forfeited our sonship
 - D. Having an expectation to simply be a servant
- II. Discovering the unlimitless nature of His grace
Luke 15:22 (NKJV) "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'

- A. His sons and daughters are not disposable
 - B. Love, forgiveness and acceptance are His nature
 - C. He has plenty of servants (angelic beings)
 - D. Sons and daughters come only through the riches of His grace
- III. Experiencing the goodness of His grace toward us
1 Corinthians 2:5 (NKJV) that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- A. The basis of His grace
 1. Is not our successes
 2. Is not our intelligence
 3. Is not forfeited by failure
 4. **Is rooted in His own nature**
 - B. Our faith must rest in His Sovereignty
Romans 9:15 (NKJV) For He says to Moses, "**I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.**"
 - C. Our faith must rest in His Grace
1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) But **by the grace of God I am what I am,** and His grace toward 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.
 - D. Our faith must rest in His Love
Ephesians 2:4 (NKJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,