

**Are you Depending on your
Will Power
Or are you depending on
God's Grace?**

ALPHA & OMEGA

International Ministries

N E W S L E T T E R

June 2010

It is normal for a Christian to want to be everything that he can be for God. He wants to do things that he feels are pleasing to God. He wants to be led by the Lord and display Godly characteristics. He knows what he wants to be and do, but how does he do what he knows he needs to do? Frustration comes in when he can't seem to achieve the goal that he wants to reach. Anytime walking with God causes us to become frustrated or anxious, it is because we are trying to achieve Godliness by the works of the flesh. The flesh operates according to will power. How many of you have something that you want to achieve, but no matter how hard you try, you just can't quite reach your goal because you don't have the will power to do what you know you ought to do?

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:14-15,18

I have found myself in this very spot. Living the "Christian life" that the Bible says is easy sometimes becomes a hard task that never quite brings satisfaction or rest.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

If your walk with God has become a burden, rather than rest, something is wrong! God intended that your walk with Him should be a delight and not a work!

Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalms 40:6,8

How does God write his law on the heart in such a way that walking with Him becomes a delight and not a chore?

Sacrifice and burn offering You do not desire, nor have You delight in them; You have given me capacity to hear and obey {Your law, a more valuable service than} burnt and sin offerings which you do not require.

Psalms 40:6 (Amplified)

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God sets us free from the Romans 7 scenario (to will is present, but how to perform it I find not) by giving us the capacity to obey what we hear. He does it by grace.

For by grace are ye saved (set free) through faith (persuasion that He will provide everything that you need); and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

We most often hear “*unmerited favor*” as the definition for grace. By looking in the “*Strong's Concordance*,” we see that the meaning of the word is much deeper. It means “*the divine influence of God upon the heart and its reflection in the life therein.*” Favor comes from God as He literally writes his word on our hearts. He changes the way that we think, and that in turn changes the way that we act. All of this is achieved by the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us (according to the Amp version of *Psalms 40:6*) the capacity to hear and obey.

But we are discharged from the law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under obedience to the old code of written regulations, but under obedience to the promptings of the Spirit in newness of life.

Romans 7:6 (Amplified)

Work out your own salvation. (Not in your own strength) for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you, energizing and creating in you the power and the desire both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight

Phillipians 2:12-13 (Amplified)

The Bible says in Romans 14:17 that the kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Anytime you find your walk with God lacking peace or joy, you have somehow begun to depend upon your own will power to do what God said that He would do by Grace.

Galatians calls it “*falling from grace.*”

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen (driven off course, thus becoming inefficient) from grace.

Gal 5:1,4