

Respond!

"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." 1 Corinthians 15:10

The heart's cry of every believer is to be effective in this life before the Lord. No one intentionally labors for nothing. We desire to be effective in what we do. We want to make a difference. And yet, we cannot ignore the Master's words to us in Matthew 7 when He spoke, "*Depart from me, I never knew you.*"

We labor before God because of His goodness toward us, not because we must, but because we desire to give back to the Lord! It is not God's desire to have us work our entire life only to find out in the end that there was a better way! He does not want us wasting our time nor our lives! The Apostle Paul gives us the secret to effective ministry in this verse when he declares "*yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*" Let grace do the work for you! Discover the grace of God for your life all over again. Let your life become a journey of giving the grace of God away! Grace is tangible, measurable, and can increase as well as diminish.

Grace is received through Faith. And Faith is determined by Hearing the Word. But for the Word to be heard, for the Word to gain entrance into our lives is not determined by God; it is determined by the focus of **our hearts!** That is why two individuals can hear the same word – one will receive that word and the other harden his heart against it! Grace is available right now for every man, woman, and child but it is not automatic; it must be received. Have a heart softened to receive all the grace that God has for you! Quit comparing yourself or look to yourself to do anything in the Kingdom! It is always the grace of God through an individual that does effective ministry. That puts all of us on an even playing field, so to speak. Everyone and anyone can flow in the grace of God! So why not begin today? There is a calling and a purpose with your name on it. There is a function and office in the ministry of Jesus Christ design just for you. Don't let your heart become so hard that you reject His goodness. Your best days are before you!

- Randy Bach
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