



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Do What  
You Know 1-2

Grace &  
Works 3

Closing  
Thoughts 4

## Dear Friends,

*We cannot think our way into a new way of acting.*

*We must act our way into a new way of thinking.*

*Quoted by Alan Hirsch in The Forgotten Ways*

*If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

*John 13:17*

*Why do you call me Lord, and do not do what I say?*

*Luke 6:46*

*When you do what He says, then you will know.*

*John 7:17*

*Be doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
deceiving your own selves.*

*James 1:22*



What changes our lives most effectively? What we think? Or what we do? This is a question asked in any basic social psychology course. The answer given by most students is, "What we think." Examples of both answers could be cited. But overall, the research shows it is what we do that ultimately shapes our thinking and how we live. It is true that our doing must begin with a willing choice, or even a forced choice. But if that choice is repeatedly strengthened with action, slowly but surely that action will transform our thinking. This is what Jesus said in various quotes above as well as in many other places in Scripture.

We have addressed this in many of our recorded teachings. *How Do We Really Change?* and *Experiencing Real Change* are just two of many titles that seek to help us understand this. In fact, all of our teaching has been focused on helping us change. Of course, our minds need to be transformed with truth. Being renewed in our minds is certainly an important part. But it is only a part. We know a lot of stuff if we have been going to church for any length of time. And that may be our great problem. For the more we know and fail to do,

Continued on page 2

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the more deceived we become. Remember the story Jesus told of the two brothers whom the father sent to work in the fields. Both had the same *knowledge* of their father's will. But Jesus said only one of them *did* his father's will: the one who *acted* in obedience.

I have been wrestling with Clay McLean for over five decades, and I have been trying to help people for nearly as long. I have come to the conclusion that *what is wrong with the church is that we do not do what we know to do*. We seem to have no intention of even trying to do what Jesus told us to do. Or, even worse, because we know His words, we think we are doing them when, in fact, we only think we are! We are deceived because we falsely equate believing the truth as the same as doing it. We want one more book or lecture or conference to attend where we might be zapped into our new self, with as little demand on us as possible.

***Living in obedience is not a burden to anyone who is hungry for freedom. It is freedom itself.*** It is only a burden if we truly love our chains and embrace them. To the soul who longs for holiness (wholeness), the way has been revealed to us by the work of the Cross. The way has been shown to us by the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This is not about becoming religiously busy for God or focusing on our performance as a measure for His (or other's) acceptance. That is what we end up doing when we do NOT do what Jesus teaches us. Once we learn the difference between religious rule-keeping and the beauty of obedience, life does transform. We do change. This is not just a matter of gaining more knowledge, though it does begin with knowledge. It is a matter of living in the Father's love day in and day out, learning to recognize His voice, and then doing what you hear Him say.

You can begin NOW. Ask yourself this question. What has Jesus spoken to you today to do? Have you done it yet? Will you answer His invitation to obey Him? Say YES, and DO it! It is that simple. And that profound.



## Grace and Works

There is a real struggle for some people to know how to rest in grace while at the same time, to work out their salvation. Our failure to understand it has produced many troubles on both sides of the argument. Citing a Bible proof text for either extreme is easy. *For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9). Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12,13). The kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. (Titus 3:4,5). Faith without works is dead. A man may say, you have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (James 2: 17,18).*

It seems easily clarified by reading and embracing the whole counsel of God. There is one verse that brings union to grace and works. *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world...that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous to do good works. (Titus 2:11-14).*

If our eyes were opened to see the vast army of demonic forces set against the truth, I believe we would see far more of them wearing religious robes rather than devil horns. The religious battle set against humanity seeks to keep us from real LIFE. Both extremes – making grace a license to do nothing, or making good works a means of gaining God's favor – battle against LIFE. The “do nothing in the name of grace” posture is numbing us as a source of power for good. The legalistic rule-keeping of those working hard to get God to like them is killing the very joy of living.

It is the great joy and power of resting in real grace that awakens in us the desire and energy to give LIFE to the world. Of all the lies of hell to resist, the false battle between grace and works may be the most damaging of all. Let it be His love that motivates what you do. Not a “work's salvation,” but salvation expressing LIFE in all your works.

## Closing Thoughts...



There's a fine line between refusing to face trouble and refusing to allow trouble to deface you. There are many voices out there addressing the times we are in. Yet only one thing is needful according to Jesus. To sit at His feet, hear His word, and obey what you hear Him say. Everything else, no matter how urgent it seems, is a far second to that. Some of us may be called into new battlefields. We ere when we try to enter the battle without first hearing His voice. The wisest and safest place is listening with a set will to obey whatever you hear. *Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.* (Colossians 3:15) Go after whatever in you is not peaceful, and bring that turmoil under the rule of Jesus. We are in the world, but not of it. It means that we do not let whatever is happening in the world bring us under its power. Worship will always bring you back to your true center in Him.

*In His Love,*

*Clay & Mary*



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