

His Work Not Mine

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

Have you ever realized that the work of the Lord is an on-going work? It is a work that happens through your life when you live by faith? Sometimes we associate living by faith with, “How in the world am I going to pay my bills this week?” Well, the provisions of life are part of living by faith, but living by faith is literally trusting God to do that work that only He can do through you. So the explanation of that work is not you. “But,” you say, “what about my training? You do not realize I was top of the class in my studies!” Well, God might use it or God might not use it, but the interesting thing, over and over again, in reading the Word of God is to see it is Christ; it is not me. You know, faith and works do not mix any more than oil and water mix well together. After being saved by faith – that is the way I came to know Him — it is for me to live in Christ. In other words, I am not helped to live by Christ, but it is Christ living through me. So this idea of “I will walk in His footsteps” or “He will be beside me at this hour” - there is a sense, yes, He is beside you, but He is in you! That is the important thing! I am so praising the Lord that, even though the body could go through all kinds of physical problems and all kinds of things could be happening in the situation where I live, it is Christ living within. There is no situation that I have to deal with that He cannot adequately

handle. It is a wonderful thing for He is able! Our God is able. I think we do not realize we are not living by the Law; we are living by grace. It is all of Him. It is all His unmerited mercy poured out in such a unique and exciting way.

I want to share a little thought that my husband put together several years ago and I love it: it is not my *ability*, but my total *inability*. (In other words, it is not what I can do. Of myself, there is just inability.)

But His ability is total *dependability*! I can totally depend on Him for everything. “So what is my *responsibility*?” you ask. My responsibility is total *availability* to His ability. That is what I am to do: I am to be totally responsible of letting Him do that work through me. When He says, “Go,” He does not expect us to take off on our own.

Years ago, when I first felt I must reach lives for the Lord, I worked it out that I would leave home and go off with this Christian lady friend.

We would go down the road and, if need be, we would sleep in the field with our little rucksacks and try to make it, because we were out there to win people for Christ! The Lord quickly showed us that all the work and all the effort and all the sacrifice weren't going to bring forth the fruit He had planned. Instead, it was by being available to Him and letting Him do a work He had planned. It blew my mind in what He had arranged. There were ways I would never have thought of and opportunities I would never have planned!

In **2 Corinthians 12:10** we read: . . . **for when I am weak** - *and that means utterly strengthless — when I cannot perform or do anything* - **then am I strong**. The trouble is some of us think we are rather weak and not too capable, so we hold on to what little bit we are presenting, feeling it is me bringing this little bit of weakness and difficulty. No! It means when I am without strength that He is everything. I am strong enough only when I see it is His strength doing the work.

I want you to see there is a reason why we need to be very clear in our own life before God that the work of the Lord is to be done through us. One of the clear evidences of this work taking place is the reproduction of His life. The reason we are in Christ is that He reproduces His life through us. It is not having a big soul winning bash where we all get together and go to some community and thinking, “Well, we did this last year, so we do not have to do it again until next year.” No. It is the day-by-day availability. It means that every day I am expecting to be able to confess Him, to share Him and souls will be saved. It might be the first time they are hearing about the Lord. They might not be saved right in front of me, but that Word will not be forgotten.

It is for this reason we have made available some excellent little tracts. My husband wrote one called *Hope for the Hopeless*. This is a tract that not only deals with those who have HIV or AIDs, but it is a tract

that helps people to understand how they can be set free from the bondage of their enemy, Satan, who holds and blinds their minds, and be brought into Christ by the awesome work of the Holy Spirit making Christ real. We would like to send you some of these tracts and make them available for your soul winning as you go into the day, letting Christ be the Soul Winner through you. Would you say to Him today - *I want You to do that work and, by faith, I thank You there are going to be souls being saved, even the most unlikely. It is your work, Your way. I am taking my hands off. Yes, I am utterly strengthless to do any of this, but You are altogether powerful and able. And I thank You that my responsibility is total availability to Your ability.*

Praise You, Jesus. Amen.