

The Bishop's Corner

By His Grace

Praise the Lord Saints,

“For by grace are ye 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)

We've just completed our annual 2019 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Conference and those of us who attended were there by God's grace. Anywhere we go and anything we do for the ministry is because of His grace.

Sins are the manifestation of iniquity, which is the mind to do evil. We are kept by the grace of God and the Holy Ghost helps us to repent. But the Holy Ghost has to first convince us that our thoughts are evil. Being kept by the power of God means our yielding, which helps us to be kept. I know the power of the Holy Ghost in deliverance and in keeping me because I am standing today. We must obey God and not have selective obedience and work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).

The initial nature of man is sinful because we are all born in sin and sharpened in iniquity, and that is why the old man must die. We were like the man in the country of Gadarenes who dwelled in tombs and was possessed with demons called Legion. Jesus delivered him, but the demons had to go somewhere, so Jesus casted them into a herd of swine who ran into the river and were drowned (Luke 8:26-33).

When we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and save us, something has to be done with the sins. Jesus had no sin, so He is the only one who could do what no one else could do--take away our sins. The only way Jesus could go free from all of our sins was for Him to die because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and God raised Him from the dead. Wherefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name (Philippians 2:9). Anyone who calls on the name of Jesus can be saved. We get eternal life when we are saved (John 3:15-17).

In God, it is not a matter of doing, but becoming someone who obeys God and does His will. The devil does not stop pursuing us, and it takes God to stop Him. We must know the Word of God to fight the good fight of faith because faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Continue to read, meditate, and memorize the Word of God because only then will you begin to believe it.

God bless you all,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

