

“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.” James 2:1 KJV



God uses saved sinners to teach and preach. I enjoy reading Charles Spurgeon, because he loved God. His quest to know Christ is well documented. He wrote, “It is not great talent God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus Christ! It needs the overflow of heart to give the lips full speech. Thy soul must overflow, if thou another’s soul would reach.” The Apostle Paul wrote, *“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship (sharing) of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”* You’ll never know Christ without the *“fellowship of His suffering.”* Moses face shone so brightly after Mt Sinai the people were afraid of him. Men are only great if close to God! God in our lives, shining out to others, is our only glory and If you can’t love AND trust God for your greatest needs, you’ll never know Him! Christ set the example before death on the Cross by praying to the Father, *“Nevertheless, not my will but Thine.”* If you do not love God, you’ll hesitate to trust Him. Christ’s love never hesitated to sacrifice His life for our salvation! *“Greater love hath no man than this: That a man lay down his life for his friends.”* Are you admiring human qualities or likeness to Jesus Christ? Is it a person’s closeness to God that attracts you or is it how they make you feel? *“God IS Light and in Him is no darkness at all.”* One of the most common ailments of closeness to God is grief over sin. The more Light unveiled, the more sin revealed. Martin Luther’s wife asked him, “Did God die?” Surprised he answered, “No. Why?” She told him his mournful attitude made it seem so. Don’t yield to the Tempter’s whispers of guilt! Guilt is a feeling, God’s forgiveness is a fact! Paul reminds us, *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through my Lord Jesus Christ!”* Confess sin, obey, and rejoice God came to save you! Through Christ, who defeated death by dying, I am *“more than conqueror!”* Why? No other conqueror ever defeated death! If I fear death, I’m not close to God!

A man cannot forgive my sin,
Nor free me from death’s mortal whims,
Tis Truth alone that works within,
And Christ alone that saves from sin! ~CGP

Let it be your pastor’s closeness to God that attracts you, not his eloquence! *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (their deeds). Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”* Like the Emmaus road disciples, may it be God’s Word that makes our hearts glow within us!

“And it came to pass (at the end of the day), as [Jesus] sat at meat with them (the Emmaus Road disciples), He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?’ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them.” Luke 24:30-32 KJV