

“So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.” *1 Corinthians 3:7 KJV*



A farmer can sow until blue in the face, but without water, nothing grows, the ground dries up, and the seed blows away in the wind. So often we see men taking credit for what God has done. It sickens me to hear someone bragging about how many professions of faith or baptisms there have been in “Their Church.” First of all, it’s not “Their Church!” Jesus told Peter, “*I will build MY church!*” If a church is “Your Church,” I would have serious doubts about any professions of faith made therein! We are told in the book of Acts, “*THE LORD added to the Church daily such as should be saved.*” Only God can know the motives and sincerity of any sinner’s heart. We may think ourselves a discerners of intent, but I can tell you from personal experience, even believer’s judgment is suspect. Even Pastor Nelms was fooled into thinking I was saved as a young child. I spent my life under God’s protection until I was 38 years old. God was the one that finally revealed to me my lost condition. Now “*I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him.*” There’s not one tiny bit of guesswork! Yes, I often find myself unworthy, but never unloved or condemned! I wasn’t led to Christ by any one individual. As a matter of fact, I grew up in church and found that most professing believers feigned their faith. There were a few I knew to be in touch with the Almighty. It was their faithfulness that overshadowed the hypocrisy that ran rampant in most every church I’ve ever attended. I’m a missionary kid so I’ve been in hundreds. It is the humble preacher of the Gospel God uses most efficiently, because they assume themselves to be nothing and trust God to do as He’s promised. If you spread the Gospel with confidence in your own ability, you will accomplish little of any eternal value for God for “*without [Him, you] can do NOTHING!*” But, “*I can do ALL things through Christ!*” Granted, God’s Word will do as He wishes regardless of the messenger, but you’ll receive no rewards for your efforts at the Judgment Seat of Christ! There is no “pride of accomplishment” in the servant of God; only humble gratitude and rejoicing for what He has done for yourself and others through faith in His Word. Belief tempers action. What you truly believe is reflected in how you speak and act. “*As [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*” Truth is absolute!

When I depend upon myself,
God will put me upon the shelf,
I will become a castaway,
Bringing none to the Living Way! ~CGP

A young preacher that walked confidently up to the pulpit smiling and shaking hands to deliver his well-prepared sermon, but when he got behind the pulpit, he discovered with great consternation he had forgotten his notes! He stammered through his message and walked to the back of the church with his eyes down and his head low. An elderly lady took his hand at the door and said, “Son, if you had gone up to the pulpit like you came down, you would have had help while you were there!” When we go in the power of God, we will never be ashamed! God sees and knows men’s thoughts. “*The Spirit of Truth...will guide you...reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*” God’s Word will bring a man to a point of decision if we faithfully present Truth “*to every creature,*” for He will continue speaking to the heart long after we have gone! Go WITH God!

“*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*” *John 15:5 KJV*