

Never Enough

From: Know and Believe:

A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 26: Never Enough

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Without any doubt, one of the most devastating teachings that separated us from being convinced of God's love for us was the concept that there was always something "more" that needed to be done to please God.

Pleasing God was the most important thing in our lives. For that reason, I was determined that every word, deed, and even every thought of mine would honor Him. Yet all my efforts only brought me misery because that golden carrot of being pleasing to God was always ten steps ahead of me. This is how I described my experience in my second book.

Diligently seeking to be close to Him and seeking to love Him with all of my heart, my soul, and my strength, yet not being totally assured of how deeply He loved me brought emptiness and misery. As I was heading down a prescribed road to righteousness, I was convinced I was correct in my pursuits. "I" would please God. "I" would live a holy life. "I" would practice my spiritual disciplines. "I" would love God with all of my being. "I" would be a good wife and mother. "I" would make sure that every thought and word and deed of mine was honest and pure. "I" would give. "I" would love others as Christ loved me. "I" would overcome the overwhelming areas of my life.

Please understand this: I didn't see this as self-righteousness, but as my desire to please God and be holy—to be diligent and faithful.

*In my zealous pursuit of holiness, I lost sight of the fact that by "His" blood, once and for all, "He" made me holy. "He" brought me close. "He" forgave all of my sins. By "His" grace through faith, "He" made me "His" righteousness. By "His" wounds I was healed. "He" was my wisdom. By "His" doing I was in Christ. "He" gave me an anointing. "He" brought about revival. "He" loved me, yes, me personally, and "He" loved me without condition. All these things that "He" did, I was trying to **better**.*

No wonder God seemed far away! Of course my perception of His love for me, the love I knew the first day I believed in Him, was diminished. Religious laws and

goals mixed in with societal expectations had snuffed out nearly every trace of the life that was in me. Seeking my own righteousness through my own efforts caused me to be “estranged from Christ” even though I was not involved in sin and desired so greatly to please Him and glorify His name.

***Anyone who seeks to be justified by law
will fall from His grace. It is automatic.
God loves us too much to allow us to feel comfortable
continuing down the dead road of self-effort.***

More rational souls detected this error sooner and found a different place of fellowship, but “I” would be one of the diligent ones who kept on doing “more.”

When coming to my lowest point in my Christian walk— when God seemed very far away, and His love was barely perceivable, I was actually asking God to show me what *else* He wanted me **to do**—anything so I could once again know His love for me. Patiently, He waited for me to return to Him again by grace through faith.

Upon returning to Him for grace, the distance and lack of love and misery instantly disappeared. It all seemed too good to be true at first, but the love and awareness of His presence that was with me could not be denied. It would take many years for God to untangle all the rules and regulations tied across my heart, but God patiently and faithfully untied each one, and each time, His life would flow in that area of my life, and His love was more dearly perceived.

P.S. That was in 1987 when we woke to grace. We never went “back there.” We have remained joyful in His amazing grace!