



Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



My 'To Do' List

Written by Art Henkel

For the longest time, I use to organize my daily activity by punctually (at least most of the time) writing out a personal 'To Do' list. This list assisted me in identifying actions that I sensed were my responsibility to carry out. The thought was that if I carried out the identified duties, I would end up having a successful day. However, this silent partner of mine always seemed to have something over me. This something was called guilt!

You see, even though my 'To Do' list allowed me to be more organized in my daily routine, I always found myself wrestling with the need to perform. This partner of mine had a unique way of daily pressuring me to get things done. If I ever failed to complete my daily quota of 'doing' (which was often the case) he didn't have to say a word, his silence spoke volumes. The result was, I would end up feeling guilty for not keeping up my end of the bargain and so determined to do better next time. And so the vicious cycle would continue.

What you have just read use to typify my Christian walk. I use to think that it was my duty to live for God. That it was up to me to make a difference in this world for Him. Oh, I knew enough to know that I couldn't do it on my own, so I would ask Jesus to help me. How big of me. To think that I would actually offer the Son of God an opportunity to help me in my self-effort. With this belief system in place, I found myself continually writing out my 'Got To Do For Him' list, which seemed hopelessly never ending and impossible to fulfill. The truth being, it was!

Thankfully that's not the case in my life today. You see, there has been a great awakening to the reality of God's grace towards me that has caused me to stop and recalculate my thinking. I now understand more fully, the great exchange that took place at salvation. Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself that we might receive His righteousness. When I was born again, my old self died and I was made righteously new in Christ. His very life began to flow in and through me. Not only did I receive life through Christ, He became my life.

I now literally know the reality of the scripture that states, 'who the Son sets free is free indeed.' I am free from sin, condemnation, the fear of man, religious duty and self striving. Life is no longer dictated by 'doing for Christ', but rather motivated by 'being in Christ.' Rather than trying to initiate God's activity I find myself responding to his constant life flow within me. More and more my days are spent resting in Jesus which allows His will to truly be actively carried out. It's got nothing to do with being lazy and everything to do with being responsive. My 'To Do' list is gone, and it's been replaced with a 'Get To Do' list. I get to experience the will of God being carried out in my life and there is no guilt involved.