

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV) 'But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.'

In the busyness of life, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that our achievements are solely the result of our own efforts and abilities. We strive tirelessly, pouring our energy into our pursuits, and we often attribute our success to our hard work and determination. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to recognize that our accomplishments are not solely a product of our own doing but are ultimately made possible only by the grace of God.

The apostle Paul understood this truth deeply. In 1 Corinthians 15:10, he humbly acknowledges, 'But by the grace of God I am what I am.' Despite his incredible zeal and fervor for spreading the Gospel, Paul recognized that it was only through God's grace that he was able to fulfill his calling and become the person God intended him to be.

Paul's life serves as a powerful reminder that God's grace is not passive or inconsequential. He declares, 'and his grace to me was not without effect.' God's grace is transformative and active in our lives, shaping us into vessels for His glory. It empowers us to accomplish far more than we could ever imagine on our own.

Yet, Paul's acknowledgment of God's grace did not lead him to complacency or passivity. He goes on to say, 'No, I worked harder than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.' Paul's diligent efforts were not separate from God's grace but were rather a manifestation of it. His work ethic flowed from a heart overflowing with gratitude for the grace bestowed upon him.

As we reflect on Paul's words, let us be reminded that our lives are a testament to God's grace. Every success, every achievement, every step forward is a result of His unmerited favor and love. Let us approach each day with humility, acknowledging that it is only by the grace of God that we are able to live out our purpose and make a difference in the world. May we, like Paul, work diligently and passionately, knowing that our efforts are not in vain but are empowered by the grace of God working within us. And may we never forget to give glory and honor to the One who deserves all praise, for it is only by His grace that we are who we are.

Amen and Friday blessings to you all.

Pastor M

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