

Where the Rubber Meets the Road! Part 5: "Getting Rid of the Shadows!"

By Cere Muscarella

Our faith must work in the times we are living in!

Working faith... *Must be real/transformational!* We have to show ourselves as balanced, enduring, forgiving, restorative! ***Must get us through life w/its struggles!*** If God has promised to get us thru, then our trust in Him should give us endurance! ***Must work in compressed life!*** "If our faith fails in the day of adversity then our strength was narrow!" ***Must keep us safe from the "wiles" of the devil!*** We don't fear his power, we are concerned with his 'trickery;' deceptions/slanders/distractions! ***Our faith must get us out in the fields, looking where He is looking, seeing what He is seeing and working where He is working!***

Working faith... Light on a stand!

"You are the light of the world! Wait... wait... we thought You were the Light of the World! "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9.5 "A great light in the darkness!" Isaiah 9.1,2 "I am the Light of the World. And he that follows Me will... not walk in darkness but... have the light of life!" John 8.12 "In Jesus was life and the life in Him was the light of men. He is the True Light, coming into the world to light every man!" John 1.9

"You are the light of the world! A city on a hill that cannot be hid! Neither do men light a candle and hide it under a basket! They put it on a candlestick! And from there it gives light to all who are in the house! Let your light shine like that for men to see so that when they see your good works they can't help but glorify your Father in Heaven!" Matt 5.14-16

City/Hill: for direction and the way to climb! **Lamp/Stand:** Lit up! Lifted up! No lampshade! Showing off God in your life! The **'works'** of faith AND the **'workings'** of it!

Workings of faith... *How we got to where we are! Some learn from reading/learning from others... But most of us learn from life-lessons! How are we still standing? "By the strength of His right hand... He keeps us from slipping!" What did we do to stay up on our feet? "By armoring up, shield out front, sword in hand, and praying always!" How did we come back from not standing? "We have an intercessor, praying for our recovery and our reconciliation of others!"*

Too often we are afraid to share our testimony/adventure of faith! Where we were, what we did, what life was like! ***But it's exactly what people need to hear to know it can happen for them too!***

"I rose from depression by speaking the word!" "I you conquered habitual sin by engaging help!" "I changed my thinking by reading the Bible!" "My marriage/family was restored because..." "I put my finances back in order by..."

The Wiles... "People will think poorly of you if they knew where you came from!" 'But they will think greatly of God!' "People will reject you if they know what you did!" 'Let the one without sin throw the 1st stone!' "You'll slip back into the past!" 'By telling the story of God's deliverance?' "You'll be glorifying the devil!" 'How dumb do you think I am?' "You'll just be bragging!"

We show the workings of our faith and how it works in the times we are living in!

Works of faith... What we do because we are where we are! *Standing tall* because of what He has done! ***Speaking out*** because of the great things He has done!

'the Waffle House server and I got to talking about the Lord. *I mentioned to her about my health journey and my confidence that God is never absent.* She began to cry and I then learned that in the last seven days, her brother and her son's 19 year-old girlfriend both died from drug overdoses. *She couldn't believe that I had come in and opened up.* She told me she was at rock bottom. I asked her if I could pray for her right then *and several servers gathered around.* I left her *with an assignment* to immerse herself in Psalm 91. -Glenn Burriss, 06/08/18

Works of faith... What we do because we are where we are! *Stand tall* because of what He has done! ***Speak out*** because of the great things He has done! Struck up a conversation, 'opened up' about something personal, opened her up to be real, involved others in her support, left her with a Bible assignment! ***Show off*** His goodness, mercy and grace! Pulling off the 'shade!' ***We strike down the entangling sins that shade our ministry!***

"Put off the former lifestyle of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness..." **Eph 4.22ff**

"Don't be deceived with vain words to go back and act like children of disobedience. Don't do it! In the past you were in the darkness but now *you are* light in the Lord: so walk as children of light! The fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth! Prove what is acceptable to God. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; instead reprove them." **Eph 5.6ff**

"Are you teaming up with unbelievers? What fellowship is there between light with darkness?" **2Corinthians 6.14ff**

"If we say we have fellowship with God and walk in darkness, we aren't telling, or doing, the truth!" **1John 1.6**

Being 'deceived,' teaming up, walking in dead ways, shields our light from the world!

What is keeping the light from shining on your faith and it 'working' in the times we are living in? Elements of the past, or choices of the present?

The answer to those questions is... *Where the Rubber Meets the Road!*