

McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

September 2009

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will..forgive their sin.."



This Month's Issue

LIFE EVENTS

MELVA'S CORNER
Supervising Your Ego = Spiritual Growth

PRAISE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEBSITE OFFERINGS
Why Are Young People Leaving The Church

PRAYER FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA
Continue to Pray

WORDS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA
In Remembering Senator Kennedy

ENTREPRENEUR IN ACTION

Visit us online at:
www.mcclainministries.org

Life Events

Happy Birthday!



Wishing You Abundant Blessings On Your Special Day

**Jasmine Washington
Larue Tisone
Helen McCollum
Mary Sanders
Anitra Williams Bender**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



May Your Hearts Remain United In Love

The Henessys' & Smiths'

Our prayer team is planning a day of prayer and remembrance for our nation on September 11. Please join us.

MELVA'S CORNER

SUPERVISING YOUR EGO = SPIRITUAL GROWTH



This is advanced material and may require several study sessions to digest.

One of the biggest challenges facing the spiritual evolution of any person is in overcoming the demands of the individual ego. It is simply not possible to achieve enduring and genuine progress until the ego has been well and truly brought under control to the extent that it no longer exerts any negative or detrimental influence upon yourself or anyone else.

The ego is responsible for many negative human traits, including but certainly not limited to being critical and judgmental of others, being rigid and inflexible, being manipulative, need to feel superior, feeling anxious and fearful, mood swings, taking everything too personally, taking everything too seriously, constant need for approval and praise, feeling hurried and driven to do things, competing rather than cooperating, feeling resentful and guilty, unable to live in the present moment, addictions to alcohol, tobacco and other mind altering substances, overly concerned with personal appearance, overly concerned with success, feeling insecure, constant worry over trivialities, clinging to the past, feelings of despair and hopelessness. feeling life is

meaningless, and the need for power over others. All of these are seriously negative human traits and ones that can easily make a person's life a misery.

The ego causes an illusory focus on those aspects of the physical world that are really not at all important for peace, harmony and happiness and most importantly for enduring spiritual growth and progression. Without true inner peace, harmony and living in the Spirit, true progress quite simply cannot be made. It must therefore be considered to be an unwelcome adversary, focusing on the individual self rather than the most sacred path and true meaning of life.

Many people are very quick to blame others or the world in general for their own problems; it is always much easier for people to blame everything and everyone else rather than having to face up to things themselves and taking full responsibility for their own thoughts and actions. Whenever anything adverse happens the immediate reaction of many is usually focused towards looking for scapegoats rather than looking inward toward self for the real cause of the corresponding effect. Some people are so much under the control of their own ego that they really are absolutely convinced they are always right and everyone else and indeed the rest of the world must always be completely wrong; a level of ego which can have most detrimental consequences for those individuals.

The ego constantly strives to have people believe they are not responsible for their own actions but are rather a victim of circumstance or of the state of the world in general. Such a person might blame family, friends, politicians, people they work with, bosses, or simply ascribe negative effects to such non-existent notions as "bad luck", "misfortune" or "chance". In fact absolutely anyone and everyone they can associate with a situation will be blamed rather than

blaming the true cause; themselves.

The ego constantly strives to be always right, always superior, never wrong and never inferior. It constantly seeks self-importance, power and superiority over others, often at any cost and regardless of who they are affecting or hurting at the same time.

The ego is not something that can simply be destroyed; it is rather a vital aspect of individuality, for life and indeed for conscious awareness. The ultimate objective therefore is not to attempt to destroy it, but rather to transcend its influence; to bringing it under complete control in order to serve its intended purpose. This can be done by accentuating its necessary positive attributes while suppressing the negative and destructive attributes so detrimental to genuine peace, happiness, harmony and personal progress.

The ego can be likened to a telescope on the world collecting sensory information and delivering such information to the five physical senses and the mind. The fact is however, many people do not simply accept the information being received through the ego as a necessary part of conscious existence; they also proceed to analyze or very often even over-analyze the information received through the ego, reacting or over-reacting to it accordingly.

The ego can also be likened to a postal service, delivering letters to the mind for advisory and informational purposes. These letters should be immediately acknowledged and then filed away for later reference if appropriate. Instead, many will actually open the letters when received and then proceed to tell the ego how to respond to the sensory information. Furthermore, many of us have a tendency to see only those things we want to see and accordingly are selective about which letters we

open and which we will subsequently respond to.

The ego likes to make comparisons, particularly with other people. In an of itself making comparisons is fine for the purposes of making a necessary choice, the problems really arise when it is not satisfied by merely making comparisons but is allowed to extend the comparisons to include comparative judgments about other people, possessions and everything else the ego erroneously regards as important. It will for example encourage people to take up various sports, hobbies and skills, often not merely for the benefits of health, happiness or relaxation which they can surely bring, but as a means of seeming superior to others by means of making comparisons relative to their pastimes.

The ego however does need to make comparisons as a function of living in the material world. For example, when walking around a supermarket, comparisons need to be made between the quality and prices of items to be purchased. This sort of comparison is very useful and is being applied for positive reasons. The problems would arise in this case, however, when comparing an item, not for genuine reasons of price or quality, but rather with the purpose of making that purchasing decision based on the perception that the item is superior to an equivalent item already owned by a neighbor, friend or relative.

The same example would hold true in purchasing a new car for example and indeed any highly visible object by which people believe they will personally be judged. In the example of the car, subjective comparisons must, of course, be made between all of the options available in order to take in to account such fundamentals as fuel economy, insurance costs, servicing costs and many other necessary and relevant factors, all of which

need to be reconciled before such a significant purchase can be justified. And that kind of comparison is just fine.

However, by endeavoring to ensure the car is bigger than those of friends, neighbors, relatives and others, has more seats, a bigger engine, better acceleration and top speed, more internal luxuries, better electronic equipment and so on. The ego in this case has clearly caused the purchaser of the car to make a significant purchasing decision over and above that which was fundamentally justifiable, based almost entirely on egotistical reasons; the need for a feeling of perceived superiority over others.

The ego often exerts a particularly strong influence in personal relationships. It is fine to be attracted to a partner for their individual personality and other genuine qualities and virtues, because they share common interests for example and in general because they are very well suited to each other. Some people however will be attracted to a partner for much more superficial reasons, often because they perceive the partner to be glamorous, handsome, appears to be generally attractive in the eyes of others, or very often because they are perceived to be wealthy. In these cases the ego is in full control over something as fundamentally important as choosing a partner, or even a future husband or wife. This of course is a major reason why so many marriages result in separation, divorce or ongoing unhappiness.

The ego has delusions of grandeur and likes nothing more than to be noticed, flattered and admired. In reality of course nothing ever makes anyone better or in any way more superior as compared with anyone else. Every single person without exception is an equal aspect of God, made in the true spiritual image of God; each having unique characteristics, abilities,

shortcomings to face and so on. If we judge others then we equally judge ourselves. Acceptance is an important aspect of life, acceptance of everyone for who they really are, what they represent and most importantly as an equal expression of God.

The other side of the ego is in feeling worse or inferior by comparison with others. People might perceive themselves for example to feel useless, unworthy, unwanted and many other such negative perceptions of self. There really is no difference at all between this side of the ego and the one suffering from delusions of grandeur; they are all negative aspects and degrees of the same thing. Ultimately to transcend the ego is to know beyond any doubts whatsoever that everyone without exception is equal and to live and interact with people and situations accordingly. God is perfection and everyone without exception is an inseparable expression and equal aspect of that same perfection.

The ego will revel in exerting its influence over many other aspects of people's lives. For example, there are those who like to feel sorry for themselves by feeling they are a victim or a martyr in some way. Such people will often feel everything is hopeless, that they are burdened with demands and responsibilities they cannot handle, feel unappreciated, misunderstood, feel badly treated and generally believing they are the victim of bad luck, chance, misfortune and other such non-existent notions.

The ego does not like responsibility and will often do whatever it can to deny and avoid it. A typical sign the ego is in control of responsibility is when people blame others for everything that goes wrong in their own lives. The ego will typically blame anyone and everyone except themselves for what happens to them, they do not like or will not accept responsibility; blaming the government, a friend, a neighbor, a

family member, a co-worker or even God. As we already know, each and every person creates their own reality and thus to blame others is quite simply futile.

This is not to say however people are knowingly creating situations giving rise to the response of the ego, but are rather doing so subconsciously. It is not until all negative situations are accepted and fully analyzed can the realization be reached as to its origins and thereby positive actions be taken to make the necessary corrections.

Accepting full responsibility for all such situations is empowering and those who can achieve this will have considerably more control over every aspect of their own lives, will be in conscious control of creating their own reality and as a direct result experience a much happier, more peaceful and harmonious life.

The ego also revels in the illusion of always being busy. People often like to believe they are so busy with daily work, chores and other responsibilities that they have no time available for anything or anyone else, often including themselves. The more a person dwells on this illusion of busyness, the busier they will believe they really are; a situation that can quickly escalate into a full busyness martyr syndrome. Worse still, if the ego believes a person is not busy enough it will create work in order to justify the illusion of busyness, often repeating the same chores and tasks over and over again until they are perceived to be satisfactory and the need for feeling busy has accordingly satisfied the ego. Such people always consider themselves to be very busy, always endeavoring to make the people around them believe they really are busy and yet still getting nowhere in particular and not achieving much of any real significance, certainly not in proportion to their perceived workload.

The ego also often revels in disaster, particularly when it happens to people who are not liked. People unfortunately often revel in the misfortunes of others on whatever scale the misfortune occurs, whether it is a problem at work, someone losing their employment, a marriage breaking up or simply a general lack of ability by someone to accomplish something. Unfortunately, people generally find it much easier to revel in the misfortune of others than to equally share in their happiness when good and positive things happen to the same people. This is again another extremely negative and insidious attribute of the ego, believing itself to be always superior and reveling in the misfortune of others in order to satisfy itself and to create an illusion of perceived superiority over others.

Notwithstanding all of its insidious influences, the ego is nevertheless a vital aspect of conscious awareness. At the same time the ego is frequently responsible for considerable misery and suffering and a lack of peace and harmony generally. It strives to dominate and feel superior and always insists on getting its own way if at all possible.

The ego can and will hold people back both in everyday life and in personal evolution and progression on the path to spiritual growth. Until such time as the ego is tamed and its influence fully transcended, true and enduring progress, peace, happiness and harmony quite simply cannot be achieved and maintained.

Soon I will make available a practical exercise that if used daily can transcend the ego. Stay tuned. Much, much more to come. 📖



Higher Mountains...Higher Praises

BEING OBEDIENT TO GOD

Melva McClain

I want to share a personal praise report with you. On Sunday August 2, I was endeavoring to pick up a heavy box and instead of bending my knees for leverage I used my back and oh' boy was that a mistake. My back as they use to say, "went out." And I found myself on my knees. My back felt totally weak and any attempt to bend it resulted in subsequent pain. While on my knees, all kinds of thoughts went through my mind; from, "How am I going to stand unassisted to the thought that I have done permanent damage." At that moment God intervened and said, "You can stand unassisted, so stand up." And I did. I then started a dialogue with Him. "What do I do next Lord." He proceeded to tell me that my body would heal itself. I said, "Don't you think I at least need to have an X-ray." I am suggesting to the omnipotent God that I need an X-ray, amazing.

He gave me specific instructions from that point on. Instructing me to lie down and go to sleep. Well, it's the middle of the day and no time to sleep. For those who know me personally, you are aware that I only sleep four (4) a night. From 12 midnight to 4 AM. Sleeping during the middle of the day was unthinkable. For 6 days He instructed me to take "cat naps" during the day and each day my back was feeling better.

Now the point I am making here has nothing really to do with a specific treatment for a back ailment, because God may deal with you differently. This praise report is all about listening and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, no matter how strange it sounds. The Holy Spirit's "still small voice," will guide you in every aspect of your life

In fact, if I were more in tune the day I hurt my back, I would have listened to that "still small voice," at the time and picked up the box using my knees as leverage, but I was in such a hurry that I just went ahead and picked it up using my back. I know none of you have ever ignored the Holy Spirit, but even if you do, He is there to help you remedy your error. Hallelujah! What a blessing! Obedience is always better than sacrifice.

GOD IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED

Mary Simpson

I want to share my praise for God's mercy and kindness regarding my mother. Within a month earlier this year she was in and out of the hospital twice. March with a heart attack and April with a severe breathing disorder. May 10, she celebrated her 87th birthday. Through prayer, meditation, praise and worship, God has allowed her to go from her sick bed to the kitchen daily preparing each of her meals herself. It is God's mercy and grace that we are able to do things. It is through Him that we live move and having our being and should never take life for granted. Everyday is truly brand new!

Reported by Melva McClain
Thru Email

Prayer Request: Friday, August 7th. I received this email prayer request from our sister Anitra Bender on behalf of her co-worker Claudia Odomes:

Please send out a Prayer Request for my friend and co-worker, Claudia Odomes (Nicky). She will have a hysterectomy on Monday, August 10, 2009 @ 5:30 am @ Woman's Hospital. This is an Inpatient Surgery and she will be there from 1-2 days.

Praise report: August 11th. Claudia's surgical procedure went well and she is resting comfortably.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars for the month of **September 2009**. Please join us and take the next step in your walk with God.

Home Bible Workshop Schedule

Come and Join Us!



September 12th and 26th
Home Bible Workshop
5:00 P.M. CST

The Message....
"Supervising Your Ego = Spiritual Growth"

✉ 492 Northpointe Parkway
Jackson, MS 39211

☎ Phone: 601-206-4606

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS



Give thanks and praise to God for the dedication and service of our military troops.

Happy Labor Day



GAS PRICES ARE STARTING TO GO



You can make a difference if you care enough.

LET'S STAY VIGILANT



Have you contacted your representative yet?

<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>



THE GOD EFFECT OF PRAYER

6:00 P.M. Hour of Prayer



SPEND TIME PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Use this wonderful supernatural tool the Lord has blessed us **with the 6 o'clock hour of power**. This is the time to intercede for the needs of others, the concerns of the ministry, and to pray for the leadership within our community, our nation, and our world.

Hearts throbbing as one, prayers ascending to heaven multiplied by those praying in **one accord**. Sharing burdens, joys, and petitions to bear. Lay all your cares at the foot of the cross and encourage others to do the same. Lives are being changed. Breakthroughs are happening.

WEBSITE OFFERING

www.mcclainministries.com

WHY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING THE CHURCH?


Christian young people today are leaving our churches in droves because they find church to be irrelevant at best, often contentious with non-Christians in the main and totally lacking in concern for bigger issues of social justice, poverty, hunger, and modern slavery — estimates are that there are well over 25 million people enslaved in the world today, most of them children in horrible situations being forced to do despicable and often barbaric things. As churches squabble over internal differences, divide over denominational loyalties and find themselves absorbed in the cult of media personalities, young people continue to leave in droves. They see few great works being done with commitment and passion that reflect the ministry and sacrifices of Christ.

I am absolutely convinced that this is partially the result of an impotent and non-biblical grace that has been widely taught. This kind of grace as Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it decades ago is false grace. It calls people to quick and easy formula type of conversion that requires no repentance or no discipleship.

Remember how the apostle Paul described grace:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV).

This great passage doesn't end on the truth that we can't earn our salvation. Instead, it goes on to remind us that grace is God's way of working His artistry in us — we are His "workmanship." God's grace makes us new so that we can do something significant by His power to display His glorious grace to others. Put bluntly, grace is not just about saving us FROM the wrath of God, but it is also about saving us FOR God's purposes in the world.


The emerging generation of young adults is looking for us to do more than come together in insular buildings and talk about moral conduct and celebrate that we've been saved from what is bad. They are looking for us to hear God's grace call us to a new lifestyle of making real differences in the world around us. This high and holy calling is what we've been remade by grace to do — God planned in advance as our role in this world. So let's be more than reminded; let's be changed. Let's recognize that God has great things for us to do by His powerful grace so that the world can see the church as Jesus in action in today's world. 

CONTACT INFORMATION

McClain Ministries

Melva McClain

 492 Northpointe Parkway
Jackson, MS 39211

 Phone: (601) 206-4606 or

Cell phone: 601- 405-1466

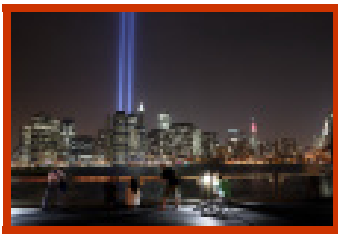
 Email: melvamccclain@att.net
Website: www.mcclainministries.org



PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

THANK YOU partners for doing your part. You are truly a blessing to McClain Ministries. Your faithful commitment and support is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet made a commitment to partner with us for **2009**, please ask the Holy Spirit to speak to and guide your heart about it. If you will do your part God will do His part.

IN REMBERANCE OF 9/11/2001



Today, Lord, make me an instrument of
Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and
It is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.

(By St. Francis of Assisi)



Edward Moore Kennedy



He became known as "The Lion of the Senate", through his long tenure and influence. More than 300 bills that Senator Kennedy and his staff wrote were enacted into law. He was known for working with Republicans and finding compromises among Senators with disparate views.

Senator Kennedy played a major role in passing many laws that affect the lives of all Americans, including the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, the National Cancer Act of 1971, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Ryan White AIDS Care Act in 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1991. In 1996, Senator Kennedy secured an increase in the minimum wage law, a favorite issue of his; there would not be another increase for ten years. Following the failure of the Clinton health care plan, he went against his past strategy and sought incremental measures instead. Senator Kennedy worked with Republican Senator Nancy Kassebaum to create and pass the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act in 1996, which set new marks for portability of insurance and confidentiality of records. The same year, his Mental Health Parity Act forced insurance companies to treat mental health payments the same as others with respect to limits reached. In 1997, Senator Kennedy was the prime mover behind the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which used increased tobacco taxes to fund the largest expansion of taxpayer-funded health insurance coverage for children in the U.S. since Medicaid began in the 1960s.

PRAY FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA



Let the Holy Spirit guide your prayers for our President and our nation as you intercede for the following issues.

- **Health Care Debate Hits Faith Community.** The White House launched the "40 Days for Health Reform" initiative in August. The campaign includes the release of a national TV ad featuring local clergy and people of faith, health care related "prayer events", promotions for a nationwide health care sermon weekend, as well as meetings with government officials. The ads include a collection of clergy who support health care reform such as Rev. Stevie Wakes, Pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Kansas City.
- **Unemployment Spikes Again.** According to figures released by the Labor Department in August, the unemployment rate rose in 26 states across the nation but declined in 17 states. Many American families are still struggling in the current economic environment so let's continue our prayers in this area.
- **Democrats Seek Financial Records.** Democrats are seeking detailed financial records from dozens of large insurance companies according to officials who disclosed part of an investigation into "executive compensation and other business practices". The request included records relating to compensation of executive employees, documents relating to companies' premium income and

claims payments, and information on expenses stemming from any event held outside company facilities in the past two and a half years.



- Please join with us today in praying for the soldiers who sacrifice so much to serve their country and protect the security and freedoms that we enjoy. Let's be careful to watch over them in prayer as they watch over us. They are doing their part to stand for freedom and against oppression. We must do our part to confront the spiritual assaults against them. Be sure to remember their leaders and their families at home.

INSPIRATIONAL REFERENCE FOR THE MONTH



Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

II Corinthians 9: 10-11

ARE YOU A DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN?



My title may be misleading. This article isn't all about politics – although it is. It is about everything. It is about business, education, choosing (or rejecting) motherhood and eating apple pie. It is about mowing grass, taking exams, balancing a checkbook and changing oil. And, yes, it is about politics.

I confess to being bothered by things I hear relative to “who a Christian should vote for.” Some vote Democratic, others vote Republican and some write in a vote for somebody whose name most of us have never heard of. Faith doesn't dictate a particular social order and spiritual people are not all members of the same political party.

Part of the genius of faith is that it isn't American or French. It doesn't make you anti-democracy or anti-monarchy. And it doesn't require you to favor socialism or capitalism. In the case of Christian faith, it declares that one's true citizenship is in God's kingdom and that his or her life under whatever political system is to be lived for the sake of a divine calling.

On the one hand, faith is not divorced from one's social context. It should make one a better citizen in Africa, Europe, or America. A God-honoring way of life moves us to care for our neighbors and to seek the good of all people. On the other hand, faith is not defined by one's social context. A man or woman can be a true and faithful child of God in Russia, Australia, or North Korea. Nothing about earthly governments trumps the value of a heavenly or spiritual citizenship.

For several hundred years, Christians have struggled to come to terms with how verses in the Bible tell us that we're saved by faith and not by works reconcile with verses that tell us that we're saved by what we do and not faith alone. There are texts, after all, that say both of those things. And it's fair to ask how both can be true, and it's understandable that we might think one contradicted the other. But like a lot of deep theological mysteries, this one dissipates with an application of common sense and a dose of experience.

You know there are people, whether you know any of them personally or not, whose faith is a facade. There's an exterior that might fool someone at first glance. Maybe it's a carefully-maintained exterior, even, that can withstand more than a cursory glance. They're known for their piety. Respected and admired in their churches. Maybe they're leaders in their churches, even: people who others follow and emulate. They say things that give the impression of a deep relationship with God. They know the Bible. They're fluent in "churchy" vocabulary. But get to know them, and you see that their faith doesn't go five feet deep. You find that there's nothing behind the facade.

You also know people, and I bet you know some personally, whose faith is genuine. Oh, you can see it from the outside too, just like the "facade" Christians. But in their case, there's something behind the exterior. Their faith isn't strictly to be seen from the outside. You're welcome to open the windows, walk through the doors, and see what's behind it all. Maybe their piety is known and respected as well, maybe they're fluent in "churchy" vocabulary as well, but their faith is about more than those things. It's a faith that shows itself in their office as well as in their church. It's a faith that's comfortable serving the poor as well as saying important things in a Bible class. They might know the Bible and they certainly know it well enough to know that "facade" faith isn't really faith at all. They know — and they model — that real faith is practical.

Because that's really the difference, isn't it? That's how we know whether our faith is genuine or not. "What good is it . . . if people claim to have faith but have no deeds? Can such faith save them?" That may sound a little harsh, a little intolerant, but I think James just means to point out something that deep down we all know. Real faith, real trust in God, always creates action. In response to God's love and grace, people act.

Look at the stories in the Bible of the people who trusted God and you see that it's true. Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah. Daniel, Esther, Nehemiah. Rahab, Joshua, Noah. These were people of action, because they had faith that as long as they trusted God the things they did were not in vain.

You can also look at a lot of those folks and see that they didn't always make the right choices. God doesn't ask us for flawless judgment and He recognizes that none of us are immune to temptation and He knows our limits. All He asks is that we trust Him — have faith in Him — and He promises that He'll watch over us and protect us and redeem us.

But real faith is always — always — practical.

I think it's great that the Bible doesn't ask us to judge each others' faith. That's because the only faith I'm truly able to evaluate is my own. And the best way I know to do that is to ask myself one question: "Is my faith practical?" Is there anything behind the facade? Will my faith contain the work God wants me to do? Does it tell the story of His grace in my life? Does it bring about action? Or is it just for show — a false front I wear to play a part for those who might be looking on?

If honest evaluation tells me that there's not much action in my faith, then it's time to make a change. It's time to serve. To work. To act in God's name. It's time to put some depth in

my faith, add some practical to my facade. To rest secure in God's love — not because of the things I've done, but through genuine trust in His grace.

So what's with the title? Why raise the issue of “faith and politics” or “faith and business” or “faith and family”? Simply to make the point that good theology and authentic faith are always practical. They relate to life as it is being lived every day by ‘so called’ ordinary men and women in our homes and workplaces.

Eugene Peterson says that a healthy pursuit of the spiritual life is “the development of awareness and discernments that are as alert and responsible in the workplace as in the sanctuary, as active while changing diapers in a nursery as while meditating in a grove of oranges, as necessary when reading a newspaper editorial as when exegeting a sentence written in Hebrew.”

Faith is the orientation of a life that is expressing God. Scripture is a compass to keep us from getting disoriented on our journey. Jesus is the defining personal example of what it is to live spiritually. If you believe all three of those statements – as I do – there is nothing about any one of them or all taken together that dictates your party preference, the career you must pursue, or the city where you must live. Yet all those decisions will be guided by your faith.

Faith is not your private opinion but the life-defining commitment by which everything in your public and relational life is decided. Once you define your life as one that expresses Godly Principles, your party preference will be illuminated. So, in essence, your party preference does not define your faith; your faith defines your party preference. 📖

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

There is a section in John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer* that reads . . .

Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.

Let me use disappointment as material for patience;

Let me use success as material for thankfulness;

Let me use suspense as material for perseverance;

Let me use danger as material for courage;

Let me use reproach as material for longsuffering;

Let me use praise as material for humility;

Let me use pleasures as material for temperance;

Let me use pains as material for endurance.

When a given day begins, countless things are headed your way over which you have no control. It may be bad weather or someone's bad temper, a deadline that won't budge or a client equally resistant to change. The one factor you *can* control through it all is your attitude toward them.

Your attitude today will make all the difference in everything that matters.

WORDS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA



President Obama issued the following statement on August 26, 2009:

Michelle and I were heartbroken to learn this morning of the death of our dear friend, Senator Ted Kennedy.

For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health and economic well being of the American people bore his name and resulted from his efforts.

I valued his wise counsel in the Senate, where, regardless of the swirl of events, he always had time for a new colleague. I cherished his confidence and momentous support in my race for the Presidency. And even as he waged a valiant struggle with a mortal illness, I've profited as President from his encouragement and wisdom.

An important chapter in our history has come to an end. Our country has lost a great leader, who picked up the torch of his fallen brothers and became the greatest United States Senator of our time.

And the Kennedy family has lost their patriarch, a tower of strength and support through good times and bad.

Our hearts and prayers go out to them today--to his wonderful wife, Vicki, his children Ted Jr., Patrick and Kara, his grandchildren and his extended family.

ENTREPRENEUR IN ACTION

These are pictures of a wedding reception Decorated and Catered on Saturday by
ETERNAL CREATIONS

www.eternalcreationmshome.com

The reception was held @ Brittyanna's (Metro Center Mall)



McClain Ministries 492 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson MS 39211

McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Deuteronomy 16:17: Every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee.

This Ministry has been such a blessing to me I want to share in reaching others with a **monthly gift** of:

\$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____

Enclosed is my ministry **additional financial donation** of: \$_____

Total Enclosed: \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Number _____

Work Number _____

Fax Number _____

Email _____

Please send to:

McClain Ministries
492 Northpointe Parkway
Jackson, MS 39211



GLOBAL OUTREACH MAILING LIST

Fill in the information below and mail using the self addressed envelope enclosed.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number () _____

Fax Number _____

Email Address _____

Send To:

McClain Ministries
492 Northpointe Parkway
Jackson, MS 39211

