

Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit Are You Making A Difference?

Life Questions:

Do You Care . . . About Hurting People . . . Helping The Community . . . Making A Difference In The Lives of People Other Than Yourself? Do you really care or are you giving the Sunday school answer? How are you showing you care?

There is a fellow in a wheelchair trying to get in the bathroom. The doors are those that close on their own so he is struggling to keep them open long enough to wiggle his chair into the room. You sit there perplexed at his situation only to realize that you and the entire restaurant are all watching him struggle. But no one is getting up to help.

There is a lady trying to get her baby buggy into the door at the grocery store. Every time she tries the door closes on her just as she is almost inside. If you were watching it on television it would be comical, but in real life it is fascinating as you watch her maneuver, trying to figure the problem out, how to get her children into the store so she can buy the food she needs to take care of them.

There is a lady pushing her car trying to get it off the road. Obviously it is a piece of junk. Just looking at the car you are pretty sure she should have known it wouldn't make it, but there she is pushing it. You are annoyed because you are waiting behind her to make the turn. And so while she struggles to get the car moved, you wait in disgust.

What do you notice about each of these problems? They are one person trying to do something that one person wasn't meant to do alone. Sometimes we are annoyed with these people – they should have known they couldn't do that alone. Many times we watch and forget almost immediately about their vain attempts to succeed. But would that change your mind if each of those people was one person – Jesus? And if your gut reaction is to say yes, think it over because He may very well have been.

Heb 13:1-3

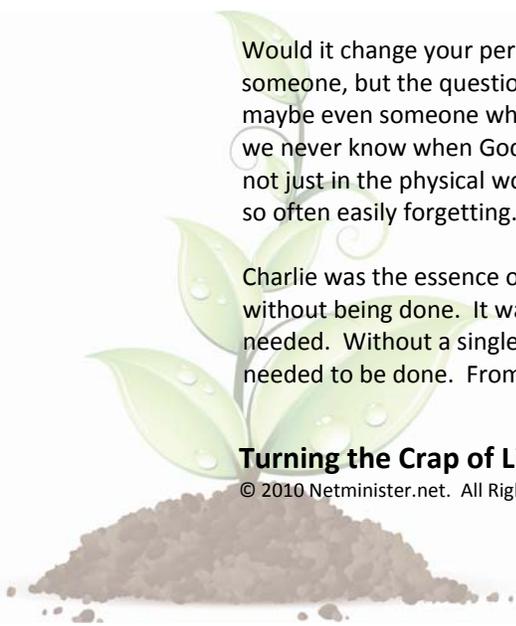
Let brotherly love continue.² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them -- those who are mistreated -- since you yourselves are in the body also.

Would it change your perspective? Did it? Because doubtless you have had many opportunities to help someone, but the question is have you? Have you made a difference in the life of someone in need OR maybe even someone who didn't deserve it? We are told to be mindful of those that we help because we never know when God will send an angel to our care. We are to remember those that are prisoners, not just in the physical world of a prison but in the financial, emotional and psychological prisons we are so often easily forgetting.

Charlie was the essence of someone who made a difference. In the church Charlie went to nothing went without being done. It was as if church elves came during the night and fixed the shoes that the church needed. Without a single issue of fanfare, he did the dirty, boring and inane jobs of the church that needed to be done. From putting on a roof to fixing an air conditioner, Charlie was the one that got it

Turning the Crap of Life Into The Fruit of the Spirit

© 2010 Netminister.net. All Rights Reserved. For information about this material, please contact us at www.netminister.net



done. He never sought fanfare and it was only by accident that a handful of people even knew it was Charlie that was meeting the needs around the church. But even beyond that, whenever a child needed money for a trip, a family needed their lawn mowed or the trash removed, he was the one doing it. During the time when no one else was around he would show up and do what needed to be done and then disappear. He sat in the church as an unknown fellow who would take notes of what needed to be done and then he would do it. One day he was asked to be recognized and he refused, not because he didn't deserve it, he definitely needed to be recognized for his years of service but for a simple reason, God would repay his efforts, not man. And anytime Charlie thought he was getting the acclaim of men he recognized that he wouldn't receive the acclaim of God. God's reward, whatever it was, was more important to him than anything man could give him. Can that be said of your life? That your actions and deeds are hidden from man so that God can receive the Glory?

1. We make a difference because we are held accountable for our actions

2 Cor 5:9-11

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 Cor 4:5

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Whatever we do with our life, in whatever way we do it, we are accountable to God. Unlike being accountable to a boss, parent or government, we are not going to be able to talk our way out of the bad things we have done or the things we were suppose to have done. That fact alone, that we will stand before God and give an account of our life, should motivate us daily to make a difference in the lives of people around us. Everyday we should be trying to find new ways to be a blessing to everyone.

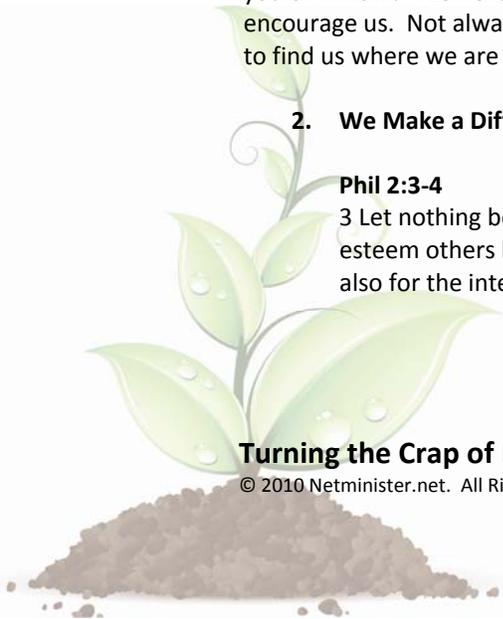
When we do things for others, without a desire to be repaid from them, we are blessed beyond measure not by others, not by a plaque or a thank you card, but from the maker of heaven and earth – GOD himself. Wouldn't you rather have a thank you from Him then from anyone else? I know a lot of people with money and possessions, but God has all the money and he owns everything Himself. So wouldn't it make more sense to recognize that He is a better gift giver and a better reward-er of effort than anyone you or I know? YES he is! Not only has He given us the gift of eternal life, but He always is looking to encourage us. Not always with money or possessions but with His presence, peace and wisdom, He seeks to find us where we are at.

2. We Make a Difference By Doing Things For Others, Not Just Yourself

Phil 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Turning the Crap of Life Into The Fruit of the Spirit



John 15:12-13

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Heb 6:10-11

10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

When we work for our own glory and honor, God knows! Even if no one else does. He Knows! And guess what, He remembers. Your spouse may forget, your family may forget but without honest repentance, God does not. And you, not me, not your wife, not your lawyer not your family pastor will have to answer for you own actions. You cannot answer for the actions of your children either, they stand alone and face judgment without you. So what are you motivations?

Are you daily laying aside your life as the bible commands us to do, to put off the old man; and put on the person God desires for you to be. Are you truly someone who works for His glory and makes a difference in His kingdom, even when we do not see the result? Are you a person who wants to be patted on that back for each and everything you do regardless of how big of small it is?

Have you ever really not wanted to help with a task but you felt obligated to go and help so you show up. You mill around trying to avoid really working because your heart isn't into it because it is a lot of hard work and it is a hot day and your toe does hurt so you probably shouldn't be walking around on it after all ingrown toenails can cause infection which can spread and kill you. SO, under your logic, if you work today you will probably die. So who could possibly want you to die? After all once the people working understand you are pretty sure they will not have a problem telling you to take it easy in the shade, or in the car with the air conditioner running with a nice cold drink and everyone else will take on the task at hand. There is just one little problem, you are setting an example for the other people working. I mean, seriously we don't even know these people we are doing this work for and it is hot and we are tired and hey I have an infirmity too! And eventually everyone slows down and one by one the people working drop out because let's be honest we would all rather be in the air conditioned room with a nice cold drink as opposed to being out in the hot sun getting a sunburn which could lead indirectly to skin cancer and kill me too! So soon no one is working, no one is making a difference and God's will, well it isn't being done is it?

James 2:14-17

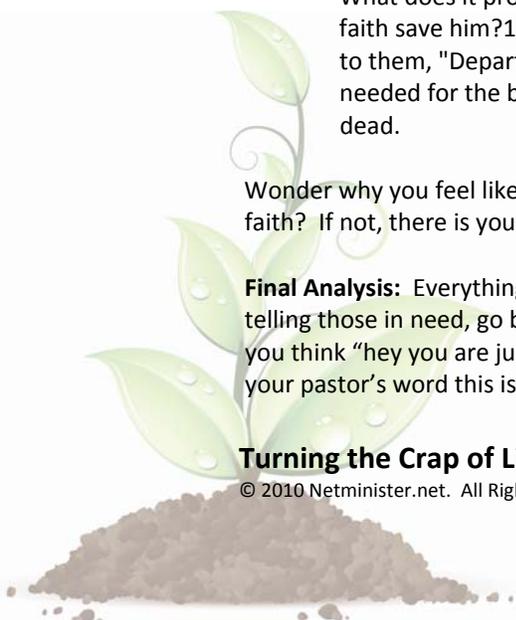
What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Wonder why you feel like your faith is dead? Do you have your works that come out as a fruit of your faith? If not, there is your answer.

Final Analysis: Everything comes down to you. What example are you setting by your actions? Are you telling those in need, go be filled in the name of Lord? Do you really think that pleases God? And before you think "hey you are judging me" remember this is God's Word, not mine, not your mom or dad's or your pastor's word this is God's word. And so if you have a problem with it you will have to consult the

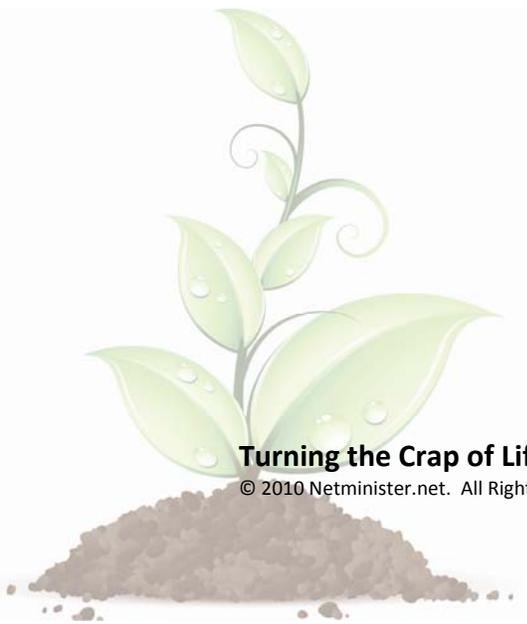
Turning the Crap of Life Into The Fruit of the Spirit

© 2010 Netminister.net. All Rights Reserved. For information about this material, please contact us at www.netminister.net



Turning the **Crap of Life**
into the **Fruit of the Spirit**

author. We need to constantly seek to make a difference positively in others, in our community in our world each and every day because we are going to be held accountable for the times we miss – ignore – or otherwise just flat out sit out. Because we are the body of Christ on earth. We are His representative and what we do reflects directly on Him. Everything we do, every word we say every action or inaction we take is a direct reflection of Jesus Christ. Are you reflecting something positive, negative or nothing at all?



Turning the Crap of Life Into The Fruit of the Spirit

© 2010 Netminister.net. All Rights Reserved. For information about this material, please contact us at www.netminister.net