Daily Devotion #142

**It’s Not About Trying Harder**

**Psalm 128:1** - (NASB) 1 How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

As we make our way through this life, we are taught to work hard. In fact, hard work is the symbol of most people who have gotten to the top or made it, as the saying goes. The old western movies display cowboys who worked themselves literally in to their graves by working hard and never taking charity from anyone. Many mothers and fathers have spent their child rearing years displaying the meaning and importance of hard work.

Hard work is certainly an admirable trait and extremely important. In fact, today there are many people who live off of other people’s hard work and success, thinking they can just glide through life on the coattails of what someone else does for them. Taking handouts, if you will. But even the Apostle Paul said, *2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NASB) For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either*.

So hard work or working our way through this life is important and godly. But hard work will not get you to heaven. There is nothing a person can do to earn their way into God’s kingdom. Entrance into the Kingdom of God is by one way. Through Jesus Christ. *John 14:6 (NASB) 6 Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.* And hard work will not get you the peace you are looking for in life.

Recently I had a conversation with a man who has been struggling. Just a few weeks ago he had a friend who took his own life. As you can imagine, that has weighed very heavily on him. The memories have been constantly flooding his mind and the sadness of it all has been very overwhelming as anyone could imagine.

As we talked, I keep hearing him say something to the effect of, “I just need to work harder to get rid of the pain that I’m feeling”. While I appreciated his determination, I began to talk to him about adjusting his thinking by saying, living this life is not about working harder, but more surrender.

I told him in the spirit life with God, we can’t do anything like we do on earth to have the peace we need. Our peace comes from surrendering our sinfulness and all our own attempts at making ourselves what we want to be, to the Lord. Daily, minute by minute we are to give up trying to do what is necessary to have peace of heart and mind.

That is not to say we lie in bed all day and do nothing. We do need to follow all of God’s commands, such as working so we have our daily provisions. But internally, we are to give up our attempts to make ourselves better and giving more and more of ourselves to the Lord.

God has the amazing ability to take all that is broken in us and turn us into someone who can live with peace in this life. That is why the Lord says, *Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB) 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*.

In other words, when we surrender our hearts and minds to the will of God, anxiety goes away. Not that we will be completely free from it or have to deal with it again, but the more we surrender to God, both internal and external, the more God’s peace fills us. And the reason is, God knows that the inner man has no ability to make himself at peace or at rest. He must depend on God and what God has done for Him.

As you face this life beloved, don’t try harder to fix things. Surrender yourself more and watch what God does in your heart. You will be amazed.