

## Tuesday's Touch

...from Pastor Ed ...March 31, 2009

### *Portions Great & Small*

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

*Romans 12:3*

*For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1 Corinthians 4:7*

*Our Lord, in his incarnation, was granted the Spirit without measure (John 3:34). In him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colos. 2:9). It is not so with us who are in Christ. We are each given grace by measure according to the portion of faith which the Lord, himself, has deemed good. Among us are portions great and small. It is imperative that we never lose sight of this. To do so is apt to lead us into a judgement that we have no capacity to effect, whether it be regarding ourselves, or in evaluating others. If we estimate others based solely on apparent strength and fruitfulness, we may be found guilty of passing judgment on the very One who has distributed grace as He deemed fit. The Lord asks, "Who are you to judge another man's servant" (Rom. 14:4)?*

*If we have been given a goodly portion of faith and giftedness, we must diligently guard ourselves from being puffed up or deeming ourselves better than others. "What do you have that you did not receive?" It may be that the stronger brother must be broken and greatly humbled before he is useful. In any event, the strong is debtor to the weak to aid and comfort. The wise is debtor to the simple to enhance the vision of heavenly things. "To whom much is given, much shall be required" (Luke 12:48).*

*On the other hand, there are those who, though they exhibit genuine faith, and sincerity of love and humility, yet struggle greatly to endure. Some among them must battle perennially against besetting temptations of the flesh with varying success. Yet battle they do, and they persevere in faith. These must not be despised. Nor should they despise or resent those who seem to be more victorious. They must not think their life useless or their faith in vain. From among them, I am convinced, will come the greatest crowns. For they have demonstrated the power of little faith, and in their weakness have*

*landed the most sever blows to the cheekbone of the wicked one.*

*If our struggles are of our own doing due to neglect of Christian duty, or carelessness in guarding our souls, then we need to repent and draw near to the Lord. If our success is the fruit of natural abilities and worldly methods, we must do likewise. And, while those who are leaders in the churches must deal with overt sinfulness that harms and divides the body, they must also be very diligent not to pluck the wheat up with the chaff.*

*Portions great and small have been distributed among us. And the bottom line is that every part is necessary, and every part is dependent on each other for Christ's Body to be healthy and complete. (1 Corinth. 12:14-26)*

*Father,*

*Consume us with that love that resulted in Calvary. Grant us to esteem others better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3). May we truly learn to cherish all members of your body, and let us be able to glory in our own weaknesses (2 Corinth.12:9).*

*In the meekness and gentleness of Christ,*

*Amen*

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