

WHEN THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD

(by Rev. Wendell “Skip” Wright, Kapena Wright Ministries, 01/06/09)

I was recently channel surfing through the television, then found myself watching one of those Learning Channel programs that absolutely caught my attention and peaked my interest.

It was a program regarding the building of the Harley-Davidson “V-Rod” motorcycle. I was awestruck by all the detail work that went into a mass produced vehicle from concept to construction, from fabrication to the finely detailed paint work, from the production line to the final and most difficult phases, the Quality Assurance and Road Tests.

That’s where I was enthralled the most, the “Testing” phase of the bikes. You see, it didn’t matter how well things were put together on the “inside” of the bikes, or even how great or beautiful they looked on the outside because of the awesome paint jobs and exquisite trimmings. Nope, it didn’t even matter how well it passed the initial QA testing for parts and air flow and how well the engine was tuned.

It didn’t even matter how well it tested on the “static” RPM machinery where the bike is allowed to run at full throttle on a set of rollers that records the bikes reaction to acceleration while the bike remains stationary. That wasn’t the most difficult test the bike went through.

The manufacturer representative affirmed that true test of the bike comes during the road test. That’s when it’s performance is truly tested. That’s when you actually get a clearer picture of how it will perform when it’s facing every day, real situations.

It’s no longer conceptual in nature or has an “appearance” of being awesome. The road test actually reveals just how awesome or weak the machine is. It’s the road test that allows the rider to bring that machine into its’ fullest potential.

That’s how it is with us, isn’t it? As Christians we say things like, “we believe”, and “we receive” and “we know”, when it comes to the power of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit working and residing in us. But, the real proof of the power contained in us comes when the rubber hits the road.

There are too many Christians sitting around “waiting for God” to do the things He has called us to do and, in fact, has already done in Jesus Christ. And, there are, I would guess, just about as many, or perhaps many more, who are sitting around watching others do the “stuff” of ministry and loving folks and loving God as the Word says we all should be doing, content that they’re not “called” to do those things.

Then, there are those who say they “believe they receive” and yet, when trials come and times get tough, they fall away or play the “blame game”, sadly putting it on God first, then on the rest of the Body of Christ, instead of accepting the responsibility and seeking forgiveness for their own double-mindedness.

Jesus spoke very plainly about this when He said, **“in the world you will have tribulation..” (John 16:33)** Whoa, that’s for worldly people though, right, not Christians..right?! Wrong. We are in this world, we’re not to be “of this world”..in other words, we have to live in this world while we live in the natural..BUT..we are not to be like the world, or, as the Word puts it, “of the world”.

You see, that’s where the rubber hits the road, when trials come. We have a very real adversary, the devil, the thief, the destroyer, the enemy..his name is satan. And, his job, his purpose is solely, **“..to steal, to kill, and to destroy..” (John 10:10)**

Jesus Himself admonishes us through His word to the disciples that reminds them and us, that **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you.” (John 15:18)**

You see, we are not exempt from tough stuff. But, we can and should daily Praise and Thank Jesus because He never leaves us with a death sentence or in defeat, but rather gives us an exciting revelation and PROMISE that we CAN BANK ON ALWAYS!

In **John 10:10**, He started out telling us what to expect from our enemy, the devil, BUT, HIS PROMISE TO US WHO BELIEVE IN HIM, is this: **“..BUT, I have overcome the world..” (John 16:33)**, then He further reaffirms that promise, **“..BUT, I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)**

Just as that Harley-Davidson “V-Rod” was dubbed the bike of the future for Harley-Davidson and was named the newest of the HOG family, and just as it had all the power it needed to surpass any other bike that HD had previously built up to this point, that power was no good until it was put into action in real circumstances. That’s where the true test came.

So it is with us who call Jesus, Lord, and God, Father. We have such awesome power living within us, but, until we put that power to work in our every day lives and into our every day circumstances, trials and good times, we will never reach our fullest potential that we have been destined for by the Greatest Builder of ALL TIME, our GOD.

My encouragement to you all is to “rev-up” your spirit in the Word, allow the Holy Spirit to stir you as you’ve perhaps never done before, then step out in faith and walk the walk that you’ve been called to and accomplish great things for Jesus, whether people see you doing them or not, they’re great in God’s eyes, and ***get that rubber to meet the road!***