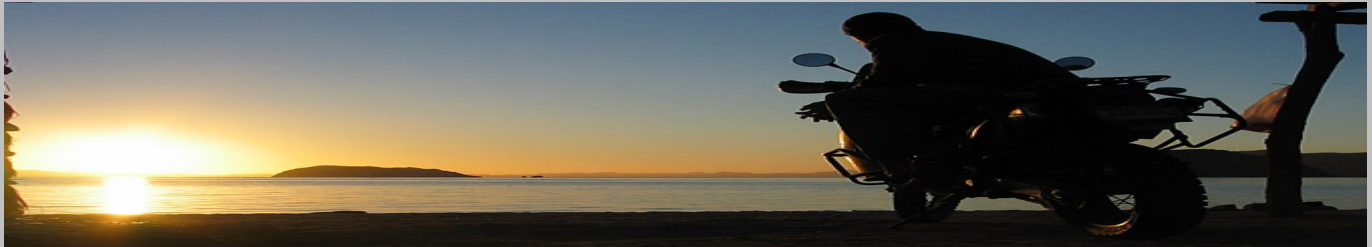


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## BEING A TOOL FOR GOD & BEARING FRUIT IN 2011

By Chappy

As I have, of late with the weather, been spending more time contemplating life and my ministry rather than riding I have come to some conclusions. This too I must confess has also stemmed from reading the book *Radical* by David Platt.

I admit that I too often build upon my ministry efforts based upon my own desires, talents and resources. I hit upon an idea and run with it. I pass up a perfunctory prayer on the topic and plow ahead at a breakneck pace with no heed to God's desire or plan. As Mr. Platt puts it, "I disallow Christ teaching on sufficiency upon God's power and substitute the American dream of self-sufficiency to compel me forward." Not waiting or expecting the power of God's Spirit to descend upon me providing the wisdom or God's provision for the task at hand. I rely upon my resource my sufficiency to drive it to fruition. Not allowing the gardener nor the vine to provide for me, as the branch, to bear fruit.

*1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

*5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5 NIV)*

I am not "remaining in Christ", I am remaining in my self-sufficiency, not accepting that God can do far more through me and my ministry when I am not in the way. My talents should be a tool for God, not for my own prideful use.

I am being a tool alright, just not the right type of tool!

As we move into this New Year I humbly ask for your prayers for Biker Chaplain and for myself. I fervently ask that you pray that God will use us in incredible ways and that he would use me as a tool for the furthering of His kingdom. That I will step aside and God would work through me in ways that show His greatness and glory through ways that could only be through His hand and not my self-sufficiency.

Lord, keep in the forefront of my mind John 3:29-30, *"That's why my cup is running over. This is the assigned moment for him to move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines."* (The Message)



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## FILLING STATION

By Sidecar

One of my closest friends and riding buddies teases me that I have rarely met a gas pump I do not like. Yes I stop for gas somewhat more frequently than many in our group. One of my Harley brand mentors ingrained the belief in me, that ones riding experience is most enjoyable when working off the top half of the gas tank. My confession is getting little pleasure in pressing more miles out of a tank at the risk of walking. I derive enough excitement out of riding, and when I exercise I prefer the gym, and not walking down the road in leather, carrying a gas can! But that's just me.

Similarly my day and week goes better if my spiritual tank is also kept above ½ a tank. The Bible says (Ephesians 5:18), "Be filled with the spirit", not be filled with feelings, and not feel the spirit. Feelings are important, but can be deceiving.

Have you ever felt like:

God would not choose to use a sinner such as you (or me for that matter), or you are not worthy to represent Christ's love to this world

Your our ministry efforts were ineffective

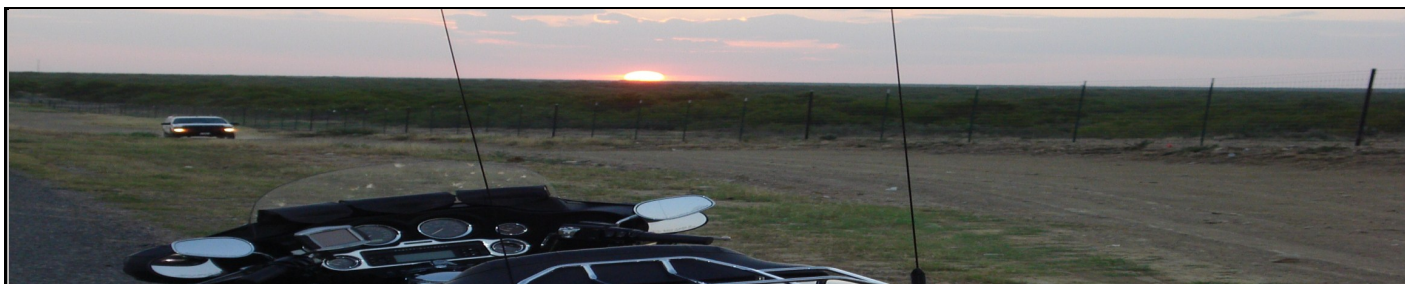
You can't make a difference with your church attendance or corporate worship experience

Many of us have had these feelings at some point in our lives. But please do not be deceived! Please do not accept a spirit of defeat.

God can and does use the efforts of all His children to affect His good purpose. As humans, we are imperfect beings and capable of making bad decisions. If you have made a bad decision in your life, you are not alone. The Bible says (Romans 3:23), "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God". Yes, our life actions make a tremendous difference and your conduct as a believer in Christ is critically important. Ones lifestyle witness is an important part of our testimony as believers in Jesus. Many of us never see or will know the complete effect of our conduct once we are identified as people of faith. Our actions create ripples of reaction in course of human events just as sure as a pebble creates ripples in a pond. These ripple effects can either have a positive or a negative appearance based on our compliance with biblical example.



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Remember:

Christianity is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Invest in that relationship through prayer and bible study, and you put yourself in a position to be used by God in a mighty way.

Make no mistake about it, following Christ is a 24/7 calling. We are called to “walk the walk”, not simply talk the talk. God can and does do great things with our simple actions. By being faithful and participative, God can use our humble actions for great purpose.

We may struggle to know God’s plan, and or understand God’s plan, but we must have faith.

What could happen for the cause of Christ If we “dial up” our individual ministry just one notch?

It is the expressed goal of BikerChaplain.com, an association of those called to chaplaincy, to provide Ministry tools, training, and networking opportunities that will enhance the personal ministry of those called to chaplaincy service .



A special note;

**\*\* Biker Chaplain Hands on Ministry and Motorcycle Ministry training is currently on sale! \*\***

