

P761

**GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM
THEME- MAKE EVERY EFFORT –part 1
SONGS: GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD
ABIDE WITH ME**

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We're beginning a 2-part study on what it takes to be used in the service of God. 2 Cor. 15:17-20 states that as a Believer in Christ, God has committed to us the message and ministry of reconciliation. We are His ambassadors, specifically for this purpose.

In the secular arena, ambassadors represent the leader of their country in an official capacity in communities and foreign nations. They are charged with protecting and promoting national interests, maintaining diplomacy, organizing visits, welcoming visitors, and supporting resolutions.

Now let's liken that to the spiritual realm. We are told to go and preach the Gospel to every creature - in Jerusalem (our home town), Judea (the outskirts), Samaria (difficult places where people may not welcome us) and to the uttermost parts of the earth. We are to listen to God for His message to share and say what HE says to us through His Word - not give our own opinions. We should always stand up for His Word, and His character, be friendly, and build relationships, to be able to share the love of Jesus to everyone we meet.

Sounds like a challenging job, doesn't it? But we need to know and trust that God will EQUIP US for the task He's GIVEN US. We must take up the cross and Go light the world.

******* WRITER: Kathy Troccoli**

***** GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD *** LENGTH: 4:05**

Go Light Your World

VERSE 1

**There is a candle in every soul.
Some brightly burning some dark and cold
There is a spirit, who brings a fire
Ignites a candle, and makes his own.**

Chorus 1

**Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn,
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, go light your world.
Take your candle; go light your world**

VERSE 2

**Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle, some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame.**

Chorus 2

**Carry your candle, run through the darkness,
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
Hold out your candle, for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world,
Take your candle go light your world.**

VERSE 3

**We are a family, who hearts are blazing
So let's raise our candles light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus,
Make us a beacon in darkest time**

Chorus 3

**Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world
Carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle go light your world
Take your candle go light your world**

When I was in the business world one company I worked for had what they called 'Management By Objectives' or MBO's. Employees were to prepare these for their coming year's review. Each one had a measurable description that was used by the supervisor to rate performance and give raises and promotions.

As Believers, God wants to use us to minister in His service. We have an important job to do.

2 Cor.15:17-20 details our MBO's...

... if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.

We are to first be reconciled to Christ, and then seek to understand and convey this message of reconciliation as His ambassadors (or representatives).

Just as it was imperative for me to review and understand what was expected of me in my secular job, it is even more important that I read God's Word to find what He expects of me in order to be successful in His Kingdom work.

In studying this, I found that the phrase 'Make Every Effort' was used often. Notice, it doesn't say 'Make AN effort – it says make EVERY effort.

This is a serious command – not to be taken lightly.

The most important of all the 'Make every Effort' phrases concerns being personally reconciled to Jesus.

Jesus said, in Luke 13:24...

"MAKE EVERY EFFORT to enter through the NARROW door, because many, I tell you, will TRY to enter and will not be able to.

"MAKE EVERY EFFORT here means to STRIVE or force yourself. The verb 'try' is not as strong a word as strive.

Another version says...

STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate, for many "I say unto you' will seek (TRY) to enter it, and shall not be able.

This is a metaphor depicting the gates at the entrance of the way leading to eternal life or everlasting destruction.

The STRAIT GATE is Christ Himself, apart from whom there is no other way to heaven as Jesus said in John 14:6...

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes unto the Father but by me."

In John 10:7...Jesus stated...

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved..."

And in John 10:9 Jesus said...

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."

A friend of ours thought it was unfair that the gate to Heaven was narrow rather than broad, but what he didn't understand was that the gate was narrow because Jesus made the way simple – one way through and only through him. The broad road reflects mankind's various attempts to gain acceptance with God by good works, church attendance, or identification with Believers, but their efforts are in vain unless they accept Jesus as their Savior.

Phil. 2:12 says...

Work OUT your salvation with fear and trembling.

That's OUT not FOR.

Jesus paid it ALL for us – we just need to believe that He died on the Cross and rose again to pay the penalty for our sin against God, then ask Him to be our Savior and we'll be reconciled to God through Him.

Once we are reconciled we can cease (rest) from our striving and rest in God's promised salvation.

**The next use of the phrase is in Hebrews 4:9-11. It says...
...There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of
God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their
works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, MAKE
EVERY EFFORT to enter that rest, so that no one will perish
by following their example of disobedience.**

**The example of disobedience here refers to the Israelites.
God had saved them from death at the hand of the Egyptians
but most of them chose not to obey God's direction, and
perished in the desert, never seeing the Promised land. They
saw the barriers in front of them instead of God's Glory, the
pillar of cloud or fire overhead, which had guided and protected
them. Yes, God still took care of them the remainder of their
wandering years in that desert but they never experienced all
His rest would have given them.**

**This rest is for Believers who can cease from trying to earn
Salvation. It is a rest of grace, and comfort, and holiness, in the
gospel state. And a rest in glory, where the people of God shall
enjoy the end of their faith, and the object of all their desires.
God has always declared man's rest to be in him, and His love
to be the only real happiness of the soul; and faith in His
promises, through His Son, to be the only way of entering that
rest.**

**Corrie Ten Boom once said...
"If you look at the world you'll be distressed. If you look
within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at
rest."**

**Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29...
"Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I
will give you REST. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me,
for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest
unto your soul."**

******* WRITERS: Matt Redman, Matt Maher,
** ABIDE WITH ME ** David Crowder, Jason Ingram
***** LENGTH: 3:07**

ABIDE WITH ME

VERSE 1

**I have a home, eternal home
But for now, I walk this broken world
You walked it first - YOU know the pain
But You show HOPE can rise again up from the grave.**

CHORUS

**Abide with me, abide with me
Don't let me fall, and don't let go
Walk with me and never leave
Ever close, God abide with me**

VERSE 2

**There in the night, Gethsemane
Before the cross, before the nails
Overwhelmed, ALONE You prayed
You met us in our suffering and bore our shame**

Repeat CHORUS

BRIDGE

**Oh love that will not ever let me go
Love that will not ever let me go
You never let me go
Love that will not ever let me go
Oh, You never let us go**

TAG

**And up ahead, eternity
We'll weep no more, we'll sing for joy
Abide with me**

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