

may 15

not by might nor by power

"this is the word of the Lord to zerubbabel: 'not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." zech 4:6

and now, a baseball analogy

bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. the Lord's team was playing satan's team. the Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. they continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. love swung at the first pitch and hit a single because love never fails.

the next batter was named faith, who also got a single because faith works with Love. the next batter up was named Godly wisdom. satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly wisdom looked it over and let it pass: ball one. three more pitches and Godly wisdom walked because Godly wisdom never swings at what satan throws.

the bases were loaded. the Lord then turned to bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. up to the plate stepped grace. bob said, "he sure doesn't look like much!" satan's whole team relaxed when they saw grace.

thinking he had won the game, satan wound up and fired his first pitch. to the shock of everyone, grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. but satan

was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. he went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

the Lord's team won. the Lord then asked bob if he knew why love, faith, and Godly wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. bob answered that he did not know why. the Lord explained, "if your love, faith and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. love, faith and wisdom will get you on base,... but only My grace can get you home. My grace is the one thing satan cannot steal.

-- author unknown

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"for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." eph 2:8-9

sometimes one tends to get a little "cocky" and think we are doing a good job in this race. that sin that so easily besets us hasn't reared it's ugly head in awhile so we think we have finally won the war instead of just a battle. sure, satan may flee for awhile but be assured he will come back with reinforcements the moment we start to dwell at ease and let our guard down - even just a little; thinking we can, instead of God will.

the moment we start to depend on anything but the blood

of Jesus and His grace, we are in danger of being deceived. i can speak for no one but myself, but i don't see myself walking into home plate after a home run. i see myself sliding in home plate, knowing the ball has already been thrown that would count me out. but hallelujah, grace prevails and the great Umpire has called me safe.