“If you meet me and forget me you have lost nothing. If you meet Jesus and forget Him, you have lost everything.”

Is this statement true?
Years ago, a man handed me a card that said, “If you meet me and forget me you have lost nothing. If you meet Jesus and forget Him, you have lost everything.”

I remember this saying offended me. I was working at a major TV ministry at the time. I thought, I am not nothing! I redid the man’s card to read, “If you meet me and forget me you have lost a little. If you meet Jesus and forget Him, you have lost everything.”

Which statements are true? Now that I got you thinking, let’s unpack the hidden truths behind these statements.
I have worth because I work hard!

My attitude was, “I have worth because I work hard.” It is a truth and it is good to work hard but I can’t tie my identity to having worth because of my hard work. Ok. I know I just step on a few toes. But think about it. What is grace? God’s grace is forgiveness even while we were sinners. Saul was killing Christians, but God extended His grace to Saul by knocking him off his horse and blinding him temporarily to have his eyes opened to God’s truth. His name was changed from Saul to Paul. Paul worked hard but he relied on God’s grace and not his hard work. Paul’s identity was tied to being God’s kid and not his hard work or even his call as an apostle.

What does that mean for us? It means my identity is being God’s kid because of the grace extended to me by the death and resurrection of Jesus. My call or the work I do is not my identity. It is my function in the Body of Christ. An eye sees. The heart pumps blood. The blood vessels distribute the blood which provides oxygen to the body, etc. Function is what you do. Identity is who you are which is God’s kid.
Worth vs. Works!

Now granted, the statement above, “If you meet me and forget me you have lost nothing.” could be a poverty mindset but that wasn’t what God was dealing with me. He was teaching me that MY WORKS did not give me my worth.

My worth comes from being in Christ which means I am a King’s kid.
Here are some test questions to see if you are relying on your own strength or God’s grace:

◊ If someone gives you money or tries to buy your lunch how do you react? Maybe you say my treat next time. You could say, thank you but you don’t need to do that for me. Do you thank them and receive it as a gift?

◊ You are working on a project and your supervisor suggests another way of doing it. Does this offend you? Are you grateful? Do you feel stupid?

◊ You see a friend who needs some help, but you know they won’t receive it. What is your attitude? Do you resent them because they are so stubborn? You feel bad for them but do nothing for fear of rejection? Do you pray for them? Do you love on them and extend them grace as they grow through this process?

I am not going to give you the answers to these questions. Only God knows your heart. But I am believing God will reveal areas in our lives we all need to improve in. He will show us where we are relying on self instead of Him and His grace. He will show us our true identity.
How do you get from works to receiving God’s grace?

Good question! It is a process. Holy Spirit will nudge you when your attitude is wrong. You will feel a check or feel like something is off, but you can’t put your finger on it. That means you need to have a talk with God to see what is up. Total surrender means you don’t have to prove who you belong to. You don’t stop doing something for God if someone misunderstand you or treats you bad. Sure, you may not like it but when you are surrendered to God’s will other people’s opinion don’t control you.
Prayer

Ok. I know a lot of toes have been stepped on, but the good news is God heals toes! I am praying Father God, will reveal areas in our lives that we are depending on our own works. I am releasing God’s grace, grace, and grace to the mountains in our lives that have trapped us in our own works. We will be used to release the riches of God’s grace on those around us. That we would be rooted and grounded in God’s love which passes our minds and emotions. May we take the mountains, God has placed in front of us, by relying on His grace, power and strength.

Scripture References:

Acts 9; Romans 12:3-6; Zechariah 4:7; Ephesians 2:6-10; Ephesians 3:16-21