

Radical
Grace



CREFLO DOLLAR

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Radical Grace

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CONTENTS

PART 1: DON'T FRUSTRATE GOD'S GRACE

Chapter 1: Have You Fallen from Grace?.....	5
Chapter 2: The Deception of the Law.....	9
Chapter 3: A Revelation of Grace.....	15
Chapter 4: You're Right with God...Forever!.....	19
Chapter 5: Working the Works of God.....	23

PART 2: OVERFLOWING GRACE

Chapter 6: You Have an Inheritance.....	29
Chapter 7: Are You an Ishmael or an Isaac?.....	33
Chapter 8: Effortless, Fruitful Living.....	39
Chapter 9: Walking in the Spirit.....	45
Chapter 10: Easing the Burden to Perform.....	51

PART 3: THE VALUE OF GRACE

Chapter 11: The Heartbeat of Grace.....	53
Chapter 12: The Law of Love vs. Grace.....	57
Chapter 13: The Overflow of Forgiveness.....	63

Chapter 1

Have You Fallen from Grace?

Who are you depending upon and relying on in life? Are you depending on your sweat, your self-efforts, and your ability to perform, or are you depending on Jesus to work in and through you? Are you depending on the unmerited favor—grace—of God? When you first became born again, you started your spiritual life and walk with God, trusting in the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Are you now relying more on yourself to live the Christian life, and no longer trusting in the Spirit of God?

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about. I'm a giver. But I trust in Jesus more than in what I give in the offering basket to meet my needs. I pray. But I trust more in Jesus than I do in the amount of time I spend in prayer. It's about who you trust in and depend on while you're doing what you do. Whenever we fall back into trying to please God through self-performance, we fall from grace. We frustrate the grace of God. We have to learn how to depend on the life of Christ 100 percent of the time!

Galatians 2:21, *AMP*, says, “[Therefore, I do not treat God’s gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside *and* invalidate *and* frustrate *and* nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly *and* to no purpose *and* in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]”

When Jesus has already done something for you, all you have to do is receive it by faith. You frustrate His grace by trying to earn—through self-effort—something that Jesus has already freely

given to you! Can you see how that would frustrate the grace of God? Grace has made everything you need to live a life that pleases God available to you. But when you say something like, “Well, if I fast and pray, I will get God to move in this situation,” you’ve moved out from under grace and into performance. Listen, you fast and pray because you’re already the righteousness of God! Trying to do those things to make something happen in your life frustrates the grace of God!

I can’t stress this enough! You’re righteous by faith in Jesus Christ. Do you understand that? Whatever you’re trying to get to happen happens through Jesus Christ! He’s the door! Everything that you’re believing God for—your healing, your deliverance—it comes by faith in Jesus Christ. What is it about Christian people that makes them want to examine their works to see if they qualify when God has made it clear we don’t qualify? That’s why Jesus showed up. You did not qualify. But now that you’re born again, you qualify for every blessing that Jesus has made available to Believers...*every last one of them!* You qualify for healing, deliverance, favor, soundness, wholeness, prosperity, everything you will ever need in life. Second Peter 1:3, *NLT*, states, “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” You’ve been given an abundance of God’s grace, or undeserved favor.

We have to be so careful not to dishonor what happened on the cross. Jesus died to deliver us from everything that’s bad and to give us access to everything that’s good. He paid the price for our sins—past, present, and future. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; He died and

paid the price for us to be healed. Knowing this, do you realize it's a prideful act for us to return to where we trust more in our own abilities than we do in what Jesus did on the cross? It's a dishonor to Him if we return to performance, and a need to meet the demands of the Law, as though Jesus hadn't already paid for everything and taken care of it all. We must comprehend that Jesus did it all.

Although many Christians today, believe that God can do anything, they still feel the need to get some effort involved. They've even popularized phrases like "God helps those who help themselves." God didn't say that. Benjamin Franklin said that! "So, Brother Dollar, are you telling me I don't have to do anything?" No, that's not what I'm saying. Self-effort doesn't mean "no effort." It's all about *who* you depend on. I'm telling you that as you depend on Jesus to tell you what to do, and depend on His Word that has already told you what to do, you will have plenty to do! You're going to have effort all over the place, but you don't want to put forth effort to trust in yourself. Instead, put forth effort to trust in God. Some people think that means don't do anything—that if you simply wait on God, something is going to happen. No! The Holy Spirit is going to speak to you and tell you what to do and when to move. When He does, move!

When you finally come to the end of yourself, that's when you're going to see the supernatural power of God. When you say to God, "I can't do this, but You can." As long as you're depending on your abilities and not God's, then God has no need to intervene in your life or situation. God has no need to do anything because, hey, you got it! You don't need Him if your dependence is on what you can accomplish and achieve for yourself. The truth is, God has already done everything and made available everything that

we'll ever need in this life! He's already healed you! He's already delivered you! He's already made you free! He's already done everything you need. What God requires of you is to renew your mind with His Word so that you will know how to release your faith and lay hold of His precious promises. He doesn't want you to try to make that happen. He wants you to receive what Jesus has already done. What He accomplished is only available to those who have come to the end of themselves—those who have come to an end of their ability, realizing they can never qualify through their own performance for what's already been done.

I wrote this book because I believe a lot of Christians need to understand the difference between trusting God to live this Christian life and trusting in their own works and performance. When you trust in your works, what you're really doing, through ignorance, is trying to meet the demands of the old Mosaic Law. However, we now live under a better covenant with better promises.

“Exercise foresight *and* be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from *and* fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing)” (Hebrews 12:15, *AMP*).

Chapter 2

The Deception of the Law

As Christians, we are no longer governed by the Law—we're led by the Holy Spirit. The Law encourages works and achievement through our performance, which is why our flesh (the flesh is a mindset that opposes God's Word) craves it. We want to take credit for what we do, for our performance. When we are being guided by our flesh, we want to feel deserving. But grace is not something we deserve or earn. This is why the flesh is enticed by the Law. The Law makes us think we deserve God's goodness. But we don't receive God's goodness because we're good; we receive it because He is good! Romans 11:6, *NLT*, declares, "And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved."

When I refer to "the Law" in the Bible, I'm referring to the Law of Moses—the Law that God gave to Moses, which God recorded on stone tablets at Mount Sinai (Exodus 31:18). There were 613 laws recorded in the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments.

The Law came from God, and it was perfect and holy. Romans 7:12, *NLT*, declares, "But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good." There was nothing wrong with the Law. It was good, but the Law couldn't make us perfect or holy. The problem was not with the Law but with man's inability to keep it. Paul goes on to talk about this a little further down in the chapter: Romans 7:18, 19, *AMP*, "For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to

do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] For I fail to practice the good deeds I desire to do, but the evil deeds that I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing.”

The Law versus Grace

The children of Israel were in bondage to the Law. Their lives were consumed with the fear of death and the curses that would come upon them if they disobeyed the Law. Under the Mosaic Law, God demanded righteousness from man. God kept track of their sins to the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20:5). The children of Israel were blessed only if they obeyed God’s commandments perfectly (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). They were cursed if they didn’t keep all of the Law (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). A curse is an empowerment to fail. Under the old covenant Law, the blood sacrifices of animals covered the Israelites’ sins for only one year, and the process had to be repeated every year (Hebrews 10:3). Even if they obeyed the Law, the Law did not give them the power to stop sin in their lives. The Law has no power to make anyone holy, just, or good. So the Israelites were robbed of their confidence in the goodness of God. They were always focused on their works—how well or how poorly they performed. They were “self-conscious” versus “God-conscious.” They were not confident that God was good because they were always looking at themselves and their performance. They could not have an intimate relationship with God because their unrighteousness put distance between them and God. Nor could they enter into the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God dwelled. Only the High Priest could enter in, and he only did so once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:30). They lived under the ministration of death (2 Corinthians 3:7).

Today, under the new covenant of grace, we can partake of all the new mercies and undeserved favor of God, including eternal life. Under the new covenant, God imparts righteousness to man through the finished works of Jesus Christ. Because of our faith in Jesus and what He did, heaven now declares us righteous. God does not visit our sins upon us to the third and fourth generation. God says He will remember our sins no more (Hebrews 8:12). Also, unlike the Israelites, who had to obey all of God’s commandments to receive His blessings, we don’t have to depend on our performance or works to receive God’s blessings. Jesus kept and fulfilled the Law perfectly on our behalf (Colossians 2:14). We’re no longer under the curse of the Law because Christ became a curse for us. Galatians 3:13, *NLT*, says, “But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.” So if anybody ever tells you that God’s going to curse you, you stand right there and tell them, “That’s a lie, because Jesus took the curse on my behalf! Hallelujah!” Under the new covenant of grace, we also don’t have to have our sins “covered” through blood sacrifices, like the children of Israel did. The blood of Jesus removed your sins—past, present, and future. He did it perfectly and completely, once and for all time (Hebrews 10:10). It’s done. Not only that, but today, sin has no dominion over Believers. Romans 6:14, *AMP*, tells us, “For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God’s favor and mercy].” So under grace you don’t sin more; under grace you sin less. You sin more under the Law.

One thing I want you to see is what a blessing it is for us to understand the covenant of grace and our deliverance from the

Law. I want you to become aware of what an awesome thing it is to be free from the Law, and to allow God, through the fruit of the Spirit, to teach you that we're not led by what was written on stones—The Ten Commandments.

When some people hear that we're no longer subject to the old Law or the Ten Commandments, they say, "Well, Brother Dollar, you're telling people they can go ahead and sin!" No, I'm not! God still hates sin. There are still consequences when you sin. But the Bible says that when the Law was given sin abounded, which means sin increased. Romans 5:20, *NLT*, tell us, "God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant."

You can't keep some of the Law; you have to keep all of it. If you offend in one area, you've offended the whole Law. There's no in-between. It's all or none. So living by the Law is like living under the curse. And who wants to do that? Who wants to live under the curse? The Bible says Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law; He became a curse for us.

Before the Law was given, there was no consciousness of sin. People were not conscious of the fact that what they were doing was wrong. They didn't see their sin as wrongdoing. But when the Law came in, men became consciously aware of their sin. The purpose of the Law was to stir up sin. Think about that. It wasn't to get rid of sin but to stir it up—to bring men to a place where they would see how much they need a Savior. For all of us who are born again and who have made Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives, our Christianity is about trusting and having more faith in what Jesus has done for us than in what we can accomplish through our own works and performance.

In Galatians 3:1-10, Paul questioned the contradictory actions and beliefs of the Galatians. The Galatians were being led astray by false teachings. They were reverting to the Law, relying on their own strength and ability to achieve spiritual maturity instead of relying on the Holy Spirit. In verse 3, *AMP*, Paul wrote, “Are you so foolish and so senseless and so silly? Having begun [your new life spiritually] with the [Holy] Spirit, are you now reaching perfection [by dependence] on the flesh?”

The Law is deceptive. It tempts you to compare what you’re doing—keeping a bunch of rules and regulations—with what others are doing or not doing. This leads you into works, self-reliance, and self-performance, where you’re no longer depending and trusting in your Savior, Jesus Christ. You may even come to a place where you begin to believe you don’t need a Savior!

I’ve seen this happen to many Christian people. They pray two hours a day, go to church every time the doors open, tithe, fast, and so on. None of those activities are wrong in and of themselves. But if you’re treating them like a ritual, something you feel compelled to do to make God move, you’re missing it! You’re doing everything except trusting Jesus! But what do you do, child of God, when it’s just not working? You’re praying and nothing’s happening. You’re fasting and nothing’s happening. You’re sowing and nothing’s happening. What do you do then?

When you try to perform or fulfill a ritual to get God to do something that He’s already done, you’ve turned that ritual into a law. You can turn prayer into a law; you can turn almost any spiritual concept into a law. If you say, “Well, I got this prayer answered because I prayed for five hours.” That sounds like boasting, right? You automatically know you’re under the Law because under grace there is no boasting. Ephesians 2:8, 9 says, “For by grace

are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Christians have to learn how to be good receivers. We’re stuck in this place of trying to be achievers because all of our Christian lives we’ve been trained to believe that if we do bad we get bad; if we do good, we get good. Nothing could be further from the truth! On the cross, Jesus took all of the bad (i.e., sin, guilt, condemnation, sickness, poverty, generational curses) so we can have all the good (i.e., love, joy, peace, divine health, prosperity, healing, deliverance from every yoke of bondage). That’s what makes God’s grace so amazing! It’s all good! It is finished! (John 19:30).

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Timothy 1:9, *NASB*).

Chapter 3

A Revelation of Grace

Frustration is what brought me to a revelation of God's grace. I was frustrated because I knew that something was missing in our revelation of faith, healing, and deliverance. I was frustrated because I would work so hard to try to obtain God's promises, and my hard work wasn't producing the way I thought it would produce. When someone would pass away, I'd hear people ask the question, "Do you think they went to heaven or not?" Someone might respond by saying, "I don't know. They didn't attend church as much as they used to at one time." Somehow, I just knew that this kind of thinking did not reflect the true character and nature of the God I served. If I was a sinner, I probably wouldn't want to serve that kind of God—a God Who would condemn me, lock me out, get me back for bad deeds, put sickness on me, or send me to hell because I wasn't measuring up to certain religious standards. Yet the form of religion I have heard preached all my life taught that the kind of God we are serving is a hard, harsh, condemning, angry God who is ready to pour out His wrath upon us.

In the middle of my holy frustration, in the middle of seeing people die, in the middle of even carrying my own guilt and condemnation, the Word of the Lord came to me, and God asked me, "Would you become a student of grace?" Not really understanding what that meant, I asked Him, "What's a student of grace?" God didn't give me any details right then, but I said, "Yes. I'll become a student of grace." I thought that meant that I should get all the books I could find on grace and study them, research all the scriptures in the Bible on grace, just get my hands

on everything I could find about grace and study it. I didn't know a lot about grace except what I had already preached on the subject. I started a journey on grace because I was at a perfect place for it. I was at a place where I didn't know what else to do. When you've tried everything and it's still not working, that's when you're ready for grace.

The revelation of grace has totally revolutionized my life. It has tenderized me; it has caused me to enter into a rest; it has delivered me from fear, condemnation, guilt, and shame. I used to beat myself up all the time because I wasn't this flawless, perfect preacher. If I said something wrong, if I didn't pray enough, if I missed time reading the Word, I'd beat myself up. I thought I had to do all those things to qualify to walk in God's blessings. So grace enabled me to stop trying to work for God's love, to just receive it! I discovered that I had a problem receiving, and then I discovered that I'm not the only one. Almost every Christian I know has a problem receiving, yet God wants us to be receivers. As I stated in the last chapter, Christians have to learn how to be good receivers.

Grace changed my relationship with my wife. My relationship with my wife has gone through the roof. The restoration of my children has been amazing. Deliverance from people happened when I got the revelation of grace. I'm not trying to keep up with the Joneses. I'm free to be me. I'm free to dress like I want to dress. I know God accepts me for who I am. Once you know how much God loves you, you extend that love toward everybody in your life. I love everybody more because I can receive God's love for me.

My whole life has changed because of the grace Gospel. I'm happier. I'm calm. I'm restful. I'm peaceful. I don't try to do what

I know I can't do. I live *from* God instead of trying to live *for* Him. In other words, I depend on God for everything. I can smile now, and you wouldn't know that at that very moment I need \$3.8 million for something in my ministry. Before getting the revelation of grace, I'd say, "Oh, brother, pray for me!" Now I know God has already taken care of that. I'm never going to be the same again.

So, what is it about grace that is so amazing and life-changing? For one thing, under the covenant of grace, God imparts righteousness to man through the finished works of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:19). Because of our faith in Jesus—not our works—and what He did, heaven now declares us righteous. Galatians 2:16 states, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ." In Romans 3:27, *NLT*, we read, "Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith."

If you're born again and have made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, your Christianity is about trusting in everything that Jesus did for you. Romans 8:3, 4, *NLT*, brilliantly illustrates how this works. "The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit."

We have to put faith in what Jesus has done for us instead of trying to impress God through our performance. Our faith, trust, and confidence must be in the finished works of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:23-26, *NLT*).

Chapter 4

You're Right with God...Forever!

In February 2013, I was in Minnesota for a meeting. As I was preparing for the night's sermon, I was praying about a hardened heart. How does one develop a hard heart? The Lord spoke to me, and He said, "You know, people spend a lot of time considering their sins. As they do, condemnation and guilt come in. They spend a lot of time considering their sins, considering what they've done in the past, when, in fact, they should spend more time considering what I have done—that I said I would be merciful unto their unrighteousness and their sins and iniquities I'll remember no more."

When you spend all of your time considering your sins, you harden your heart to what God has already given as an anecdote for your sins. So, guess what happens? You allow your heart to receive condemnation and guilt. You have to begin to *think about what you're thinking about*. Don't think about how you messed up, or how you shouldn't have done this or that. You can think about all that, or you can think about how God has been merciful to your unrighteousness, and He no longer remembers your sins. When you do that, your heart becomes flexible and open to receive what the Holy Spirit can do, which is to deliver you from sin and remove the feelings of guilt and condemnation associated with it. Think about it; you can't go back and undo anything you did in the past, right? So why waste time dwelling on it? Spend your time thinking about things that can make your future better than your past. The Word of God says, "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8, *NLT*).

Maintain Your Righteousness Stance

Dwelling on the past and considering your sins is a deceptive ploy that your enemy—the devil—uses against you. He will come at you through voices of accusation to stop you from gaining access to everything that God has already made available for you in life. He attacks your position of righteousness. It's your righteousness stance that allows you to operate in God's power. If he can get you to resign your position of righteousness, you'll resign from your place of power. Remember, the Bible calls him “the accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10).

Now, here again, remember what I clarified and briefly touched on in the previous chapter: you're not righteous based on what you did or didn't do. You're righteous based on what Jesus has done for you! If you're a Believer, God *made* you righteous the day you became born again. You're righteous when you fall and when you get up; you're righteous when you're doing good and when you fail; you're righteous when you're living holy and when you're not living so holy. This is the deal in a nutshell: If you won't let go of your position of righteousness, then whatever's wrong in your life, God is going to make it right!

Every day, countless Christians allow themselves to be talked out of their righteousness. When they sin or miss the mark, they no longer believe they're righteous by faith in Christ. Do you know that this erroneous mindset frustrates the grace of God? When you no longer believe that you're righteous by faith in Christ, you invalidate, frustrate, and nullify (render useless and of no effect) God's grace.

What you have to do is *stay established in your righteousness, no matter what the voices of accusation say!* The grace of God answers you in your most undeserving moments. The good

news is that the bad news is wrong! God made you righteous, so you have a right to His grace in a time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Anytime words of accusation are coming to you, open your mouth and say, “I’m the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ! Jesus never sinned! (Hebrews 4:15). He *became* sin for me! In exchange for my sins, He made me righteous! (2 Corinthians 5:21). God charged me with righteousness! (Romans 4:3). So I don’t have to work to become righteous; I’m forever righteous! I refuse to frustrate God’s grace and paralyze His unmerited favor in my life! I will maintain my position of righteousness, operate in power, and receive all the good things that God has in store for me, in this life! Hallelujah!”

We’re under a new covenant, and this new covenant of grace says God has been merciful unto your unrighteousness and your sins and iniquity He will remember no more. I’m going to keep that in your face! I want it firmly imprinted in your mind and heart. See, here’s the deal, until you remember that very profound truth and start considering it more than anything else you do, you will hinder God’s will for your life. If you’re thinking contrary to what He’s promised, it makes it difficult for you to release your faith to receive everything He’s made ready for you. The more you remember how God’s been merciful unto your unrighteousness and your sins, the less you’ll be apt to sin. Even if you’re in sin, God wants to deliver you. But His hands are tied if you’re walking around sin-conscious, dwelling more on your messes than your right-standing with God. Do yourself a favor today: forget about your past, which is what God has commanded us to do!

“No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13, *TLB*).

Chapter 5

Working the Works of God

As I stated earlier, many Believers possess a very vague idea of what their role is when accessing God’s grace and laying hold of the finished works of Jesus Christ. They have questions like, “If everything has been made available and ready for me, if it’s already done, why don’t I have it? How do I practically lay hold of it? If receiving the promises of God is not based on my self-effort or my performance, how do I obtain them?”

When we became born again, God placed many good things on the inside of us, in our born-again spirits. Our salvation encompasses our soundness, wholeness, deliverance, healing, and prosperity. When we are facing troubling circumstances, we can acknowledge those good things that are within us (Philemon 1:6). We received our salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). We are filled with God Himself—God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:9, 10, *AMP*). God gave us both faith and grace; however, we also have a part in accessing His power.

In John 6:28, 29, *NLT*, a crowd of people inquired of Jesus saying, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?” Jesus’ answer was plain and clear, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.” Jesus told them that the works of God was to believe in Him. *Believing* in the finished works of Jesus Christ is how you perform the works of God. The work of faith is the work of God. God says without faith, you can’t please Him (Hebrews 11:6). They inquired about the “works of God” (plural), but Jesus Christ directed them to one “work” (singular), which includes all the “works,” which is “to believe.” Believing in the finished works of Jesus Christ

supersedes all the works of the Law. Why? Under the Law, you were required to perform; under the covenant of grace, *it is God working in and through you* to fulfill His will. Philippians 2:13, AMP, says, “[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.”

Learning how to fully rely upon God and trust in the finished works of Jesus Christ is not about right doing—it’s about right believing! How do you “believe right”? You have to believe what God has promised you in His Word. You will not know what you have access to, according to His Word, if you don’t study the Word. Until you do that, you can’t talk about whether the Word will or won’t work. You also will not have access to the promises of God without believing the Word. These are the ways by which you take ownership of what God has already done. You believe with your heart what the Word says. How do you believe with your heart? You believe with your spirit. Your spirit believes the Word! And let me tell you something: That’s work! If you think believing in God and His Word doesn’t require work, you better think again! But it’s not work based on exerting yourself through your own efforts.

When you believe on God and His Word, you have to go against all of your five physical senses. Renewing your mind with the Word of God is vital! Why? You can’t believe what you don’t know or understand. If the Bible says, “With his stripes we are healed,” then you have to believe you’re healed before you ever see the manifestation (Isaiah 53:5). If you visit the doctor, and he says the illness is still there and getting worse, you still have to believe what the Word says: you are healed! You have to believe that, and receive that, until you “know in your knower” that you’ve got it. That’s how

it works. That's how everything in the Bible works! You may not have to be perfect to go to heaven, but you have to believe in order for the Word to work for you down here on this physical earth.

I once did a teaching on what it means to believe and receive. I had been thinking the same way many Believers do—am I supposed to believe the Word in my head, in my mind? Am I supposed to just cop a squat somewhere, sit down, and wait on God?

Oftentimes when we pray, we focus on receiving what we desire in the near future. However, the Bible teaches us to receive what we desire when we pray. Jesus said in Mark 11:23, “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” We have to believe that we have already received what we have prayed for in the spirit realm, while we are waiting for it to manifest in the physical realm.

Confession doesn't heal you or deliver you or prosper you financially, but it's a part of the process, just like meditating in the Word is a part as well. The power comes when you say it, and when you believe it. Now, when you believe something you agree with it. When you truly believe something, you're going to tell it because you believe it enough to speak it, think about it, and act like it's so. So, when I say I believe something, *I take it!* I can't take it physically because it doesn't exist in the natural realm yet. But I can take possession of it with my mouth, in my thinking, in my heart, and in my conversations. When I do that, I will eventually walk into the manifestation of whatever I'm believing and using my faith to pull from the unseen realm into this natural world.

Sometimes fear will get in and try to choke the process. If you're believing God for the manifestation of a healing breakthrough,

you can't allow fear to get in. If you're afraid, that's evidence of your unbelief. The greatest fear in the world is fearing that what God has promised won't come to pass. That's why you have to do the work! You have to feed your faith by listening to CDs, making confessions, speaking the right things, reading and meditating on the Word, attending church, and pouring over healing material. You have to surround yourself with things that support what you say you believe, because the devil is going to make sure you're surrounded by things that contradict what you say you believe. That's where fear can come in. If you're believing and doing all those things, but when you go back to the doctor he says your condition has gotten worse, don't panic! Keep on doing what you've been doing! You have to keep confessing until you come to the point where you finally believe what you say! It has to be in your mouth first, before it ever gets down into your heart.

I've had to do this many times in my own life. It's not easy. It's a struggle. The whole process is a struggle! When I got a cancer diagnosis, fighting for my healing was the hardest thing I ever did before in my life. You're fighting against something that's trying to kill you! You're saying, "I'm healed," and the devil is saying "You're going to die." It was a fight, and it was on! When I went to bed, the devil was showing me caskets! I would see the word "death" in the Bible, and every time I read it, I got chills! I'm saying, "I'm healed," and the doctor is steadily saying it's an aggressive form of cancer. When I first got the cancer diagnosis, I couldn't sleep for 24 hours. I said, "What in the world is this diagnosis?" I had a lot of questions—that's natural. That's going to happen because the whole battle is, will I fear this thing, or will I stay in faith? I believe God! But here's the thing: You have to allow patience to have her perfect work so that you'll come out perfect and entire, wanting

nothing! (James 1:4). How do you know you've reached the point where you really believe? When you rest, and when you find peace.

Thank God for His grace, because if it hadn't been for grace, if I didn't know I was *already* healed and that it was a finished work, I might have gotten weak. The thing that settled it for me was knowing that I was already healed! How did I know that? God's Word says so! (Isaiah 53:3). I believe that! I've renewed my mind to that truth! God has already provided healing for me. I'm not trying to get something that I already have! People work to get something that they don't think they have. I already have it. If I didn't know that because of God's grace my healing is a finished work, I would've been looking at my symptoms, trying to figure out whether or not He was going to heal me. So I settled that. I'm healed. I was healed two thousand years ago when Jesus declared on the cross, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). That was the turning point right there for my healing, my deliverance, my wholeness, whatever I would ever need in life!

Examine your motives when exercising your faith. It's very easy to begin to trust in your own works—actions—more than you trust God. You "work the works of God" by believing in Jesus and relying on what He has already done for you (John 6:27-35). Believing God does not mean that we simply agree with Him and do nothing else. True belief is backed by action—faith actions! Agreement by itself is only mental assent. To believe is to have confidence, assurance, and trust in God, and God alone. It is to believe on Him—Jesus—the One God sent to restore peace and goodwill toward all men (Luke 2:14). Your "labor" is to rest *in Him* and His finished work on the cross. Heed Hebrews 4:11, *AMP*, which says, "Let us therefore be zealous *and* exert ourselves *and* strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may

fall *or* perish by the same kind of unbelief *and* disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell].”

Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, established upon better promises (Hebrews 8:6). We’re no longer subjected to rules and governed by laws written on stone tablets. God’s “laws” are now in our hearts. “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Hebrews 8:10).

Today, we can enjoy God’s blessings and His undeserved favor. Your attempts to perform without the leadership of the Holy Spirit will always put you in a position where you’re trying to earn God’s grace. Your works and performance will produce behavior modification without true heart transformation. But when you behold the loveliness of Jesus and His finished works, it will bring about an inner transformation that produces good works motivated by the Spirit of God. He will energize and work in and through you to fulfill God’s will in your life. Jesus’ sacrifice—not your performance—has positioned you to enjoy God’s unmerited, undeserved favor. Jesus qualified you to receive every spiritual blessing! So from this day forward, expect to walk in God’s undeserved favor! Refuse to frustrate the grace of God by depending on your works or your performance to get something to happen, and just depend on Jesus. Jesus did it all!

“After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?” (Galatians 3:3, *NLT*).

Chapter 6

You Have an Inheritance

“And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you” (Galatians 3:29, *NLT*).

What is an heir? The scripture I referenced above says now that you belong to Christ, you are Abraham’s seed and heir according to the promise. An heir is a person who inherits or has a right of inheritance in the property of another following the latter’s death. An heir is entitled to inherit the rank, title, position, etc., of another person. Romans 4:13, declares, “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

The promise that was made to Abraham was not made to him and his seed through the old Law of Moses (i.e., the Mosaic Law that includes the Ten Commandments). As the seed of Abraham, we obtain the promise through righteousness which is by faith, and what is the promise? Being an heir to the world.

Let me rephrase or amplify that a little bit. God didn’t make the promise based on works that you have to perform. He made the promise based on whether or not you’re going to *believe* what He promised. Another translation of Romans 4:13, *NLT*, says it like this, “Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.”

You Have Been Made Righteous

When I read scriptures like those, it really stirs me up where righteousness is concerned. The Bible tells us that because of the

free gift of righteousness, we can rule and reign as kings in life (Romans 5:17, *AMP*).

I want you to think about this. There's something so powerful about you believing that you're righteous by faith in Christ. Doing so puts you in a position of authority to rule and reign over the circumstances and situations of this life. So the question of who you are won't come up every time you try to figure out if you're deserving of a blessing, or deserving of healing; if you're deserving period! It should never be a question!

Practically speaking, this means that every day when you get up, you need to remind yourself who you are! Who you are is not based on what you've done, or haven't done. When you get up in the morning, start saying, "I'm the righteousness of God by faith in Christ and Jesus loves me!" This means you rule over sickness, you rule over poverty and lack, you rule over all negative circumstances that come your way in life.

Now, the enemy is going to challenge you somehow, someday, so don't be surprised when it happens. He's going to challenge you but just stay on the Word. Stay on it because your breakthrough is coming. You may want to break down and cry, you may want to complain, you may feel panicked, you may be tempted to fear, but remind yourself in the midst of all those temptations that you're the righteousness of God! Settle it! With all of the crazy things the enemy will put in your mind, settle the fact that God loves you and you're the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. You have an inheritance; God has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). No weapon that's formed against you shall prosper because you're established in righteousness. Isaiah 54:17, *AMP*, tells us just that! "But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall

rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness *or* the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.”

What oftentimes happens is that people don't receive what God has promised them because they're trying to get it through the Law. But Romans 4:14, 15, *NLT*, says, “If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!).”

I also love the way Galatians 3:24, 25, *NLT*, breaks it down for us, “Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.”

Do you know what the Law does? The Law will continue to make you think that God is angry with you. You'll say things like, “God must be angry with me because I didn't do this, or I haven't been to church, so God must be angry with me.” No. Christ made us free from the bondage of trying to meet the demands and the requirements of the Law. Living under the Law and trying to achieve through your performance will always have you with the mindset that God is angry with you. And do you know what happens when you think God is angry with you? You won't believe His promises are for you. You'll somehow feel like you deserve whatever negative or bad thing that may be happening in your life. Listen, you deserve so much worse than that thing you're

presently going through, but thank God for His grace! Because of grace, you don't receive what you deserve! Glory be to God! Grace is God's unmerited, undeserved favor toward you. Aren't you glad about that?

You have an inheritance from Almighty God. You're the beneficiary of all the finished works of Jesus Christ which include healing, deliverance, prosperity, safety, soundness, and wholeness in every area of your life! God gave us a package deal! He gave us everything, the best that heaven had, when He gave us Jesus! Hallelujah!

“In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) *and* we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel *and* design of His [own] will” (Ephesians 1:11, *AMP*).

Chapter 7

Are You an Ishmael or an Isaac?

I want to cover the allegory of Abraham in this mini-book because it settles a whole lot of questions as it relates to us relying on our own works and performance to obtain God's promises. So, I'm going to walk you through the allegory of Abraham's life in Galatians, Chapter 4, which talks about the Law that brings men into bondage, versus grace, which brings men into freedom. In this portion of text, Paul is warning Believers not to return to the bondage of self-effort, or self-reliance, in an attempt to meet certain demands of the old Law. He encourages them instead, to allow the Spirit of God, to lead, guide, and transform their lives.

Now, before I do go into detail about that, let me define the word "allegory." An allegory is a symbolical narrative. For example, a mountain can be used to represent something else, or be a symbol for something else. It's a figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another subject.

The two women in Abraham's life—Sarah and Hagar—represent two covenants. "Now all this is an allegory; these [two women] represent two covenants. One covenant originated from Mount Sinai [where the Law was given] and bears [children destined] for slavery; this is Hagar. Now Hagar is (stands for) Mount Sinai in Arabia and she corresponds to *and* belongs in the same category with the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage together with her children. But the Jerusalem above (the Messianic kingdom of Christ) is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:24-26, *AMP*).

When you read this portion of text starting in Galatians 4:21, 22, *AMP*, you will notice that God is telling us some things through the use of an allegory. "Tell me, you who are bent on being under

the Law, will you listen to what the Law [really] says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondmaid and one by the free woman.”

To paraphrase, this is saying: Cross references: Some of you are bent on being under the law; on keeping the Ten Commandments, no matter what! You believe there are just some demands you’ve got to meet. You’re still trying to perform and Paul is saying, “Would you please listen! You who are bent on being under the Law, do you even know what it says? One woman—Hagar—was in bondage, a slave. Abraham had a son by her, Ishmael. The other woman—his wife Sarah—was a free woman. Abraham had a son with her, which was Isaac. Galatians 4:23, AMP, says, “But whereas the child of the slave woman was born according to the flesh *and* had an ordinary birth, the son of the free woman was born in fulfillment of the promise.”

Paul said one son (Ishmael), was born out of Abraham and Sarah’s self-effort, out of the flesh. Ishmael was the son produced by human ability instead of God’s promise (Genesis 16:16). The other son (Isaac) was born out of the promise. Isaac was born when Abraham was no longer able to produce a child through his human ability. Isaac was the child born by God’s ability (Genesis 21:2, 5).

You know the story. Sarah suggested that Abraham lie with her maid Hagar (Genesis 16:3) because she didn’t believe the child God promised them would come through her because she was old and past childbearing age. So she thought she’d help God out! That was her plan. She couldn’t believe that God would do it, so she used her own self-effort to see if she and Abraham could make the promise come to pass.

Isn’t that the picture of most Christians today? They believe God can deliver on His promises, but they still feel the need to put

more faith and confidence in their own efforts and performance. They've even picked up on phrases like, "God helps those who help themselves" and they claim it's biblical! But God didn't say that—Benjamin Franklin said that!

We have a Church today so focused on pleasing God through their works and their performance, and guess what's happening? They're giving birth to "Ishmaels!" Someone may say they're standing in faith, believing God for a car. But then they expend all their own energy trying to make the promise manifest. They end up getting the wrong car. They wind up with an "Ishmael" car; a car birthed through self-effort. Some people wind up in "Ishmael" houses, even "Ishmael" marriages. They get tired of waiting on God and decide to take matters into their own hands by choosing a mate they think is suitable for them. Then when the real character and nature of that person they married manifests, they blame God for sending them the wrong mate! God had nothing to do with that!

You have to learn how to trust God with everything you do. That's what I mean when I say don't rely on your own self-effort. Self-effort is all about *whom* you put your trust in. Even when you take a pill, say, "Lord, bless this medicine in the name of Jesus. I know this pill is not going to do anything until You get on it!" Pray for your doctors. This is your way of letting heaven know that your trust is in the Lord. You're making it clear that God is your source.

Until you come to the end of your plan, and rely upon your natural abilities, God will remain silent, because obviously you're not going to need Him until you've run out of options. Abraham had Ishmael with Hagar when he was eighty-six years old. He had Isaac with Sarah when he was one hundred years old (Genesis 21:5). God didn't appear to Abraham after Ishmael's birth until Abraham was ninety-nine years old! (Genesis 17:1).

God shows up when there's no more of your effort left. In that same verse (Genesis 17:1, *NLT*) notice that the Lord appeared to Abraham as "El-Shaddai—God Almighty" and told Abraham "Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life."

God didn't promise Abraham a son through Abraham's own self-effort. He promised him a son through His effort. To paraphrase, God was saying, "Hey Abraham, I am the Almighty God. I am mighty in all areas of your life!"

Let me ask you a question: Are you straining and struggling to get the promises of God to come to pass in your life through your performance and natural ability? Or are you trying to get the promises of God through Jesus' efforts and what He has already accomplished on your behalf?

We serve the Almighty God. There's no area in your life that God cannot be mighty in. He'll be mighty in your finances, mighty in your marriage, and mighty with your children, if you will let Him! The Bible says you are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, not your own might! (Ephesians 6:10). Pay attention to that scripture! God wants to show up and work some things out on your behalf, but you keep showing up in your own human strength! You have to get to the place where you come to an end of yourself. There are some things you've been trying to make happen for the last twenty years and nothing's changed! I challenge you to divorce yourself...from yourself! Stop acting like everybody else and start depending on God! Only then are you going to start seeing things that nobody else is seeing, because you've divorced yourself from your own self-effort.

If you're born again, you're not an "Ishmael," you're an "Isaac!" Isaac was a child of promise. So, likewise, you and I are children of promise. God promised us the Holy Spirit. What's

significant about that? Under the new covenant of grace, the Spirit of God lives on the inside of us, He leads us, and He guides us (John 14:17; John 15:13). Our lives are led by the Spirit of God, not by the old Law. We're children of promise! The Holy Spirit will show you how to accomplish all of the things you tried to accomplish by the Law. I'm not saying you're not supposed to behave well, or fail to demonstrate good character. I'm saying don't try to achieve, possess, or obtain those qualities through legalistic rituals based on the old Law. Instead, allow the Holy Spirit to show you how to become a person of character and integrity who walks in love toward others.

“But we, brethren, are children [not by physical descent, as was Ishmael, but] like Isaac, born in virtue of promise” (Galatians 4:28, *AMP*).

Chapter 8

Effortless, Fruitful Living

Do you know the difference between favoritism and unmerited favor? Favoritism is when you try to do whatever you can to open doors for yourself so that people will show you favoritism. Favoritism has the stench of self-effort all over it. But unmerited favor doesn't have anything to do with your self-effort. Unmerited favor is trusting Jesus to open doors for you. Your dependence is on Him and not on what you can do.

Unmerited favor is God's unearned, undeserved favor. It's God's grace upon your life. "For while the Law was given through Moses, grace (unearned, undeserved favor and spiritual blessing) and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17, *AMP*).

The quickest way to move away from God's grace or unmerited favor, is to think you deserve it. When you start working to deserve favor, you're really working for favoritism, not unmerited favor.

We have to let the Bible define itself. We have to allow the Scripture to remain in context because when you take the "text" out of "context" you're left with a "con." That's what happens in a lot of our lives. We've been conned all of these years. Religion has conned us. We've been trained to believe that if we do good, we'll get good, and if we do bad, we'll get bad. That's how it was under the old covenant Law. But in this covenant of grace, God's already sworn by Himself that He's going to be good to you. He's going to be faithful even when you're not faithful.

"If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13, *AMP*).

God is looking for people who will put all of their trust in the

finished works of Jesus Christ. When you come to the end of your own efforts, that's when you're ready to receive grace. It's when you've done everything you know to do and it doesn't work. It's when you've tried everything you can try to get a door opened and it never opens. It's when you're ready to say, "Lord, I can't do it, but You can." When you get to that place, that's where you're going to see more supernatural things happen in your life than ever before. You're not going to try to perform to get God to love you. He's already settled, through the blood of Jesus, that His love for you is eternal. He'll never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). There are certain things that are settled. They're a finished work and God's waiting on somebody to just trust Him.

Somebody may say, "But, Brother Dollar, there are still some things we have to do." I'm going to address the question of faith because a lot of Christians don't understand how to work their faith without getting over into self-reliance or self-effort. They understand that they have a part, but aren't quite clear on how to carry it out.

Galatians 5:6 declares: "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

This scripture says we're in Jesus Christ. We're in Him. In Jesus Christ circumcision doesn't avail anything and neither does uncircumcision avail anything. What does avail then? Your faith and my faith works by love. In John 13:34, he says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Here's another thing that religion has done. We've put so much emphasis on the fact that we've got to love one another in order for our faith to work. If I don't love you, then my faith

won't work. But do you realize that this then puts me in a position to perform?

Somebody says, "Well, what do you do?" You keep forgetting that the Holy Spirit is going to show you how to do all the things that you used to do by the Law. When we teach that you're not supposed to perform based on the Law, that's not giving people permission to go out and act like a fool! We're saying that the Holy Spirit—Who is so much better than the Law—is going to teach you how to live a life of faith that pleases God. He's going to dig into those issues in your life that may not be written in the Law (like how to deal with some addiction; or how to love your spouse, or how to raise your children) and start dealing with you personally. He knows how to bring your issues out and explain to you why you're behaving a certain way. He knows how to do it! So, not being led by the old Law does not justify or give you an excuse to misbehave. The Spirit of God is going to lead you on how to behave, how to love, how to give, and so on.

He First Loved Us

Now, what we do know is that we really don't know how to love until we first of all receive God's love. Once we receive His love, then we will know how to love others. Imagine trying to love other people like we love ourselves? What about the people who aren't loving themselves right? For that scenario, God gives us grace. He says, "You know what? I want you to love as I teach you to love. Then I want you to believe the love that I have for you." Well, what is it that'll cause faith to work? *It's when you believe God's love for you.* Faith works by knowing and believing that God loves you. Or, to put it like this: faith works by faith in His love. It's not necessarily, "Well, I've got to love you in order

for my faith to work.” Your faith is not going to work if you don’t believe God loves you. This is the number one area where the enemy will attack you; He will work overtime to make you doubt God’s love for you. Every faith endeavor and every faith journey starts with, “Do I believe that God loves me?”

Do you know how hard it is to believe the healing scriptures, the deliverance scriptures, and the prosperity scriptures, if you don’t first of all settle with confidence that God loves you? If you don’t believe me, the next time you’re under attack, go and get about fifty scriptures and start meditating on them, but all the while doubting God’s love for you. It won’t work.

The first area that has to be secured in order for you to see the manifestation of your faith is knowing that God loves you. In order for that to be secure, you’ve got to know that His love has expressed total cleansing and forgiveness of all of your sins—past, present, and future. Once you begin to understand that you’ve been forgiven much, then it’s easy for you to receive how you can be loved much. Most of the time when Jesus talked about deliverance and healing from sickness and disease, at the same time He talked about how He’s forgiven you of your sins. Because the same wounds that healed us, are also the same wounds that forgave us of all of our sins.

Isaiah 53:5, *AMP*, declares, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt *and* iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace *and* well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed *and* made whole.”

He was wounded for our transgressions (sins), but He was also wounded with those stripes that healed us. So the manifestation of His promises in your life is always going to be based on whether

you have settled in your heart that God loves you, which is what lies at the very heart of the Gospel of grace!

Grace is the over-the-top Good News about how Jesus showed up one day and proclaimed to the ungodly that God is imputing righteousness unto them without their works, just because He loves them! You have to receive that. If you still find yourself questioning whether or not God has really forgiven you, then you've not yet settled the issue of Him loving you. He has forgiven you of all of your sins—past, present, and future.

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19, *NLT*).

So, if you've been praying about things and you haven't seen them manifest yet, I need you to settle something right now; settle the truth that no matter what, Jesus loves me! He doesn't love you because you're good; He loves you because He wants to! That's the thing about grace. It's not about what you deserve. As soon as you work to deserve it, it's no longer grace. You have an abundance of undeserved grace and faith.

Most of the time people don't think they can receive from God because they think they don't deserve to. But God knows you don't deserve anything. That's why He can give it to you! Grace is His unmerited, undeserved favor freely extended to you!

“For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment *and* made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8, *AMP*).

You've got to receive that God's forgiven you and that He loves you. He's not doing what He's doing in your life because

you deserve it; He's doing it because He's good! His goodness will change you. His goodness will cause you to live a life that's pleasing to Him. And without the Law, you'll find yourself able to walk in a way that the Spirit of God will lead you. This is what it means to experience effortless, fruitful living. When you got saved, you got the Holy Spirit. You got the love of God, the fruit of the Spirit, healing, deliverance, and prosperity. Everything you need in life was put on the inside of your born-again spirit. You simply must believe it, trust it, rely on it, lean on it, and it will transfer into manifestation in your life.

“But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, in your hearts, so that you don't need anyone to teach you what is right. For he teaches you all things, and he is the Truth, and no liar; and so, just as he has said, you must live in Christ, never to depart from him” (1 John 2:27, *TLB*).

Chapter 9

Walking in the Spirit

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? There is a clear distinction between a life that is led by the Spirit and a life that is led by the Law. When we are led by the Spirit our conduct changes. Galatians 5:25, *AMP*, says “If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]”

When the Holy Spirit has taken the place of the Law in your life, He is Someone you can talk to about anything. He’ll talk to you about the minute details of your life. He knows everything about you. The Holy Spirit will begin to lead you, guide you, and show you what you need to do. He knows how to get a message across to you.

I like to use the following illustration because it happened to me. Let’s say you go into a store and you open a package and pull something out. And you think, “Well, I don’t want this one.” The Spirit of God says, “You know what, somebody’s going to have to pay for what you’re doing. Why don’t you just go ahead and get the one you opened? And you’re thinking, I don’t want the one I opened. I want the one I haven’t opened. Once you get to know the Holy Spirit, He’s not going to sit there and debate with you. My experience is He will tell me one time. And when you’re walking and talking with Him about the everyday affairs of your life, you’ll find out that the Holy Spirit is not easily misunderstood.

Now that you’ve been released from the Law and live under the covenant of grace, the Spirit of God is now responsible for your conduct. As I said earlier, this is so much better than how they lived under the old Law. He deals personally with those root

issues in your life. That's what's so awesome about God. God can deal with all of us individually right where we are! Praise God!

Listen, Jesus in you qualifies you to live in heaven. The Holy Spirit in you qualifies you to be able to live on the earth. Think about that for a moment. The Spirit of God in you is what will enable you to be able to live successfully here on the earth. But you in Him is what enables you to go to heaven and live in heaven. Hallelujah!

Now, in order to be led by the Spirit of God, you have to begin to become sensitive to Him. My wife said to me one time, "You know, if you're satisfied with where you are right now, and you're not really interested in the will of God for your life, then you'll never find out what the will of God is for your life. But when you become so hungry and passionate about locating the will of God for your life, you will find it."

There are some Christian people who are just kind of satisfied with where they are. They don't want anything else from God. As long as they get to go to heaven one day, they're content. But man, I'm telling you, that's not me! I want to experience the fullness of this abundant life that Jesus died and shed His blood for me to have! Listen, as much as you want to be delivered, Jesus wants you delivered more! As much as you want to be healed, Jesus wants you healed more!

I started thinking about that. I said, "Well, Lord, if a person wants to be healed a whole lot and You want that person to be healed more than he or she wants to be healed, what's stopping it?" He said "It's already done, I'm just waiting on the person to take it. I'm waiting on the healing to be received."

You receive whatever you need when you live a life under the leadership of the Spirit of God. When you submit to Him and

turn control of your life over to the Holy Spirit, you can trust Him to show you what you need to do and where you need to go. You can trust Him to work with your conduct, to correct you, reprove, discipline, and chastise you. You can trust Him to take both your good and your bad and use it to train you. Hebrews 12:8, *AMP*, says, “Now if you are exempt from correction *and* left without discipline in which all [of God’s children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring *and* not true sons [at all].”

So we’re not talking about living a religious life where you’re meeting all of the requirements that are put before you. We’re talking about a life of being led by the Spirit of God. And I’m telling you, that’s where you’re moving to the upper level of things. We’re no longer under the Law, we’re under grace. Under grace, God’s given us His unmerited favor. Under the life of grace, we’re led by the Spirit of God.

At the beginning of this chapter, I mentioned that when you’re led by the Spirit of God, your conduct changes. You can’t say you’re being led by the Spirit and your conduct is crazy. When you’re being led by the Spirit, your conduct is not going to be worse than when you were being led by the Law. It’s going to be a whole lot better now that you’re being led by the Spirit because He’s going to begin to address how we ought to deal with one another.

Look at Galatians 6:1, *AMP*, “Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct *or* sin of any sort, you who are spiritual [who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit] should set him right *and* restore *and* reinstate him, without any sense of superiority *and* with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also.”

Look at who Paul is addressing: He’s addressing those who are now led by the Spirit. He says if you who are being led and

controlled by the Spirit come across a brother who's in a fault or in sin, you who are led by the Spirit, you handle the situation, and do so without a sense of superiority and trying to make yourself look like you're better than that person. You, who are spiritual and controlled by the Spirit, don't close your eyes and go on about your business and not pay any attention to it. He says pay attention to the Spirit so He can show you what to do about this situation that you're coming in contact with.

These are opportunities where Jesus can impact somebody's life, when someone who's led by the Spirit will begin to do something commendable and go restore a brother or sister. Some people say, "Well, that's none of my business." Oh yes, it is! They are a part of you now. You are members of the Body of Christ. There's a connection now and whenever you see a brother in a fault, you ought to have something to say. It became your business the day you made Jesus the Lord of your life, because He's also the Lord of their life. We are the Body of Christ and every joint supplies the Body.

"Christ has put each part of the church in its right place. Each part helps other parts. This is what is needed to keep the whole body together. In this way, the whole body grows strong in love" (Ephesians 4:16, *NLV*).

When you begin to minister to people out of what's flowing out of you from the Holy Spirit to that person, lives will change! Churches will grow, whole neighborhoods will get saved, because we are being led by the Spirit of God, without trying to be superior or lord it over other people. What would happen if instead of being judgmental against that drinking, cussing, brother-in-law in your family, you listen and allow the Holy Spirit to tell you how to react and respond to him the next time you encounter him?

Now that we're Christians who are no longer under the Law, we're going to have to submit our lives totally to the control of the Holy Spirit. For example, praying in tongues is not just an act we do to appear spiritual. Praying in tongues helps you to become more sensitive to spiritual things. The more you pray in tongues, the more sensitive you become to God and spiritual things. It's not this thing where we say, "Well, I pray in tongues so I can get God to do something nice for me." No. We pray in tongues because we're hungry for God and we need to learn how to be led by the Spirit of God. This is how you learn how to hear, obey, and cooperate with whatever He instructs you to do.

Do you follow what I'm saying? Self-effort is all about *whom* you put your trust in. When you trust God and pray in the Spirit, you fine tune your ability to hear from Him. You should spend a considerable amount of time praying in tongues and listening to the Holy Spirit, then stepping out in faith on what He leads you to do. You're going to miss it sometimes, but sometimes you've got to be willing to miss it in order to make it! You can't be so afraid of missing it that you do nothing! You've got to get out of the "boat" into the water, and trust God that no matter what it looks like, God can and He will keep you from sinking and drowning!

"And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus" (Matthew 14:28, 29, *AMP*).

Chapter 10

Easing the Burden to Perform

Through the finished works of Jesus Christ, we are sons and daughters of God. We are no longer servants (or slaves) to the Law. We have a new way of life and a new identity. We don't need the Law to tutor us because we have the Holy Spirit within us to guide us. When we know who we are in Christ, we can partake of the inheritance that was bestowed upon us when Jesus sacrificed His life. When we try to obtain God's promises through our works (relying on our own strength), we reap corruption. However, when we sow to the Spirit, by allowing the Spirit to lead us, we reap life.

“Those who keep sowing in the field of their old nature, in order to meet its demands, will eventually reap ruin; but those who keep sowing in the field of the Spirit will reap from the Spirit everlasting life” (Galatians 6:8, *CJB*).

It is dishonorable and prideful for us to try to fulfill the demands of the Law when Jesus has set us free. We are now free from the bondage of having to rely on our own ability to become right with God. Many times we try to keep the Law so that we can have something to brag about. However, submitting ourselves to God and living a Spirit-led life is much more rewarding than trying to keep the Law. When we try to follow the Law and religious rules to achieve righteousness, we rely on our human strength instead of God's strength. We receive what Jesus has done for us by faith, not our works. But some Christians are taking the message of grace and mixing it with the Law. To trust in your own ability instead of Jesus' ability is to fall from grace.

“If you seek to be justified *and* declared righteous *and* to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought

to nothing *and* so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God’s gracious favor and unmerited blessing)” (Galatians 5:4, *AMP*). We cannot allow anyone to interfere with us operating by grace and relying on Jesus.

“You were running the race nobly. Who has interfered in (hindered and stopped you from) your heeding *and* following the Truth? This [evil] persuasion is not from Him Who called you [Who invited you to freedom in Christ]” (Galatians 5:7, 8, *AMP*).

God’s love for us is evident through the finished works of Jesus Christ. Meditating on His love for us helps us to acknowledge that we have been made right with Him. His love made us righteous. And since we are in Jesus Christ, we don’t *work* the flesh. We allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives. Even if your behavior does not line up with your new identity right away, give it time. Your behavior will change as you continue to allow the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct you in every aspect of your life.

“All of us, with no covering on our faces, show the shining-greatness of the Lord as in a mirror. All the time we are being changed to look like Him, with more and more of His shining-greatness. This change is from the Lord Who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18, *NLV*).

Chapter 11

The Heartbeat of Grace

Have you ever wondered what exactly the grace of God is, and how it applies to your life? Grace is something that is often mentioned in religious settings, but many people don't actually know what it is or its real significance. The grace of God is God's unmerited favor being released in your life, simply because He loves you. It is also an empowerment to do what you cannot do in your own ability. With the grace of God, you can do anything God calls you to do, from executing His written Word, to the carrying out of His spoken word to you about your specific situation or circumstance. The grace of God *is* the Gospel of Jesus Christ because it is based entirely on what Jesus has done for you and not on your own self-effort to achieve righteousness. When you know who you are in Christ and you understand the new covenant of grace, you will no longer be held in bondage to sin, guilt, condemnation, or any other hindrance to your spiritual life. The covenant God has made with you through Jesus Christ is the key for living a life that is led by the Spirit of God, rather than the Law.

Now, let's define covenant. A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties to carry out the agreed upon terms. When you talk about a "blood covenant," you are talking about an agreement that can only be broken through death. This is the strongest type of agreement into which one can enter. Throughout history you will find different covenants, such as the Adamic covenant, the covenant God had with Adam, and the Abrahamic covenant for example. If you think about it, God has never done anything in this earth without first releasing a word of promise. Then He follows through with actions. But the two most significant covenants that

have existed are the old covenant of Moses and the new covenant of Jesus. If we can understand these two covenants and how they are different, we will have an unshakeable foundation for our faith and confidence in the Lord.

Before we get into the new covenant, we have to look at the old. It is called the old covenant because it is currently obsolete. Also known as the Mosaic covenant or the covenant of the Law, it was based on man's keeping of God's law. On the other hand, the new covenant is based on God's unearned, unmerited, and undeserved favor. This means that you don't just have a momentary experience of God's favor, but it is a full-time, constant release of favor on your behalf. It is also known as the covenant of peace because it expresses the *shalom* or wholeness of Jesus in a perfect way. John 1:17 says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Grace and truth came together through the person and ministry of Jesus, and this is the foundation for this new covenant under which we are now living as Believers.

Grace, the Law, and back to Grace

Before the Law was given, the children of Israel depended on God's faithfulness and grace. This grace was a distinguishing mark of the Abrahamic covenant, even though Jesus had not yet come on the scene. The Abrahamic covenant was actually a foreshadowing of the new covenant of grace that would come through Jesus Christ, which is the dispensation under which we live today.

The grace of God has always been at work, showing people undeserved favor in spite of their shortcomings. For example, in the Old Testament, even though the Israelites complained and murmured when they were in the wilderness for forty years,

they still experienced an abundance of God's grace. However, it was not until the Israelites responded to God by saying, "All the Lord has spoken we will do" that things changed. You see, they believed that they were able to do everything on their own, without God's grace being a factor (Exodus 19:4-8). From that point on, God began to deal with them differently. Soon after, the Ten Commandments (the Law of Moses) were implemented. The Jews' arrogant stance, which was based on self-effort, caused God to remove His hand of protection from them (Numbers 21:5, 6). From that point on, self-effort became the order of the day, with man desperately trying to achieve righteousness on his own. It took Jesus Christ coming to the earth, dying on the cross, going to hell, and then presenting His blood before the Father in heaven to bring restoration to mankind.

Under the Law of Moses, the children of Israel were required to keep all of God's commandments. If they didn't do so, they would experience curses instead of blessings (Deuteronomy 28:3, 4, 12, 15, 16, 20). First Corinthians 15:56 says, "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law." The truth is, in our own human ability alone, we can never keep all the Law. God wanted the Israelites to understand that they needed saving. The Law was a shadow of good things to come; Jesus would later be revealed as the one who would unlock the old covenant and reveal what it was all about.

Hebrews 10:1 says, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." And Colossians 2:17 says, "Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." The Law foreshadowed Jesus Christ in that it showed us that we

could not achieve righteousness on our own. The more you try to keep the Law through your own ability, the more it will bring forth what it was designed to bring forth—sin-consciousness and condemnation. Our efforts to fulfill God’s commandments are futile without a Savior. From the days of the old covenant up to the new, God proved to mankind constantly that with human ability alone we could never be saved. We cannot add our strength to the finished works of Christ because it simply won’t get the job done.

Depending on yourself and your own strength for salvation will only expose your weaknesses. God wants His people to be a peculiar treasure—a people who will trust in His faithfulness. The new covenant is about trusting God to be faithful, not depending on our own strength to save us. In fact, it is impossible to live the Christian life without grace! Jesus did not come to put us in bondage to the Law again, but instead, He brought grace and truth together so that we could enjoy the wonderful life of victory and freedom from sin that God originally intended. When you understand the covenant of grace, it will give your life as a Believer a whole new meaning.

Chapter 12

The Law of Love vs. Grace

The new covenant that Jesus cut through His death on the cross is the foundation for Christianity. Without an understanding of it, you will continue to try and achieve righteousness through self-effort and keeping the Law versus allowing God's grace to make you righteous through faith in Christ. One aspect of the new covenant that Jesus talks about is the law of love, which is essentially the fulfillment of all the commandments of the Old Testament. However, there is a difference between loving someone based on being told to do so, or under compulsion, and loving someone because you have been given the grace to love and you genuinely want to do so. Under the new covenant, we have been graced to receive God's love and allow that love to spread to others. We first receive Jesus' love, and when we do, we discover how to love others.

Keep in mind that according to the Law of Moses, the children of Israel were commanded to love the Lord with all their hearts, souls, and might (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-31; Deuteronomy 6:4-6). The sum total of the Law is essentially to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, all your intellect, and all your strength. However, God knew that no one could love Him that perfectly as the Law required. Make no mistake about it, the Law was perfect but it couldn't make *man* perfect, nor could it empower man to love God perfectly.

Now, we understand according to Romans 6:14 that we are no longer under the Law but under grace. So we have to remember that the purpose of the Law was to increase condemnation, increase guilt, and increase sin-consciousness so that man would know he couldn't achieve righteousness on his own. It was evident

from the time the Jews left Egypt to the time they wandered in the wilderness that they needed God's grace and that grace actually was in operation under the Abrahamic covenant as mentioned before. However, the children of Israel started to believe that they could do everything God instructed to do in their own ability, without God's grace. Exodus 19:8 says, "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." They had become arrogant. They wanted to abandon the grace of God for self-effort. Soon after that declaration was made by the Jews, the Law was instituted. By becoming more confident in their own ability than in God's, they rejected the grace of the Abrahamic covenant.

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever; however, He is operating under a different agreement now than He was in the Old Testament (2 Kings 1:12; Luke 9:51-56). We must be able to rightly divide the Word of truth and learn God's objectives and agreements now that Jesus has cut a new covenant otherwise we will take something from the old covenant of the Law and try to make it apply to us under the new covenant of grace and you can't mix the two. God is not waiting to strike people down when they miss the mark or sin. The grace of God is actually working to bring them to a place of victory in their lives in *spite* of their sin. Where sin would require an immediate response of punishment from God under the Law, under the new covenant, our past, present, and future sins have been forgiven and we can continually partake of the cleansing blood of Jesus when we miss the mark. Under the new covenant, God's goodness toward us has nothing to do with us being good to Him. Neither can we disqualify ourselves from His goodness through our behavior. When you are in Christ, God's goodness and mercy is constantly flowing.

Jesus is the Solution

Since we know that Jesus is the solution to the Law, we can rest in the fact that it is His grace that empowers us to love God and others the way that we should. John 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. The word “so” emphasizes the magnitude of God’s love. Jesus died on the cross because of His perfect love for us (Romans 5:7-9). The new covenant is the covenant of grace, which emphasizes this love and God’s willingness to show us His everlasting mercy (1 John 4:10, 11). When we fall in love with Jesus, that love flows into all other relationships. You cannot love others when you have not first been filled up by God’s love. Once you’ve experienced the love of God toward you, and you become so filled with that love, you can love your neighbors perfectly. Not only can you love your neighbors, you can love your enemies! This is the work of grace in your life.

Romans 13:10 says, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” You will fulfill the Law’s love requirements effortlessly because God’s Word will show you how to love. We won’t have to have God tell us to love as part of some Law-based regulation, but we will *want* to love God and others because of a revelation of His grace toward us. When you begin to get hold of the love of God, you can fulfill every law that’s in the Old Testament. Mosaic Law will actually become inferior in the face of having a revelation of how much God loves you.

Under the new covenant, God has promised to write His laws on our hearts. However, these commandments are not the Ten Commandments (Hebrews 8:10-13). The laws of God that are written on our hearts are essentially the laws that tell us to love God and love others. And He will show us specifically how to do that. We should love one another the way Jesus has loved us,

which is His new commandment. The good news is that because of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can accomplish this task.

The new covenant is all about having a one-on-one relationship with Jesus, which empowers us to do the same things He did, and love the same way He loved. Love is the fulfillment of the Law and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit far outweighs following the Law of Moses (Romans 13:9, 10). It is in following His guidance that you can receive the exact strategies and instructions necessary to love others and love God in every situation and circumstance. You may respond to someone in a harsh or unloving manner and something on the inside of you will rise up saying, *You know you shouldn't have said that. Go back and apologize.* That is the Holy Spirit writing the love laws of God on your heart! The intricacies of loving others the way God wants you to can't be carried out simply by obeying a rule. But through the Holy Spirit you are able to experience the writing of the Word on your heart.

Grace is the empowerment to fulfill the law of love perfectly as Jesus commanded because if you are in Him, you are as He is in this world. You have the power to live a life of unconditional love, which always puts you in a winning position. You will begin to fall in love with Jesus all over again and it will change your life. What do you think would happen if Christians everywhere started depending on the overflow of God's love in their everyday lives? Rather than trying to remember every scripture in the Bible and going through the condemnation of breaking a commandment, what if they allowed the Holy Spirit to guide and direct them every step of the way? I'll tell you what would happen; they would fulfill the Word of God! They would start getting healed and delivered! Marriages would be restored and family relationships would be

transformed. Once you understand what love is all about, the struggle to do the right thing ends, and you simply begin walking in it because it is who you are.

Please understand that the Word of God is your blueprint for life, and the gateway to a renewed mind. But you want to renew your mind to God's grace and unmerited favor toward you, under this new covenant. It will motivate you to depend on the Holy Spirit to assist you in living a life that pleases God not out of fear, but because it is a natural response to His love for you. Spend time every day meditating on how much God loves you. Read scriptures about His love and allow that love to overflow in your life and in your relationships. Find out what God is prompting you to do. Check your heart, which is the core of who you are. And whatever He tells you to do, do it. Obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit will lead you into the blessed life that is the distinguishing mark of a grace-conscious Believer.

Chapter 13

The Overflow of Forgiveness

Sometimes when I sit back and think about the mercy and forgiveness of God I get overwhelmed. I don't know if we can really wrap our minds around how good He is! There are many situations that each one of us has been in that could have ended badly for us. So many of us were not even saved when those situations occurred. Salvation is the most amazing gift God could have ever bestowed on us, but many people do not know what it truly means to believe in Jesus Christ. As Believers we tend to use biblical phrases and religious clichés without fully understanding the true meaning. Our salvation is the foundation of our Christian faith; therefore, we should fully understand what we mean when we say we believe in Jesus.

In Acts 16:30, 31 we see a prison guard asking Paul and Silas how he could acquire salvation for his soul and Paul and Silas' response to him, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Seems simple enough right? The concept of salvation is actually so simply that it eludes most people. They just don't think it could possibly be that easy to achieve right-standing with God. But the truth is, it really is *that* easy. The key word here is *believe*.

There are three things that we believe when we say we believe in Jesus. These three things form the cornerstone of salvation and are core Christian beliefs. First, we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and for the sins of mankind, and that He is our Lord and personal Savior. It is a very personal experience in which each individual knows without a shadow of a doubt that without Jesus he or she is spiritually lost. The second core principle of

salvation is believing that Jesus Christ is the *only* way to be saved. It involves the truth that once we receive Him as our Lord and personal Savior, then and only then do we have eternal life. Finally, we believe that our past, present, and future sins are forgiven once we believe on Him (Colossians 2:13).

This idea of being forgiven for past, present, and future sins is a hard pill to swallow for some religious people. That's because they haven't gotten an understanding of the covenant of grace. In the new covenant, God says He will be merciful toward our unrighteousness and gracious toward us. Our part of the covenant is simply to believe (Hebrews 8:6-13). If you don't believe that your sins, iniquities, and unlawful deeds have been forgotten by God under the new covenant of grace, the new covenant won't benefit you. It is the people who have a hard time believing this that continually revert to the Law, even though the Law has been fulfilled already in Jesus and we are no longer in bondage to the fear of punishment from God as a result of our sins.

Believing in Jesus is more than just reciting a religious phrase. It involves believing in *everything* He has done for you in its totality. It is essentially believing in the finished works of Christ and renewing your mind to that reality every day. There is something about being Christ-centered instead of self-centered that actually makes it easier for you to receive what He has already done. This is something that we have to begin to incorporate into our lives if we want to have a working revelation of "believing in Jesus."

Keep in mind that the Law was perfect and holy. It fulfilled the purpose for which it was created—bringing man to a place of realizing he could not achieve righteousness on his own and recognizing the need for a Savior. But in Hebrews 8:9, AMP, God says that this new covenant will not be like the old one, "It will not

be like the covenant that I made with their forefathers on the day when I grasped them by the hand to help and relieve them and to lead them out from the land of Egypt, for they did not abide in My agreement with them, and so I withdrew My favor and disregarded them, says the Lord.” You see, under the old covenant, God withdrew favor from those who didn’t obey Him to the letter. Not so under the covenant of grace. This is not an agreement where man’s faithfulness determines God’s faithfulness. This covenant is about God writing His laws on our hearts and putting them in our minds so that we can continually experience His love and grace, along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The ignition to the new covenant is going to be based on you believing and receiving. Hebrews 8:12 says that He will be merciful toward your unrighteousness and completely forget about your sins. It seems hard to accept when you have a traditional, religious mindset about God, but you will have to decide if you are going to believe the Word or not. If He said He will be merciful toward your unrighteousness and completely forget your sins when you are in Christ, then that is what He will do. This is the key to the blessings of the new covenant being released in your life. In fact, if you don’t believe this simple truth, you will short-circuit what God is trying to do in your life and find yourself in a situation where you are not receiving the goodness, blessings, and unmerited favor. Everything is based on Hebrews 8:12.

Listen, God is not asking you to try and get into His good graces through self-effort. Rules can be observed mechanically, but once they become habitual they provide a false sense of security where your mind can actually start believing that it is your good works and observing religious rules that determines your right-standing with God when that has nothing to do with

how good God will be toward you now or in future.

Beloved, if you are saved you must know that God has forgiven you of your sins. He did it over two thousand years ago and there is nothing you can do to change that. Colossians 2:13 says, “And you, being dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.” It is a done deal. Jesus paid the price and you are forgiven.

If you are not born again, all it takes is a genuine, heart belief in Jesus Christ and the confession of your mouth acknowledging that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Once you make that declaration, believing in your heart that Jesus died for *your* sins, your spirit is recreated and infused with eternal life and righteousness. The slate has been wiped clean and you no longer have to hold on to the guilt and shame of your past. God’s overflowing forgiveness has given you access to His life, His blessings, His favor, and His righteousness. All you have to do is believe!

Lots of Believers today put more trust in their works, their performance, and their self-efforts (the Law) rather than in receiving and resting in the finished works of Jesus Christ (grace). They think that their righteousness is based on their right doing, but righteousness is based on right believing. So instead of trusting in what Jesus has done for them, they take the grace message and try to mix it with the old covenant Law. To trust in your own ability instead of Jesus' ability is to fall from grace. In **Radical Grace**, Creflo Dollar explains:

- The exceeding richness of Jesus' unmerited favor—grace—toward us
- Why you have right-standing with God, even when you sin and miss the mark
- Why real spiritual warfare is the battle we fight not to return to self-effort or performance
- Why we must renew our minds to the finished works of Jesus Christ. Because of His sacrifice, everything you'll ever need in life is already done!

Radical Grace is a powerful resource that gives a brilliant account of why Christians no longer have to depend on their own works and good behavior to receive God's blessings. Believers are the recipients of God's love, mercy, and grace—forever!



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