

Live Like God

The Supernatural Results of Grace

Will Rucker

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Editorial Notes: All references to the names and attributes of God are capitalized. We have chosen not to capitalize the name "satan" and related names, even at the cost of violating grammatical rules.

Will Rucker/ Intelligent Publishing
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This book is lovingly dedicated to:

Willielee “Billie” Parrish

My great-grandmother, who has the greatest ministry I’ve ever experienced. Who has loved me through my good and bad, my ups and downs, and treated me the same at all times. Who has never failed to express her gratitude to me for simply returning to her a small portion of all the joys she gave to me.

In memory of:

Hazel Rucker

My grandmother, who showed me what contentment in God alone can accomplish. Who freely shared recipes for great food, and the wisdom of the Scriptures for a great life. Who was the epitome of a Proverbs 31 woman.

Annette Ingram-Smartt

My godmother, who faithfully supported me, and consistently loved me. Who was generous and gracious, who sent letters (and money), for no other reason than love. Who had a short time on earth, but has left a long-lasting impression.

*God said, "Let us make human beings in our image,
to be like us..."*

—Genesis 1:26 (New Living Translation)

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1 LIVE BY FAITH

The just shall live by faith...

—Galatians 3:11



We've had teaching on that verse of Scripture for years now, but I believe that God is adding on another layer to our understanding of it. You know, friend, God will do that. He doesn't mind adding on to what we already have. God is a giver. He gives until it overflows and then He gives more on top of that.

One day I was sitting in a worship service, minding my own business, when the Spirit of God just grabbed a hold of me. He gave me this book right there in that service. Normally when I write,

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I'll get a subject or a title and just go from there. In this case, the words "*by faith*" had been leaping out at me for a couple of weeks, but I didn't have much to say about them. There, in that service, the subject and all of the chapters were just downloaded into me. I wanted to jump up, right at that moment, and get to work.

There's already been a lot of great teaching on the subject of faith in the body of Christ. I believe the Word of Faith movement, in particular, has laid a very strong foundation for operating in faith. This book, however, is focused primarily on an area that hasn't received as much attention. By the end of this book, you are going to know how to operate intentionally in the realm of the supernatural, the realm of faith. You will be able to confidently live like God lives, by faith, free from fear, through the power of grace.

You could say that we are going to talk about being led by the Spirit, and you'd be right. Sometimes the Spirit leads us and we follow by accident. You can't always reproduce an accident. I'm going to show you how to be led by God on purpose. When you can do something deliberately, it means you can use it to your benefit.

When I first started trying to perfect my famous beef and vegetable soup, each of my grandmothers already had her own signature recipe. I wanted to create one of my own. I'd make a pot of

soup almost every week in an attempt to get my own recipe just right, but my breakthrough didn't come until I stopped trying to copy their recipes.

On this occasion, I stumbled upon a recipe that had to have come straight from heaven. This soup was the best I'd ever eaten, let alone cooked for myself. The flavor was absolutely fantastic! It had just the right blend of spices, the perfect vegetable to beef ratio, and the broth consistency was ideal. There was only one problem; I didn't remember exactly what ingredients I'd used to make it. You see, soup making is an all-day process. The rich broth can take anywhere between four and six hours to prepare. After the broth is made, my soup slowly simmers another twelve hours or so, until all of the ingredients are perfectly blended, and the meat is tender and tasty.

Well, the next time I made soup, it didn't come out quite the same. It was good, but it didn't have the same flavor as before. I had made the first batch by happenstance. I just happened to get the combination of ingredients exactly right, but I couldn't replicate it. I didn't have a particular recipe and so I didn't get consistent results.

The same thing happens in our lives as it relates to following God. Sometimes we hit the nail on the head, but other times we completely miss it altogether. The unique position of a son of God, of you and I as believers, is our job is simply to walk

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out what God has already finished. We don't have to figure out the recipe, we just have to receive what is already done.

I don't advocate eating frozen meals because they are not nutritionally balanced, but they are a great illustration for the subject at hand. Frozen meals are very easy to prepare and they taste the same every time. Why are they so easy to prepare? Why is it that they taste the same every time?

Prepare isn't really the best term for what happens with a frozen meal. The meal is actually already prepared; all we do is warm it up. Our part isn't in measuring ingredients, or seasoning the meal. All we do is pop it into the microwave, set the timer, and wait for the beep.

Well, in a lot of ways, God designed our life to operate with the simplicity of warming a frozen meal. God, the master chef, has prepared a great meal for us to enjoy, but His meal is completely nutritious. There is no deficiency in what He has prepared. It's delicious and nutritious. Our job is to enjoy His finished work.

I skipped one step in the frozen meal process. You have to purchase it before you can take it home and warm it up. What makes our position as God's children so great is we don't have to make the payment. It's like when you were a child and your parents took you with them to the gro-

cery store. You just walked around with an expectation that when you left the store you could eat the food (some of us started eating before we left). Your parents paid the cost, and you got to enjoy the food. God has paid the cost, and we can freely enjoy the meal.

There is one key element in the illustration that we need to pay close attention to. This element is natural in a child/parent relationship. It's birthed out of relationship. It's instinctive, but it is also nurtured. This key element is trust. Remember, we are learning to be led by faith.

A child is naturally trusting. Trust is a synonym for faith. Sometimes faith can be seen through religious lenses and the simplicity of its meaning is lost. Faith is trust, persuasion, belief, and confidence.

I can honestly say that I had no concept of cost when I was a child. Even into grade school, I didn't understand that it cost money to do just about everything. I was extremely blessed to be born into a financially stable family. I never experienced financial lack of any kind. (I believe that God used that background to build financial integrity into my ministry. For me, money is a tool, and not a master.)

As a child, I knew that when my parents and I went to a store we had to wait in line before we could leave, but I didn't associate that line with

payment. I had to wait in line for things at school. For example, when it was time for lunch I stood in line to receive a meal. I just didn't connect the fact that the little card the lunch lady punched before I was fed was the result of money my parents had spent on my behalf.

Once I finally associated a dollar value to items, I still didn't understand the true value of a dollar. I only knew that if I needed money, ask mom or dad, and I'd have it. As a child, I knew that if I asked, then I would receive. I didn't hope for it, or "believe" for it like we teach in church; I just asked with the expectation that I would receive. There was no doubt or fear, only a confident expectation. That's a concept Jesus taught in Matthew 21:22.¹

You may be thinking I was spoiled, but I wasn't—entirely. I was told "no" at times, but I rarely accepted "no" as a final answer. I'd just wait a while, and then ask again. I can't remember a single thing that I really wanted that I didn't eventually get. I didn't know that my parents worked hard to provide those things; I just knew that I got them.

Well, our Heavenly Father worked hard to provide for us everything we need. For six days, Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our provider, worked dili-

¹ see also Hebrews 11:6

gently creating a planet suitable for our habitation. In it, He placed wonderful treasures for us to discover and enjoy. He created a system of seed-time and harvest so that there would never be lack. God, our Father, set us up for success at no cost to us—but it cost Him everything.

I know now that my parents sacrificed a lot to give me the things I enjoyed as a child. Even when I was ungrateful, they still provided for me. Even when I made mistakes, they still provided for my needs and wants. Even when I did the exact opposite of what they said to do, they still took excellent care of me.

Was it my faith in my parents that caused them to do what they did? No. Not at all. While I certainly expected them to provide, that expectation was based on what they had done my entire life. They provided for me because of who they are, because of their character, and not because of anything I did.

How much better is God's character? How much more faithful is God? Scripture says, "*if we are faithless, he remains faithful.*"² Faith itself is a God given gift.³ A newborn baby has no foundation on which to place faith in its mother, but it does. Faith is one of God's most precious gifts to humanity.

² Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

³ Romans 12:3

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Faith is also God's most important gift: "*Without faith, it is not possible to please God.*"⁴ That statement used to put dread in my heart. I didn't understand that verse from a grace place; I understood it from a works/law based mentality. Initially, I viewed that Scripture as a warning, and as a sentence that carried judgment. Then, I began to realize that God is the author of faith.⁵ He is the faith giving God.

My parents would be displeased if I didn't trust them. In fact, as a child one of the main rules that I had to follow was to "go to my parents first." If I wanted something, whether it was to go to a friend's house, a toy, food, anything; the rule was to ask mom and dad first. Because they had more information than I did, they were able to make decisions for my benefit that I was unable to make on my own. Because they were my financial source, if I needed something, then they were the ones who would purchase it. My entire existence was completely wrapped up in my parents. Apart from them, I could do nothing.

If I tried to live my life apart from faith in mom and dad, I would displease them every time. In fact, the only times I really got into serious trouble was when I did something apart from believing my parents loved me. What I mean by that is, if

⁴ Hebrews 11:6

⁵ Hebrews 12:2

they told me not to go to a certain place, and I went anyway, I'd get in trouble. They weren't trying to spoil my fun; they were trying to keep me in a place of safety. When I chose to believe the lie that either they didn't really love me, or I knew better than they did, I ended up in the wrong.

Friend, I'm still talking about living by faith. Did you know that anything apart from faith is sin?⁶ That means you can do the right thing, but if it does not come from faith, it's sin. What a sobering idea. Let's look at the Scripture the Lord used to renew my thinking in this area.

As I already mentioned, I was minding my own business in a church service when the Lord hit me with this: *"it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith."* It was as if those words stood up ten feet high on the page. I saw them clearly, while the other words surrounding them seemed to virtually disappear. That has only happened a very few other times. When I see Scripture like that, I know that the Lord is impressing something of extreme importance into my spirit.

*But that no man is justified by the
law in the sight of God, it is evident:
for, The just shall live by faith.*

⁶ Romans 14:23

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And the law is not of faith:

but, the man that doeth them shall live in them.

—Galatians 3:11-12

There it was, as plain as day. I have read “*the just shall live by faith*” a thousand times. I’ve even preached sermons on it. (Good ones, if I do say so myself.) I’ve heard it preached by the best preachers of our time, but somehow I never connected verse 12 to verse 11.

I have read those two verses together before. I’ve even done a line-by-line analysis of that whole chapter of Galatians, but I’d never seen it like this. What happens far too often is that we read the Bible for what we want to find in there. Skeptics read it to find contradictions, and they think that there are some. Female activists read it to find women liberation and empowerment verses. Oppressors read it to find ways to control people. The amazing thing about the Bible is that it can be used to prove just about anything when taken out of context. That is why it is critical, utterly vital, that we study the Bible properly.

My point is that we see what we want to see until we see something different. Well, I saw something different when I saw the passage that time. That time I saw grace.

There are two major systems in place in the world today: law and grace. The law justifies no

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one. Why? Because the just(ified) live by faith and the law is not of faith. Grace freely justifies us all.

In the next chapters, we will look at these two systems and their results.

2 THE FAITH SYSTEM

The just shall live by faith.

And the law is not of faith.

—Galatians 3:11-12



There are two systems at work in the earth today: faith and law. The Bible explains both systems in detail. The law system can be clearly seen in the Old Testament, Genesis through John. The faith system can be seen in the New Testament, Acts through Revelation.

You may be wondering why the way I divide the Old and New Testaments does not match the insert in your Bible, or what you may have been

taught before. I explain this in greater detail in another book, but I will touch on it briefly here. The gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John actually record events that took place under the old covenant. The new covenant did not take effect until the shedding of the blood of Jesus.¹ Also, understand that faith is found throughout the entire Bible. It's not limited to the New Testament.

Faith is the atmosphere in which God is able to perform. Faith is the medium upon which God operates. You could say that faith is like the gasoline that enables an engine to run. Faith is God's fuel, so to speak. Everything God does operates on the platform of faith. The entire realm of the supernatural, the spirit world, operates based on belief. Faith is the bridge between the natural realm and the supernatural kingdom of God.

Now, we must understand that the systems of law and faith are completely opposed. It is not just that the two systems do not mix (like oil and water). The two systems cannot mix. They are completely incompatible.

Have you ever tried to connect the positive charge end of a magnet with the positive charge end of another magnet? (This is science fair basics, 101.) The positive charge ends literally repel each other. You can actually cause the magnet to climb

¹ Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:16-22

a wall by using another magnet with the same polarity to move it.

Faith and the law are like two positive charge ends of a magnet. They simply do not mix. You cannot connect them together. One will always push the other away.

The just, those who are in right relationship with God, live by faith. There is no other option. The law is not of faith; therefore, the logical conclusion is that the just do not live by the law.

Sometimes when I teach that we don't live by the law, people walk away with the interpretation that we live contrary to the law. That's not the case. We are not anti-law; we don't purpose to break the law in order to live under grace. However, there is a higher law at work—one that may appear to violate the written law.

I remember the first time I drove to the Texas state fair. There was bumper-to-bumper traffic. At one point, the traffic moved so slowly that I thought that I could walk and get to the fair faster. As I approached an intersection near the entrance, I noticed that the light was green, but no one was moving forward. There was an officer standing there commanding the cars to stop.

There was no way this little man could physically stop oncoming traffic, but he operated under the full authority of the state of Texas and even gigantic semi-trucks obeyed him. At that moment,

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the officer was operating under a higher authority than a traffic signal. The law of the land dictated that I could proceed, but I obeyed the higher authority of the police officer. In this example, if I had followed the written law, I may have found myself in a wreck, or in prison. By following the officer, who is alive and has a greater authority, I found safety. Let's take a moment to define what *live by* means.

I like the way the Random House Webster's College Dictionary defines *live*. It defines *live* as, "active or thriving, vigorous, strong." It also defines "live" as, "having life; being alive."

This definition is important for us. Notice that I did not include a definition like "existence." Why? Because it is possible to exist without being alive. In fact, many people today, even Christians, are existing, but not thriving.

Remember, I said there are two systems at work in the earth today. You can attempt to live by either one. However, God has only one system under which the just live, where He causes them to be vigorous and strong.

In our Scripture, the word *by* is a preposition. It identifies the agent performing an action. *By* means, "through, as a result of, in, and via." I want to make sure that we are on the same page as we discuss this subject. One of the shortcomings of written communication is that it can be in-

terpreted in numerous ways, most of which differ from the author's intent. That is why I take the time to define such seemingly basic words.

At this point, let's put the definitions of *live* and *by* together. To *live by* faith means, "to have life as a result of faith." We could say to *live by faith* means, "via the channel of faith, you have an active and thriving life." What God is really saying to us is that to have life the way He has it, to receive the life He is offering, you obtain it only as a result of your belief.

Now that we have defined what *live by* means, let's take a look at the faith system.

The System of Faith

From the moment God placed man on earth, He has intended for life to be lived by faith. Man was intended to thrive vigorously through what he believed. Jesus said that "*man doesn't live by bread alone, but he lives by the words that God speaks.*"² Jesus also called His own words life.³ If the just live by faith, and also by the words of God, then faith and words must be related somehow.

² Matthew 4:4

³ John 6:63

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Without a doubt, the words of God are intricately involved in this system of faith. In fact, the Word of God is the launching board into the system of faith.

*So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.*

—Romans 10:17

In this Scripture, “word” is the spoken or uttered Word of God. It is translated from the Greek word *rhema*. *Rhema* specifically refers to “something spoken by a living voice,” unlike *logos*, which is the “written word.”

Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul (the writer of Romans) are referring to the spoken Word of God. While it is true that the Bible is the word (*logos*) of God, the word that Jesus calls “life” is the spoken (*rhema*) word. God is still actively speaking to us all, even today.

That is what makes the faith system so incredible. God literally tells us what to do in every situation. No matter what situation we face, God has the answer. Not only does God have the answer, He is speaking the answer to us.

Imagine that you are competing in a national spelling bee. This is your first time entering such a competition and you are extremely nervous. Your hands are sweaty, your mouth is dry, and your

heart is pounding inside of your chest. The moderator announces the very first word, and it is a word you have never heard, let alone a word you are able to spell.

The pressure is on. Your mind goes blank and you can't think of even the first letter of the word. It sounds like an "f," but it may be spelled with a "ph." Suddenly, you remember that you are wearing an in-ear monitor. You have Noah Webster of dictionary fame on the other end eagerly waiting to help you win the competition. You hear his voice say, "F." You repeat after him, "F." He says, "A." You say, "A."

The crowd is roaring with excitement as you spell the word, letter by letter. Noah says, "I-T-H." You repeat, "I-T-H." In a booming voice, the moderator says, "Congratulations. You have spelled the word correctly. Continue on to the next round."

God is much better than the author of the dictionary; He is the creator of all things. You have the most genius of all geniuses living inside of you, speaking to you about what to do in every situation, and telling you all things.⁴ That is how God designed you to operate—in partnership with Him.

⁴ 1 John 2:20

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In the illustration, Noah doesn't spell the entire word at one time; similarly, God doesn't always give us the full picture ahead of time. He often has us walk just one step at a time. Let's see this in the Scripture:

*Now the Lord had said unto Abram,
Get thee out of thy country, and from thy
kindred, and from thy father's house,
unto a land that I will shew thee:*
—Genesis 2:16-17

Do you think that God knew where He was sending Abram in advance? Of course, He knew. God knows the beginning from the end and everything in between. The reason that God did not give Abram full disclosure is, had He given Abram full disclosure up front, Abram would have been walking by sight, not by faith. God would have taken Abram right out of the system of faith and placed him under law by providing all the information in the beginning.

Remember, the just live by faith and the law is not of faith.⁵ This is not just a cliché saying; it is the method by which God designed man to operate. Once Abram followed step 1, God was able to give additional instruction.

⁵ Galatians 3:11-12

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Sometimes we over spiritualize faith. We make it seem spooky. Faith is simply a belief in something. Faith is persuasion; it's confidence and assurance. Something is either done in faith or done outside of faith. There is no gray area; it is black or white, faith. It's just that simple.

If we were to study the life of Abram, we would find out that He had no written Bible to follow. Today, we refer to Abram as Abraham, the father of faith. How is it that He could have faith without a Bible? Simple, faith comes by hearing the Word of God about Christ, not just from reading the Bible.

*And the scripture, foreseeing that **God** would
justify the heathen through faith, **preached**
before the gospel unto Abraham, **saying**,
In thee shall all nations be blessed.*
—Galatians 3:8

Do you see it? God preached the gospel to Abraham. I don't know about you, but that just gets me excited! What a sermon that must have been. Can you imagine God, the creator of heaven and earth, preaching to you?

Before the Apostle Paul writes, "*faith comes by hearing*," he begs the question, "*how shall they hear*

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*without a preacher?"*⁶ There were no grace preachers in Abraham's time, so God did the preaching. Hallelujah! Can you imagine how stirred up your faith would be if God came to you and said, "Let me preach to you a while." Beloved, that's exactly what God is saying. He wants to preach to each of us, individually, just as He did with Abraham.

God's first sermon wasn't the one He preached to Abraham. By the time Abraham came along, God was already a seasoned preacher. Preaching means, "to announce or to proclaim." God first started preaching to the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He preached, "*let us make man in our image.*"⁷ Later, He did some preaching to Adam, too. God gave a good three-point Baptist sermon as soon as He placed Adam in the Garden of Eden.

God said, (1) freely eat of every tree in the garden; (2) don't eat of the knowledge of good and evil; (3) in the day you eat of that tree you'll die. We will get into this a little deeper later on, but pay attention to the fact that God spoke to Adam. He didn't leave a list or send a representative; God personally spoke to Adam.

I want you to notice also, God did not tell Adam anything about satan. Do you think God forgot that satan was lurking about the earth? Not at

⁶ Romans 10:14

⁷ Genesis 1:26

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all. God gave Adam a word. God gave Adam the system of faith.

Adam operated under God's system for an undisclosed period of time. Then, the serpent deceived Eve and Adam ditched the system of faith by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This marked the introduction of a new system, the system of law, which we will look at in a later chapter. I will point out that the law system is made up of conditional statements—if this, then that. The system of faith is a day-by-day, moment-by-moment mode of operation. Let's see more about this in the Scripture.

For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

—John 12:49-50 (NIV)

So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

—John 5:19 (NLT)

Friend, we know that Jesus is our example. We know that we are being transformed into His ex-

act likeness.⁸ Therefore, since we know what the end game is, we would do well to imitate what we see Jesus do in the Scripture.

Jesus expressly teaches that He does what the Father does, and He says what the Father says. How did Jesus know what the Father was doing, or what He was saying? Did Jesus have special eyes where He could see the invisible God? No, Jesus was equipped with the same tools you and I have. In fact, Jesus had less because the Bible as we know it was not yet compiled; He only had the Old Testament. Actually, He had the Old Testament and the Holy Ghost.

The reason Jesus was able to do and say what the Father did and said is because He was operating under the faith system. Jesus was led supernaturally, by faith. Jesus lived by faith. He listened for the voice of God and then did exactly what He heard. Just as God preached to Adam and to Abraham, God preached to Jesus.⁹ Jesus had the assurance from God that He was “beloved,” and I believe that assurance sustained Jesus through His toughest times.

Although Jesus did not have the New Testament like you and I do, He did have the Law and Prophets. Did you know that the Old Testament is written as a roadmap for Jesus to follow? It’s

⁸ Romans 8:29

⁹ Matthew 3:17

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God's letter to Jesus, much like the New Testament is God's letter to us. Jesus found Himself in the Scripture (*logos*) and followed the voice (*rhema*) of God. Since we clearly see Jesus *modus operandi* in the Scripture, what can we do to follow His example today? We will find out exactly what Jesus did the next few chapters, but first, let's look at the system of law.

3 THE LAW SYSTEM

The law of the Lord is perfect...

—Psalm 19:7



Let me begin this chapter by making clear that laws are good. The entire planet operates by laws. That is God’s design. Laws keep things in order. Law ensures everything operates as it should, and that everything functions as intended. However, man was not created to operate under the limitations of law. When man was created, he was given dominion over the earth, including its laws.

In Scripture, we see the Apostle Paul frequently refer to “law.” Paul typically isn’t referencing nat-

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ural law; he is referring to the Law of Moses. This is the system that opposes grace. The Law of Moses opposes the law of faith. So why was the law given? Let's look to the Scripture to find our answer.

*The law was brought in so that the
trespass might increase...*
—Romans 5:20 (NIV)

That doesn't sound very nice, does it? God gave the law so that trespass (sin) would increase. Why would He do that? We need another Scripture so that we can answer this question.

*Why, then, was the law given?
It was given alongside the promise
to show people their sins...*
—Galatians 3:19 (NLT)

I won't prolong getting to the point. The law system draws attention to sin. It was designed to show you everything you are doing wrong and to prescribe the punishment for it. The law required action, not faith. It says, "if you do this, then that will happen." You never have to talk to God at all to operate under the system of law. In fact, ordinary men like you and I *couldn't* talk to God.

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This system of law is in direct contrast to how the system of faith operates. The law puts the focus and responsibility on you. Faith puts the focus and responsibility on Jesus. The law gives full disclosure while the system of faith operates on the “daily bread”¹ principle.

*The sting of death is sin;
and the strength of sin is the law.*

—1 Corinthians 15:56

Go ahead; you can double-check that Scripture in your Bible. “*The strength of sin is the law*” comes straight from the Bible, the King James Authorized Version. It’s not a mistranslation, it’s not a transcriber’s addition; it’s what the Apostle Paul actually wrote. I like how the NLT phrases this verse, “*the law gives sin its power.*”

The Law of Moses is not sinful. As I wrote at the beginning of this section, the law is good. The heart of the matter is this: the law is not of faith and anything not of faith is sin. Where there is no law there can be no transgression,² and thereby no penalty can be exacted for sin.³ It’s not that people didn’t do things that we consider to be “wrong” before the law was given; it’s just that without a

¹ Luke 11:3, Matthew 6:11

² Romans 4:15

³ Romans 5:13

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law against something you can't charge a person with a crime. You can't get a speeding ticket on a closed racecourse where there is no speed limit.

The law system is entirely "if, then" while the faith system is simply "because." The law system says, "If you obey God, then He will bless you." The faith system says, "Because God is good, He has blessed you." Under the law, material wealth was the sign of God's blessing. Under faith, whether rich or poor, we are blessed. Perhaps, I should just call it what it really is. The faith system is the grace system. We have access into grace by faith, so they really are one and the same in this instance.

The law system looks at your performance and concludes that you are what you do. Grace looks at Jesus and concludes you are who He is. The law system is bondage, but the system of faith is freedom. Can you see that faith is required to operate under grace? The law system appeals to our natural senses, all that we can see, touch, taste, feel, and hear. It is easy to be trapped in law, even as a believer. Let's look to the Scripture again:

*But before faith came, we were kept
under the law, shut up unto the faith
which should afterwards be revealed.*

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²⁴ Wherefore *the law was our schoolmaster*
to bring us unto Christ, that we might
be justified by faith.

—Galatians 3:23-24

I want to be sure that you know I am not teaching that the Law of Moses is evil. Sometimes in grace centered preaching the law can come across as something malicious, but it simply is not. It has become malicious through religious preachers who use it to manipulate and control people, but that is not what God sent it to do. The law was the schoolmaster, or the guardian, set in place for a time. The point of it was to bring us to Christ. As I've written before, the law showed people their sins, and ultimately, their need for the Savior. The law is good when it is kept in its proper place.

The system of law was fulfilled in and by Christ; however, you can still place yourself under that system today. Many, many, born-again, Spirit-filled, believers live by the law. Anytime something unfavorable happens to you and you look to your performance to see what you did wrong, you have placed yourself into the law system. Likewise, anytime something goes well for you and you give credit to your performance, you have placed yourself into the law system.

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This is especially true in the areas of health and finances. We will discuss giving under grace in a later chapter, but I will touch on it here. Under the law, you were required to tithe. If you tithe, then God will rebuke the devourer and bless you.⁴ Wealth was the hallmark of God's approval. Sadly, that notion has carried over into the churches of today. What is even sadder is that the principle of tithing, as established by God in the Scripture, has been contorted and distorted in order to manipulate people into giving financially. Let's look at one passage on tithing, and then we will move on. (Before I found this Scripture, I avoided any teaching on the tithe that was contrary to my traditional, old covenant view of Malachi 3:10.)

*Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed,
that the field bringeth forth year by year.
²³ And **thou shalt eat** before the Lord thy God,
in the place which he shall choose to place his name
there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil,
and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks;
that thou mayest learn to fear
the Lord thy God always.
—Deuteronomy 14:22-23*

⁴ Malachi 3:10

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I was never taught that the command of the Lord was to eat the tithe. Let's see just a few more verses.

*Then shalt thou turn it into money,
and bind up the money in thine hand,
and shalt go unto the place which the
Lord thy God shall choose:
²⁶ And thou shalt bestow that money for
whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen,
or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink,
or for whatsoever thy soul desireth:
and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God,
and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,
—Deuteronomy 14:25-26*

Not only were they instructed to eat the tithe, but if they turned it into money, they were then commanded of the Lord to buy whatever they lusted after, even wine or strong drink. I suspect you haven't heard this Scripture used at offering time before. So why do I bring it up? What is the point of showing you the Scripture on tithes?

I want you to see that your giving is not why God blesses you. In new covenant, grace churches, tithing is one of the last remnants of the law that is still preached. God didn't freely give you Jesus and then hold back blessing because you didn't give Him His ten percent tip. Further, the way we

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“tithe” today isn’t even Scriptural. That means, based on Malachi 3:10, we should be cursed with a curse because we are stealing from God by not tithing according to His law.

The truth is God isn’t blessing you because of what you do. He’s not healing you because you confess healing Scriptures for six hours a day. God has freed you from the law system, even the self-imposed laws, and is blessing you because He wants to. Your part of the equation is to have faith; you have got to believe.

I have testimonies from people who have sown into my ministry about how when they sowed a seed, they received a great harvest. I’m not saying you shouldn’t give. I’m not saying that when you give financially, you shouldn’t have an expectation of a financial return. Giving is good. However, just because a seed has been planted does not mean that it must grow.

The issue we must address is the fact that you never receive *from God* as a result of your own labor. Sorry to break it to you, but a seed isn’t what meets your need. God does. Your harvest is not the result of the seed you planted, per se. When your faith is in operation, God has a channel to work through. Remember, God works from the platform of belief. If you believe that God is going to bless you when you sow a million dollars into William Rucker Ministries, then He will. God

wants to do good for you and He will take any opportunity He can get to do so.

This is partially why the law system has become so ingrained into the Body of Christ. It is so deep-rooted because it looks like it works. It does not take faith to follow the law, yet faith goes into operation when you believe that you will reap the results. It's very similar to the placebo effect in medicine. In fact, you could say that the law was a placebo of sorts.

A placebo only works because you think it will; it is based on faith. When you are expecting financial increase, you're going to get it. If you believe the pill you are taking will help you lose weight, then you will begin losing weight. It happens almost universally.

The law is not of faith, but you can have faith in the law and thereby receive some benefit. The difference between the placebo and the real drug is the extent of the impact. The placebo weight loss may be two or three pounds, but the real drug would result in a loss of ten or fifteen pounds. The real thing is always better. Jesus is the real thing.

I am tackling the law from various angles intentionally. I've got to get you to see it for what it is in order for you to graduate to grace. It's easier to believe the scientific "if, then" formula of the law, than to believe something you can't see and don't work for. Our lives are governed by the re-

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sults of what we do personally in the natural realm. That's why it takes the power of the Holy Ghost to believe that what Jesus did is placed on your account without your efforts. It's easy to believe that when you clock in at work, you'll be paid for the time you were there. It takes a completely different type of faith to believe that you can stay home and receive Bill Gates' salary for the work He did.

In the natural world, you can reap the results of other people's labor. That is basically how the stock market works. You put your money in to the market and reap the benefits of the work other people do. A major difference between law and faith is there is no risk involved with faith. Faith is a sure thing because the responsibility to perform is not on you. Jesus rose from the grave as proof that what He said is true, and that *His work* is finished. You could fail under the law and receive its result—death. In faith, there is no failure, only measures of success.

You should be starting to see how much better Jesus is than the law. Let's look at one more passage that is used by modern day Pharisees to keep you in bondage.

"Enter through the narrow gate.

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

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¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

—Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

The law perspective says the narrow gate is rules, regulations, and right behavior. It also somehow manages to convert “destruction” into “hell,” even though hell is not the subject of this passage. The law perspective ships many people off to hell while only the select few barely make it into heaven. That is not what Jesus was teaching. In Revelation, we find that heaven is filled with so many people that no man is able to count them all.⁵ Those of us who view Scripture through the lenses of grace view this passage in its true meaning.

The narrow gate that Jesus was talking about is life as God has it, *zoë*. The wide road is the many things people do to try to earn their way into the blessings of God, into heaven. The narrow, or pressed, road is actually Jesus and Jesus alone. He is the way and He is the gate; Jesus is the road that leads to God’s quality of life.

The law leads to destruction and death. The wages of sin is death, and the strength of sin is the law.⁶ The broad road is every road other than the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God,

⁵ Revelation 7:9

⁶ Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 15:56

where sin abounds, grace super abounds that much more.⁷ Hallelujah!

As an eighth grader, the only thing I wanted from my parents for Christmas was a soprano saxophone. I was very specific with my request; I knew right down to the particular vendor, make, and model which saxophone I wanted. Now, had I just said, “Please get me a saxophone for Christmas,” my parents would have had a broad road to travel down, right?

They could have purchased a tenor saxophone, an alto saxophone, a Yamaha saxophone—there are tons of options to a broad, general statement like that. However, I did not leave my gift up to chance. I laid out a very narrow path for my parents to follow.

I said, “Mom and Dad, I want a Selmer Series III soprano saxophone. They have it in stock at this particular music store, it costs this amount, and it comes with these specific features.” That’s a mighty narrow path, isn’t it? Anything other than the specific saxophone I wanted would be to miss the mark, right? Sure, there are other good saxophones they could have gotten, but it was my saxophone, and I am the one who dictates the terms of what I want.

⁷ Romans 5:20

It's no different with God. To have what God calls life, you have to live the way God lives. Anything else is death. The only way to be saved from death is by grace through faith. Works won't do it, religion won't do, and vows of poverty won't do it—only grace can save you. Anything other than a Selmer Series III soprano saxophone is the broad road. Do you see it now?

I thank God for the Word of Faith movement. I came into the knowledge of Christ as the result of it. Faith is vitally important, as it provides us access to grace. However, the faith movement has placed itself on the broad road at times. It has started putting faith in faith, instead of having faith in God. Faith has become a ritual, instead of the result of a love driven relationship.

On one side, you have the “name it and claim it” believers. They believe that they have to speak things into existence the way God spoke the world into being. While that isn't entirely wrong, many have taken it to an extreme. The power of words has taken the place of the power of God.

On the other side, you have those who have made faith optional. They have seen the excesses in the faith movement and ran completely to the other side of town. Some say that it is the faith *of* Jesus that does the work, whether an individual believes it or not. Others omit faith all together

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and think that everyone and everything is automatically a part of God's family.

There are bits and pieces of truth in both sides, but both sides are still traveling down the broad road. The narrow road absolutely requires personal faith. Faith shows you what to "name and claim," but it does so as a result of what Jesus has already done. Much of the faith movement has become a law movement under the guise of a faith name. The universal reconciliation (no faith) group has discarded much of the Scripture altogether.

The narrow road looks to the works of our High Priest, Jesus, and not to us. In the Old Testament, the fate of the entire nation of Israel was in the hands of their high priest. As the high priest was, so was the entire nation. Today, we can draw from that example. As Jesus is, so are we in this world.⁸ Glory to God!

*But now we are delivered from the law,
that being dead wherein we were held;
that we should serve in newness of spirit,
and not in the oldness of the letter.*

—Romans 7:6

⁸ 1 John 4:17

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I do not believe that there is much dispute among mainstream Christianity concerning the fact that we are saved by grace. In general, most churches uphold that truth. The dispute comes in when we begin to consider our lives after we have the initial salvation experience. The law system teaches that we are sometimes righteous, and at other times unrighteousness in need of another cleansing. The faith system says that, as a result of grace in operation, we are continually righteous and that the blood of Jesus continually cleanses us.

Well-meaning Christians start off in grace, but then try to live their lives through the law. This should not be. The Christian life should not start with grace and be carried out through law. No, the whole life of the Christian is the life of Jesus, a life of grace.

Just as there is a great gulf, a chasm, fixed between torment and paradise,⁹ there is a gulf between righteousness and unrighteousness. That's why you have to be translated, which means transferred, into the kingdom of God. You can't just cross over, or go back and forth between the two.

⁹ Luke 16:26

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*Being then made free from sin,
ye became the servants of righteousness.*

—Romans 6:18

The word *servant* is actually the word slave. It doesn't matter which word you use, the point remains the same. Slaves don't have a say-so in what they do. You have been imprisoned in righteousness by God's grace. Hallelujah!

The life of outside of grace is one of struggle, self-condemnation, lack of joy, bitterness, separation from God, and legalism. On the other hand, the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.¹⁰ The kingdom of God is living in power, and living in grace.¹¹

*But seek ye first **the kingdom of God,**
and **his righteousness**; and all these
things shall be added unto you.*

—Matthew 6:33

For too long we have seen this verse through the lenses of the law system. Where are your grace goggles? Put them on. I have heard it preached, "The kingdom of God is God's ways of doing things. You must study the law and the com-

¹⁰ Romans 14:17

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 4:20

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mands of God.” Well, we just saw what the kingdom of God really is, as defined by Scripture.

We see the word *righteousness*, and automatically associate it with right actions, or with God being holy, and condemning sinners. Then, when we see lack in an area, we immediately think, “Oh no, I must have unconfessed sin in some area.” Because we think righteousness is based on our actions, we lie down and accept what the enemy is giving us, wrongly believing that we deserve it.

*For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ:
for it **is the power of God** unto salvation
to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
¹⁷ For **therein is the righteousness of God**
revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,
The just shall live **by faith**.
—Romans 1:16-17*

*But now the righteousness of God without
the law is manifested, being witnessed
by the law and the prophets;
²² Even **the righteousness of God which**
is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all
and upon all them that believe:
for there is no difference:
—Romans 3:21-22*

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Righteousness is manifested in the gospel of God's grace. The gospel is grace. There is no other gospel according to the Scriptures. You could paraphrase the first part of Matthew 6:33 as, "First, look to the domain of God, which is joy, peace, and righteousness. And at the same time, crave, even place a demand on the righteousness of Jesus, which is freely given to you by grace ..." Always look for grace, especially in the words of Jesus. It's there because He is full of it.

Now, I want you to internalize the fact that righteousness is manifested in the gospel. For something to manifest means that it is revealed, made visible, exposed, and plainly recognized. The Amplified Bible really drives this point home.

*But now the **righteousness of God**
has been revealed independently
and **altogether apart from the law**,
although actually it is attested by
the law and the Prophets, Namely,
the **righteousness of God** which
comes by believing with personal trust
and confident reliance on Jesus Christ
(the Messiah).*

[And it is meant] for all who believe.

—Romans 3:21-22 (AMP)

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Beloved, I believe we can clearly see that the narrow road that leads to life, the God kind of life, is the road of grace. Grace is accessed through faith—trust, confidence, and belief—in all that Jesus accomplished. Choose the strait gate and the narrow road.

As we will see in the next chapter, love begets belief. When you are confident in the love someone has for you, instinctively, you are able to trust him or her. That is why God went to such extreme measures to prove His love for us—so that we could believe.

In the next chapter, we will look at the overwhelming magnitude of the love of God. We will see exactly how to walk in the supernatural, on purpose. I believe the Apostle Paul gives us a beautiful transition into this next subject in his letter to the Romans.

*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.
²¹ So just as sin ruled over
all people and brought them to death,
now God's wonderful grace rules instead,
giving us right standing with God and resulting
in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
—Romans 5:20-21 (NLT)*

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Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these....

—John 14:12 (NIV)



Sometimes we miss out on opportunities to walk in the supernatural power of God because we just don't believe that we really can do what Jesus did. I have found that before we can begin to believe that we are able to walk in the supernatural, we must first understand that Jesus walked the earth as a man. The supernatural power Jesus walked in on the earth was not a result of His

“God-ness,” but it was the result of what we will see over the next few chapters.

Jesus is God, but He operated on the earth as a man. The many miracles that Jesus performed were not the result of His deity. In fact, Jesus tells His disciples that they are bound to do even greater works than He did.¹ If we don’t recognize that Jesus is fully human, just like you and me, then we won’t have faith that we can do the same things Jesus did.

The reason that Jesus was able to achieve consistent results in His ministry is He followed a consistent pattern. Jesus got consistent results because He lived out of the life of God consistently, but not because He is God. Jesus operated under the faith system in a law world, that’s how he was able to do the impossible.

It’s true that the Holy Ghost anointed Jesus. The same Holy Ghost can anoint you. Jesus listened to the voice of God. You can listen to the voice of God. Jesus acted in faith. You, too, can act in faith. The way to receive supernatural results in your life is the same way that Jesus received supernatural results in His life:

¹ John 14:12

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1. Believe God's love²
2. Receive God's Word³
3. Act in faith⁴

We already know that God loves Jesus. The Bible records that Jesus is God's beloved. The Bible tells us how we can be sure that we, too, are beloved.

*In this is love: not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the
propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins.*

—1 John 4:10 (AMP)

Let's see how much God loves us so we can walk in power like Jesus.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

—Romans 5:8 (NIV)

Friend, before we can achieve anything in ministry, we must first believe that God loves us. (All believers are in ministry.) God loves us just as much as He loves Jesus. Love is not what society has made it out to be. You know, the mushy feelings, butterflies in the stomach, a racing heart—

² Luke 3:22

³ Luke 4:18

⁴ John 4:34; James 1:25

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those feelings are not how God demonstrates love. God shows the depth of His love by His giving. Did you notice that in the Scriptures?

Faith works by love.⁵ Not by how much we love God, but by knowing how much He loves us. God proved that He loves us because He sent Jesus to die for us. Do not take that lightly. God so loved us that He gave His Son.⁶ We can't trust to our greatest capacity unless that trust is rooted in love. (Remember, trust and faith are synonymous.)

The only pathway into the supernatural is through faith. Faith is only faith when it is embedded in love. Faith is only faith when it springs forth off of a foundation of love. The only channel that conducts the God kind of faith is love. We thought that the opposite of faith is fear, but that's not necessarily so. The opposite of faith isn't even doubt, per se.

I would suggest that the opposite of faith is enmity. Enmity is simply defined as "bad feelings." When we do not trust and believe in the love God has for us, we can be sucked into enmity. Bible faith will not work for someone who doubts God's love—period! That means that in order to experience the supernatural, you must first experience God's love.

⁵ Galatians 5:6

⁶ John 3:16

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*And the Holy Ghost descended in a
bodily shape like a dove upon him, and
a voice came from heaven, which said,
Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

—Luke 3:22

There are two key points I want you to see in this verse of Scripture. First, when the Holy Ghost comes, He comes on the wings of love.⁷ Secondly, God's love is not earned or based on performance. When God said that He was pleased with Jesus, no cross had been carried, and no miracle had been performed. The only thing Jesus had done was to believe, which He demonstrated through baptism. (More on that at another time.)

Remember, faith comes by hearing the Word of God.⁸ Jesus was so filled with faith that He was able to face satan's temptation in the wilderness even though He was physically exhausted (see Luke 4). What I find most interesting is that out of all the things God could have said to Jesus, He chose to affirm His love. He didn't remind Jesus of the 10 Commandments, nor did He remind Him of the prophecies that were written about Him. God said, *"This is my beloved Son."*

Take in the fact that it is the love of God that gives strength to stand against temptation. The

⁷ Romans 5:5

⁸ Romans 10:17

Apostle Paul writes that it is the kindness of God that causes our hearts to turn away from sin.⁹ I believe that the more we focus on the love of God, the less effective satan's efforts against us will be.

When I was first starting to hit the stride of the beginning phase of my ministry, my greatest challenge was believing that God loved me. I knew that God loved my ministry, but I did not have that same confidence in His love for me as a person. I was not committing any of the "big sins," you know, stealing, killing, etc., yet I did not feel like I was doing enough for God.

I was busy working for God, but I did not feel like God was working for me. Things were going well, I had a full calendar, my finances were in great shape, and there was nothing really missing from my life. In spite of how great things seemed, I was very unhappy. In fact, I was scared. I thought that if I did the things I wanted to do, God would no longer bless me. I thought that I had to work for God in order to please Him.

I felt guilty for taking vacations, so I would always make sure I had a ministry engagement at some point during my travels. I felt guilty for having more money than a lot of other people, so I constantly gave. Though I was living a "whole-

⁹ Romans 2:4

some Christian life," I was not living the God kind of life.

In my study time, I would run across a Scripture that seemed to say something I was doing, or not doing, was a sin, and I would feel so doomed. I remember listening to a sermon that shook me to my core. It was based on 1 Samuel 12:23, *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you."* Instead of being inspired to pray, instead of being uplifted, I felt burdened. It's not that I wasn't already praying for people, but that sermon just made me feel like I wasn't praying enough.

It seemed like no matter what I tried, I just never quite made it to "Good Enough Street." Though when I was first called into ministry, I begun with a revelation of God's love, as I continued in ministry I began feeding on the wrong material. As a result, I lost the sense of being God's beloved. That's why it is so important that you guard your heart from fire and brimstone preaching. If you are not cautious about what you hear, you can find yourself being talked out of depending on grace alone.

I served in a mega church that taught the Bible line upon line. I think I learned more Scripture in a single sermon at that church than I learned in all the years before I joined. The problem was the sermons were tainted by mixture. The preacher

said, “God loves you,” but then he told me all the things I had to do, and all the rules I had to follow for God to be pleased with me. That preacher taught me right out of the revelation I had gotten directly from God.

Faith for the God kind of life doesn’t come from every Scripture in the Bible. The kind of faith I needed only comes from the word about Christ. You see, while I was busy being taught about all the things I needed to do for God, satan was busy whispering in my ear about how I would never be able to do enough for God. This one-two combo really took a toll on me.

I eventually came to the place where I didn’t believe the very sermons I was preaching, and I certainly didn’t believe the sermons that I was hearing at my home church. If I changed what I preached, it meant giving up everything I had built up to that point. It meant I could lose my status with the church I loved. All my so-called friends would brand me a heretic and no longer be there for me. Stay with me, there is a point to this story. Even though I was active in ministry, my own ministry and in my local church, I was totally discontented. I don’t recall how it happened, but I came across a particular book that changed my life much like I pray this one changes yours.

I won't name the book because the message this book preaches is not completely Scriptural. Even though there was a lot in the book that is wrong, there was a lot of truth in this book. It had the information I needed to be pulled out of the funk I was in. The author had come to the same place of discontentment where I had pitched my tent. He had been in church, and in ministry, practically his entire life. Much like me, he had stopped believing what he was preaching, but he didn't know what else to do. He found that the loving Jesus he saw in the Scripture was incongruent with the angry God he heard preached from the pulpit.

The arguments he presented in his book were fascinating. I was absolutely captivated, but I didn't dare share what I was reading with my friends in ministry, or my pastor. I thank God for this man's ministry, and for his book that changed my life. He reintroduced me to the God who not only loves, but the God who is love.

Unfortunately, due the extreme hellfire and brimstone nature of his background, this man of God abandoned the truth of the Scripture concerning hell and satan all together. However, he didn't abandon his faith in God. He is still one of the most prolific preachers of the Christian faith in the world today, though he does not claim to be a Christian anymore. He has such a clear revelation

of the inclusiveness of God's love that his words were able to pierce me to my core and bring me back to where I started—covered in God's love.

Though I had been tremendously blessed by this revolutionary book, I could not fully agree with it. It seemed more in line with what I felt in my heart about God, but much like the preaching at my home church, something was missing. Have you ever heard something that sounds good, but it just doesn't sit right with you? You just didn't have total peace about it? That's what this was like. At one end, I'm hearing that God's love is conditional, and on the other, I'm hearing that sa-tan is imaginary. I knew that the truth had to be somewhere in the middle of these two extremes so I did the only thing I know to do when I don't know what to do. I got in my Bible— the Holy Ghost and me.

I spent years searching for the truth. Then it was as if my eyes just popped opened and revelation smacked me. The truth is grace. I saw it all throughout the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. It was as if the Holy Ghost said, "This is what I've been trying to tell you all along!"

My very first public sermon was "Grace's Name is Jesus." What is so funny to me is that sermon had much of what I teach now packed in it. I hadn't been to ministry school or anything at that time. I just felt like that was the word God

wanted me to share with His people. God had written His law in my mind and on my heart, and I didn't even know it.

When I preached that sermon the first time, I was happy. I wasn't living as "holy" as a preacher ought; yet I was content. I felt like God loved me even though I wasn't perfect. I felt in my heart that it was okay to be me, and that God was smiling on me.

Today, I find myself back in that place. I don't have to preach anywhere when I go on vacation. I don't feel guilty for not doing enough for God. Today, I just enjoy all that God did for me. I live from His love.

I know that if I never preach another sermon or write another book, God will still love me with the full fire of His passion. In your hands at this moment is the proof that I'm still writing books. I am still preaching sermons. I am still giving tons of my money away. Now I don't do any of those things because I think I have to. Everything I do now, I do because I want to. I stopped living *for* God and started living *from* God.

I share that story with you because I want you to know how to disarm the enemy. Satan knew he couldn't get me to stop believing the Bible, so he tried to use the same deceptive trick he used on Eve. He tried to render my ministry ineffective and

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useless by causing me to doubt the security and limitlessness of God's love.

You don't defeat satan by learning the laws of God as given through Moses. You defeat the enemy by receiving the love of God. If your spiritual diet consists of preaching on the wrath of God, and the Ten Commandments, you need to change your menu. Faith for the God kind of life only comes from hearing the good news about Jesus.

If you want to experience supernatural results in your life, then you need the supernatural love of God on your mind. Since I have come into the revelation of the true grace of God, I can tell you that the power of God has taken over my finances, relationships, health, and ministry. When I stopped fearing God, I was finally able to fellowship with God.

A practical step you can take to begin receiving the love of God is to mediate on one of my favorite Bible prayers. This is a prayer Paul prayed for his people, and I pray it over my church. You can pray it over yourself, and over your family. I guarantee you will see results.

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is
the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

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¹⁹ *And to know the love of Christ,
which passeth knowledge, that ye might
be filled with all the fulness of God.*

—Ephesians 3:17-19

We could really spend the rest of this book just talking about that one prayer. How awesome it must be to be “*filled with **all** the fullness of God.*” Just imagine the magnitude of the supernatural you walk into when the fullness of God fills you. Is there anything impossible for a man filled with Mr. Supernatural Himself, God, the Creator of the heavens and earth?

I want to really drive this point home. Notice Paul doesn’t pray that we be rooted and grounded in the Law of Moses. Neither does he pray that we be rooted and grounded in tithes and offerings. Nor does he pray that we be rooted and grounded in discipline and self-help.

Paul prays that we be rooted and grounded in love. Not only that we are planted in love, but also that we *know* the love of Christ. Friend, that is the key. To walk in the supernatural you have to know the love of Christ. God can’t fill a person to the full measure if they do not know His love. A divine connection entwines love with faith, and faith with love.

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There is another side to this key. Love casts out fear, and expels every trace of terror.¹⁰ Fear is an enemy of faith, but love ejects fear. Glory to God!

To walk in the supernatural, the way God intends, you can't be fearful. Jesus continually told His disciples, "*Fear not.*" When Jesus was about to raise the dead, He said, "*Don't be afraid; just believe.*"¹¹ Paul writes to his young mentee, "*God hasn't given us the spirit of fear; but of love.*"¹² We even have examples in the Old Testament, like when the Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "*Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid.*"¹³

Fear is like an anchor that holds you down. Fear restricts you to what can happen in the natural realm. In other words, fear takes you out of the realm of faith and into the realm of limitation. That is not to say that *nothing* supernatural happens in fear. In fear, instead of walking in the supernatural, the supernatural will walk over you. Let's see this in the Scripture:

*And the Lord God called unto Adam,
and said unto him, Where art thou?*

¹⁰ *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden,*

¹⁰ 1 John 4:18 (KJV/AMP)

¹¹ Mark 5:36

¹² 2 Timothy 1:7

¹³ Joshua 1:9

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*and I was afraid, because I was naked;
and I hid myself.*

—Genesis 3:9-10

Just three short chapters into the Bible, we find the first reference to fear. (This comes after satan deceived Eve, and Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit.) I suggest that there was no such thing as fear prior to this point in history. This was a new concept both for God and for man. I know it's hard to fathom God having a new experience, but can you find any fear in Heaven? Of course not!

Immediately after fear is introduced, we see the provision of man change from the supernatural overabundance of God, to a limited supply gained by the work of man's hand. We see man transition from being clothed in the liberty of God's glory, to being covered by natural fig leaves. We see man removed from the supernatural garden of God (faith) and placed into a land of toil (law). Nothing good came from fear then, and nothing good comes from fear now.

Notice also that fear was a result of the deception of satan. satan could not directly impact or effect man, so he had to cause man to move outside of the realm of the love of God, and ultimately outside of faith. satan's ploy, "Did God really say..." caused Eve to doubt the love of God and

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thereby lower the shield of faith. he is still using the same trickery today. Let's look at another example in Scripture.

And he [Jesus] said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

—Matthew 14:29-31

In this Scripture, we see a different scenario than what we saw in the Garden of Eden. This time it was the circumstances that deceived Peter. Jesus had already given Peter all that He needed to walk on the water. Jesus said, "Come." (Remember, faith comes with hearing the Word of God.) In fact, Peter was literally walking on the water, experiencing the supernatural, when the circumstances changed.

Nothing about the word from God changed. Just like in the garden, the word had not changed. Satan was able to get Peter to have fear based on what was happening around him. Peter became more aware of the weather surrounding him than the love of God, and that caused him to be sucked

out of the supernatural into the realm of limitation.

Now, what I like about Peter is that He cried out to the savior when he began to sink. In the garden, Adam hid from God. In the ocean, Peter cried out, *"Lord, save me."* This is the beauty of grace. Even in our shortcomings, our savior is there to save us if we rely on Him. The Amplified Bible says that Jesus *"caught and held him."* That's grace. That's supernatural. When I had come to the end of myself, when I ran out of teachers to turn to, I too cried out *"Lord, save me!"* and He did.

Grace is simply defined as unmerited favor, and it is certainly that. Another aspect of grace is influence. Grace influenced Jesus to catch and hold Peter. Influence springs forth from a root of love. When Peter perceived his influence upon Jesus, he was again rooted and grounded in love.

Jesus was able to speak to the storm and command it to obey because He rested soundly in the love of His Father. Faith is confidence. Jesus was confident in the love of God. That's where supernatural results come from—confidence in God. Faith doesn't work because we believe in faith. Faith works because we believe in the love of God.¹⁴

¹⁴ Galatians 5:6

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*And we have known and believed
the love that God hath to us. God is love;
and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God,
and God in him.*

—1 John 4:16

As Paul prayed for the fullness of God to fill us, John writes that God dwells in the man that dwells in love. Continue in the love of God and the fullness of God will continue to expand in you. The more of the love of God you accept, the greater your walk in the supernatural will be.

I find it interesting that John seems to differentiate between knowing and believing. In our everyday speech, we also tend to subconsciously separate these two ideas. For example, we might say, “I know where the president lives.” We can be sure that he lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. We might also say, “I believe the president is a good man.”

Why is it that when it comes to matters of verifiable fact we instinctively choose the word *know*, yet in matters of opinion, we choose to say *believe*? In the original language of the Scripture, the word translated *know* means, “to learn to know, come to know, get knowledge of, perceive, feel, to become

known." It is also a Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse, for example, "Adam knew his wife."¹⁵

The word translated *believe* means "to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in of the thing believed, to have confidence." It also means "intellectual faith, to entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity, to be entrusted with a thing." Believe comes from the root word that is translated *faith*.¹⁶

When John writes, "*we have known and believed the love that God has for us,*" he is not being redundant. John is giving us a deeper look at the first key to living in the supernatural. God wants us to know His love, to be able to feel it, to be wrapped up in it. God also wants us to rely on His love, to trust it, to lean on it, and to have complete confidence in it.

God is not a feeling; He is a Spirit. I always remind people of that when they first accept salvation. Why? Because sometimes people think if they don't *feel* God then they didn't really receive salvation. The other side of this is just because God is not a feeling does not mean He *cannot* be felt.

When I am meditating on the Word, or spending time with God, I often feel Him with

¹⁵ Thayer, Joseph. "Ginosko." 1097. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

¹⁶ Thayer, Joseph. "Pisteuo." 4100. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

me. When I allow my mind, body, and spirit to connect together and I focus on God, I feel His love. Now, if there is a time that I don't feel God, it doesn't mean that He is not there. It is in those times that I believe He is there with me by faith. I stand on the Word, which says, "*He will never leave me or forsake me.*"¹⁷

To walk in a state of continual miracles is possible, but in order to reach that place, you must know and believe the love of God. For someone who is truly persuaded that he is God's beloved son, the supernatural comes naturally. Jesus lived an effortlessly uncanny life because He was intimately acquainted with God's love. Jesus was convinced He was God's beloved Son; therefore, nothing could successfully come against Him.

In the next chapter, we will look at the second key to walking in the supernatural: receiving a word from God.

¹⁷ Hebrews 13:5

5 WHEN GOD SPEAKS

*But he answered and said,
It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceedeth
out of the mouth of God.
—Matthew 4:4*



If we are to live as God intended for us to live, we need to have a word from God. God's original plan for man was that he would live in this natural world while experiencing supernatural life—not just life as in animation, but the very life of God Himself.

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In an earlier chapter, we defined specifically what the phrase *live by* means in a Biblical context. Here in Matthew 4:4, we find Jesus declaring that man lives by the Word of God. After Jesus had been fasting for 40 days, satan challenged Him to turn rocks into bread. Jesus refused to submit to the trick of satan. Secure in the love of God, Jesus responds, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*”

We know that Jesus possessed the ability to change the stone to bread. After all, Jesus turned water into wine, and fed the multitude with just two loaves of bread and five small fish. Surely, turning rocks into bread is no challenge for Jesus. At this time, Jesus has been in the wilderness for 40 days. He is not only fasting, but He is fasting in the wilderness and must be very hungry.

In this moment of extreme testing, Jesus refers back to the Word of God.¹ Jesus makes a profound statement of truth, asserting that man lives by the spoken Word of God; yet, He is actually quoting from the written Word of God. This example, this elucidation is exactly what we need as we look at the second step for walking in the supernatural. To live a supernatural life we need a word from God.

¹ Deuteronomy 8:3

The reason I get so excited about this particular passage of Scripture is because I own a Bible. Jesus, speaking about the spoken Word of God, quotes the written Word of God, thus placing them on equal footing. Sometimes, we as Christians endeavoring to live supernatural lives, get super spiritual. If we don't hear the audible voice of God, then we don't feel like we've heard from God at all.

That is why people chase prophets down for a word from God for their lives. The prophet is a gift given to men for that purpose—don't get me wrong. However, we all have access to a word from God for our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days of the year. It's called the B-I-B-L-E. I honestly believe that if we simply take the time to read the Bible, and then put its principles into practice, we would see miracles that make the book of Acts seem boring.

That is why key #1 is so important. You cannot receive from the Bible if you do not first believe and intimately experience the love of God for yourself. Satan will use any tool he can to keep you from receiving the unchangeable, unchallengeable fact that God loves YOU as an individual, personally.

Now, let's break this verse down a little further. Jesus acknowledges the place of bread in the life of man. In other words, there is a place for all the

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normal things we do as human beings. There is a place for a proper diet and nutrition if we are going to walk in divine health. There is a place for proper money management if we expect to walk in divine wealth. Nevertheless, man doesn't live by bread (natural means) alone.

When I begin preparing to plant a new church, I spend a lot of time in prayer. I also spend a lot of time researching and meeting with professionals to get the information I need. I eat the bread, so to speak, but I don't eat bread alone. I also listen for a word from the Lord. I never start a church by natural means alone; I get instructions from the Holy Ghost. I employ both the natural and the spiritual.

You may not be a church planter, but you should follow my example whatever your calling may be. Do not neglect natural preparation and training, but don't rely on it alone either. If you feel in your heart to be a doctor, the law requires that you get an education. Don't rely solely on your medical training in your practice; instead, rely on Jesus because He is the healer. If you're a parent or spouse, you need the help of the Holy Ghost, for sure. Don't stop there. Study parenting. Study the psychological makeup of your partner or your teenager. You need the Holy Ghost and you need information, too.

I love the example of the law of gravity. Sir Isaac Newton scientifically proved that what goes up must come down. (Obviously, I'm over simplifying the law, but you understand gravity. It's what is holding you to the earth and keeping you from floating away into the sun.) However, there is law higher than gravity. There are the laws of lift and thrust.

You see, airplanes don't operate by the law of gravity alone. When the higher laws are applied, the impossible becomes commonplace. A million pound metal tube that we call a 747 can fly across the ocean, 40,000 feet above sea level. Gravity is still the law in effect on the earth, but this metal tube has tapped in to a superior law.

Jesus told satan, man doesn't experience life as God has it by natural means only. Man lives by every word God speaks. The Word of God is the highest law there is. Thanks be to God, we have 60 books worth of God's word available at our fingertips.

When the Scripture says, "*the blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich*,"² that's a word from God. A poor person can take that word and walk into supernatural wealth because he received a word from God. God does not have to send a prophet, or appear in a vision, for that word to have the

² Proverbs 10:22

power to perform. All man has to do is eat it. Paul explains, *“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses **all** who call on him.”*³

Think about what happens when you eat physical food. It literally gets inside of you, right. The physical food goes into your digestive system and is broken down into fuel for your body to perform. It literally becomes a part of you. That is why we have the saying, “You are what you eat.” It is true. You are, quite literally, what you eat.

A porterhouse steak may have been prepared for President Obama to enjoy, but if someone else eats it, it doesn’t lose its nutritional value. Whoever eats the steak gets the nourishment. I have personally lost more than a few steaks to my little doggies. They are fast little critters. They are better trained now, but when I first adopted my Shih Tzu in particular, she would grab the steak right off of my plate in the blink of an eye. She would receive the nourishment and enjoyment of the meat even though it was intended for me. The same is true of the Word of God. God may have promised blessing to Abraham, but if you grab a hold of that word, Abraham’s blessings are yours.

Let’s eat a little more from the word.

³ Romans 10:12 (NIV)

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

*How then shall they call on him in whom they
have not believed? and how shall they believe in
him of whom they have not heard?*

and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ *And how shall they preach, except they
be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet
of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!*

¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.*

—Romans 10:14-15, 17

Preaching is the way God gets His word out into the earth for you and me. I like how the Amplified Bible renders verse 17.

*So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is
heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came
from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).*

The New Living Translation adds clarity and makes the verse easy to understand:

*So faith comes from hearing, that is,
hearing the Good News about Christ.*

The Word of God—the good news about Christ—provides faith. Like the porterhouse steak supplies protein, it's in the very makeup of the

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steak, the Word of God supplies faith. I love Oprah, but her word doesn't furnish me with faith. Deepak Chopra is brilliant, but his word doesn't carry faith. Martin Luther King, Jr., was extraordinarily inspirational, but inspiration is not faith.

The only conduit of faith into the earth realm is the Word of God. The Word of God entered the earth through preaching. Man lives by the Word of God, by faith. Do you see how this works? It is important to understand so that you can use it on purpose and see results.

We know that man *is* a spirit being. Man *lives* in a physical body, and *possesses* a soul, but he *is* a spirit. God is a Spirit, too. There is something else on the planet that is also spirit.

*The words that I speak unto you,
they are spirit, and they are life.*
—John 6:63

Isn't that fascinating? Jesus says that His words are spirit *and* life. We just read that the Word of God makes man alive, and he lives by faith. It seems like we may have found out why this key is so important. Faith comes by hearing spirit and life.

Life is not only animation, but it is also animation. Life is energy and vigor. Since that is the

case, the word provides the energy and vigor to live. Of course, Christians aren't supposed to live ordinary lives; we are supposed to do the impossible. The Word of God gives us the ability to operate, consistently, in miracles.

When God releases a word, He is releasing the very substance of His being. When God said, "*Let there be light*,"⁴ there was light. God released Himself into the physical world through His word, and light was made manifest. There is no question that God's being is far beyond any human limitation.

Earlier, I used the example of the gravity defying metal tube we call a 747. It is a good illustration for this point, too. In order for the 747 aircraft to operate under the laws of lift and thrust, it first needs power. The airplane requires powerful engines and an ample supply of fuel in order to tap into its full potential.

The aircraft doesn't require fuel or engines to seat passengers. In fact, a small vehicle can pull the plane from one side of the airport to another. The 747 can be somewhat useful without fuel and engines, but on the ground, its potential is wasted.

Though the plane is designed to fly, without the two additional components of fuel and engines, the law of gravity holds it to the ground.

⁴ Genesis 1:3

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Nonetheless, when the fuel is ignited and the engines begin to roar, the 747 comes alive, while a force greater than gravity goes to work. That aircraft takes to the sky and easily performs the impossible.

We, too, are designed to fly, but we can't get off the ground without a word from God. God's word is fuel; it's spirit and life. God's word fuels our engine of faith. Faith is what connects the realm of the physical to the realm of the spirit.

Faith is the substance of the supernatural.⁵ The power of faith is contained in the word. The word is actually encapsulated faith; it's a carrier. Word carries the life, the idea, and the very essence of God. Hearing the word then transfers that life into our being, and we receive the ability to perform using the very power of God Almighty. This sounds somewhat metaphysical, but it's really not complicated.

The words you are reading on this page are not physical beings. Yes, you are holding a physical book, or tablet, but the words you are reading don't have any substance of themselves. When you read "747 plane," an image formed in your being and you mentally pictured a large aircraft. The essence, or rather, the image of the 747 is contained in the word.

⁵ Hebrews 11:1

Just as stick of dynamite is a compressed explosion, God's word is compressed power. When you light the dynamite, watch out! There is an imminent "BOOM!!!" on the way. When you connect faith with the Word of God, there is unlimited power at your disposal.

I want to take just a moment and clear up a common misconception about Romans 10:17. It has been wrongly taught, "faith comes by hearing and hearing." Another misconception that goes along with the "hearing and hearing" fallacy, is that the Bible is the Word of God mentioned in this verse. While it is true that hearing something repeatedly can cause you to begin to believe it, that is not at all the message the author was intending to convey in that verse of Scripture. The emphasis should not be on "hearing and hearing." The emphasis should be on "faith comes from hearing about Jesus." Jesus is the Word of God Paul is referring to.

Without veering too far off course, I will add that the faith Paul is referencing is faith to believe that man is saved by grace, and not by the law. We have wrongly placed confession above belief. We have made a law out of confessing the Scriptures. It doesn't much matter what you say if you don't believe it in your heart. Confession is like an engine, but faith is the fuel. Without gas, your engine is no good.

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I am in no way discounting the importance of the Bible. In fact, my goal is that you see the importance of knowing the written Word of God—the Bible. We must not stop at the written word alone. The written word without the Holy Spirit can be dangerous. Let's look again at Matthew 4:

*Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city,
and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God,
cast thyself down: for it is written,
He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and
in their hands they shall bear thee up,
lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a
stone.7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again,
Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
—Matthew 4:5-7*

After Jesus refers to the written word in verse 4, we see satan attempt to use the word as well. Did you know that satan knows the Scripture? The fundamental difference between satan's use of the word and Jesus' use of the word is the Holy Ghost. Without the Holy Ghost, the written word will be manipulated, contorted, and distorted. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit.⁶ It was the

⁶ Matthew 3:16

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Holy Spirit Who led Jesus into the truth of the word, and not the letter of the law.⁷

Friend, the Holy Spirit is like the engines of the 747. He works with faith to bring you into miracles. He will never go against the written Word of God, but He will illuminate it. He may go against your interpretation and understanding of the word, but He will never contradict the word.

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

—2 Corinthians 3:6

The letter Paul is talking about here is not the Bible, as we know it today. When he was penning this letter to the church at Corinth, there was no New Testament canon. Only the Old Testament had been written. More specifically, Paul is referring to the Law of Moses.

The New Living Translation really captures what Paul is writing accurately.

He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit.

⁷ John 16:13

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*The old written covenant ends in death;
but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.*

—2 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT)

The word devoid of the Spirit brings death. Paul even calls the Ten Commandments the ministration of death.⁸ However, the words of Jesus, they are spirit and they are life. It is so important that we rightly divide the word.⁹ Most people really don't know that the Bible is made up of multiple covenants. That's why they are quick to point out "the Bible says..." not knowing that the Scripture they are referring to is obsolete.

It is so vital that we understand, above all else, God is love, and He loves us. If we do not grasp the love of God, which is who He is, then we will not be able to receive the Word of God. We must get it into our hearts that we live under grace. We live under a new agreement, one ratified by the blood of Jesus. Glory to God!

In a previous chapter, I told you how I came to the point where I didn't believe what I was preaching. I was preaching the written word, but I was ignoring the *rhema* word that was in my heart. I was mixing the old with the new, which just doesn't work. I lost my grasp on the love of God. The enemy tricked me out of the revealed

⁸ 2 Corinthians 3:7

⁹ 2 Timothy 2:15

will of God for my life using the Bible. It sounds crazy, but it's true. Because I was not filtering the preached word through the love of God, I became burdened. I felt hopelessly lost in sin, separated from God.

Even the words of Jesus can be burdensome if they are not partnered with the revelation of God's love. The old covenant is a heavy load to bear. The Word of God when separated from the love of God is void of God. I would also add that an expired word from God is worse than no word from God. Let me explain that a bit more.

It is true; we can personally receive any promise of God found in Scripture. The caveat is the promise must be valid under our new agreement, the new covenant. That means promises such as God will visit the sins of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation¹⁰ are not valid for you. You can't get that one. Under your agreement, God has pledged to never remember your sin.¹¹ Therefore, it is impossible for Him to bring that type of consequence on you, let alone to carry it through to your great-great grandchildren.

There are also particular situations in the word that may not apply specifically to you. Earlier, we looked at Peter walking on the water. I'm not say-

¹⁰ Numbers 14:18

¹¹ Hebrews 8:12

ing you can't ever be a water walker. However, I'm not saying you can take Peter's specific word, and then hop into the Pacific Ocean without getting wet either. This is why the Spirit leads us.

The beauty of the time in which we live is that we not only have the written word, we also have the Living Word on the inside of us. The Holy Spirit will speak to us concerning the miniscule and minute details of our lives. Remember, faith is inside the Word of God.

I know that when I receive a *rhema* word from God, when He speaks something to me specifically, it's as if the faith in that word is supercharged. You can get a large bottle of detergent and it may say, "24 loads." That's kind of like the written Word. Right next it, you may see a bottle about half the size that says, "Concentrated: 76 loads." That's like the spoken Word. It's concentrated. The bottle may be a lot smaller, but it's power packed. Instead of being a whole chapter from the Bible, the *rhema* word may be just one sentence. That smaller bottle of faith concentrate will take care of more loads with less product.

Many of the most amazing miracles you will ever see are the result of a *rhema* word from God. It's not the Bible that is alive and active.¹² The reckoning of God, the word God speaks directly

¹² Hebrews 4:12

and personally to you is alive and active. It's one thing to know that the *blessing maketh rich*,¹³ it is quite another for God to tell you where to go fishing for money.¹⁴

*Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation,
the title deed) of the things [we] hope for,
being the proof of things [we] do not see and the
conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real
fact what is not revealed to the senses].*

—Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

There is only one thing you need in order to do the impossible. That one thing is a word from God. To be able to receive His word you have to know that He loves you. Once you receive a word, you have everything you need contained in that word for it to actually happen.

God is the faith giving God. Faith is the title deed and the assurance that what you heard is a real fact. Though it may not be visible in the realm of the senses, the word has made the impossible possible. The word is life. The word takes you out of the realm of being limited by natural principles and laws, and into the realm of the God kind of life. Is there anything God cannot do? No! He can

¹³ Proverbs 10:22

¹⁴ Matthew 17:27

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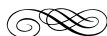
do anything. Therefore, if you have a word from God, nothing is too hard for you.

The final key to walking in the supernatural is to act on the word—to do what you heard. We will look at this key in the next chapters.

6 SOWING & RECEIVING

So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.

—Luke 8:18 (NLT)



When we talk about receiving a word from God, we must also talk about the various levels of receiving. As new covenant believers, in order to fully accept all that God has for us, we must keep first things first. God is love. It's not just what he

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does, it is the very fabric of His entire being. Every revelation we receive and every belief we hold must pass the test of the foundational truth that God is love. If we interpret Scripture in a way that does not communicate the nature of God, then we must rethink our interpretation.

Jesus warns us, *“pay attention to how you hear.”* If we don’t listen with “God is love, full of grace and truth”¹ at the forefront of our minds, we will hear wrongly. When we don’t hear the right thing, even what we thought we understood becomes confused. That’s why people who have been in faith for many years are still trying to make it in to heaven, instead of being confident that they are already seated there.² This is also the reason why so many Christians know nothing about the new covenant.³

It is possible to receive a word from God and yet its power is limited. You can get a word from God and it produces a little, moderately, or in great abundance. The power of the word is manifested in direct proportion to how to you hear. Jesus explains this in the parable of the sower.

The parable of the sower is perhaps the most important of all parables Jesus taught because it provides the foundation for understanding how

¹ 1 John 4:16; John 1:14

² Ephesians 2:6

³ Hebrews 8:6-13

the kingdom of God operates. In fact, during this teaching Jesus asks His disciples the question, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?”⁴ The key to this story is to first understand that it is an allegory. Secondly, it must be understood the Jesus is speaking about the Word—about Himself. Finally, we must think of the story like it’s an onion, because it has many layers.

Let’s read Jesus’ explanation of this parable, and then we will dive into how it relates to walking in the supernatural.

The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others. ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

¹⁶ The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word.

¹⁸ The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things,

⁴ Mark 4:13

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so no fruit is produced.

²⁰ And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

—Mark 4:14-20 (NLT)

Who do you suppose the farmer in this parable is? The King James Version of the Bible just calls him “a sower.” I suggest that the sower is Jesus, and also a representation of anyone sent to proclaim God’s word. Jesus always taught in parables to the multitudes and then explained what He taught to His disciples privately. This is characteristic of how God operates. Today, we can read the written word, but “*seeing we may see, and not perceive.*”⁵ The Holy Spirit then illuminates the Word to us so that we can understand it. The Holy Spirit will usually use a teacher or preacher as the tool for illumination of the word. However, He can place the image or revelation directly into your spirit if needed.

So we have seen the first character in the story mentioned is the sower (a preacher). The sower sows the word, and the word is the carrier of faith, remember? The next character introduced is satan. We see that it is his job to come and take the word

⁵ Mark 4:12

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immediately. If satan can get a hold of the word God has sown into your life, if he can steal it from you, ultimately, he can render you useless. Why is that? It is because we, the righteous, *live* by faith, and faith comes by the word. When satan steals the word, it is the equivalent of him stealing our life force.

It is not possible for satan to steal your salvation. That's not what we are talking about here. It is possible, however, for satan to get you outside of the life God intends for you to live on earth. Heaven is never the issue, that's a guarantee because of Jesus. We are talking about walking in the fullness of all Jesus has provided in this life. We are talking about living in the supernatural power of God, on purpose.

Now that we've met the sower, and satan, we can be introduced to four types of people. The four types of people are likened to footpath, rocky, thorny, and good soil. I find it amusing that Jesus uses soil to represent these people groups. (I think God might just be showing off His sense of humor by using the soil as a representation of people, seeing as He formed man from the soil.) All of us have fallen into each group at one time or another in our lives. Even the best of us fluctuate between the four groups from time to time.

The footpath people are those who won't see results from the word at all. The King James Ver-

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sion of the Bible calls them “wayside.” These are the folks who turn on Christian TV, hear one or two lines from the preacher, and then either discount or dispute everything he said. satan’s tool for stealing the word hasn’t changed since his encounter with Eve in the Garden of Eden. he twists and manipulates what God said in order to get the hearer to reject it.

Even with the Scripture itself, context is key. You can lift a sentence or two out of the Bible, or out of a sermon, and twist it to mean whatever fits your fancy. When the text is taken out of its context, you are left with a con.

The footpath is a travelled area. The ground has been trodden down and compressed. Nothing grows along the path because the soil has been hardened and is continually beaten down by travelers. What is even more interesting to me is that the Greek word translated *footpath*, or *way*, is also a figure of speech meaning “a course of conduct, a manner of thinking, feeling, or deciding.”⁶

When a grace preacher proclaims that we don’t live by the law, the footpath doesn’t receive that good news. The footpath has been hardened to the gospel. So, the seed just sits there and is easily swallowed up by the vultures. satan twists the grace preacher’s message from one of liberty into

⁶ Thayer, Joseph. “Hodos.” 3598. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

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one of licentiousness. Instead of receiving God's way of feeling, thinking, and deciding, the footpath relies on the law. Instead of being open and receptive to being led by the Spirit, (instead of living by faith), the footpath person lives by the law, which is death.

The next group is rocky soil. This is the soil that receives the gospel with joy. It's happy to accept the message of grace, but it mixes grace in with the commandments of stone. What happens when a seed has some good soil, but is limited by stone? The plant can grow, but it can't weather a storm.

When this type of person turns on Christian TV, they may listen to the whole broadcast. They will rejoice in the good news. They might even dance around their living room and send in an offering to the ministry. However, as soon as trouble comes, they return to the law for an answer.

They think perhaps they didn't fast and pray enough. Perhaps they didn't tithe enough, or maybe they didn't give a big enough offering. That stone is still in their hearts even though the seed of grace has been planted there. The law is firmly rooted and established in this ground, so it keeps the grace of God from fully taking root deep into the soul of this type of person.

There were problems long before the seed was sown. However, now there is persecution because of the seed. We don't say persecution much today.

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In our culture, we would call it discrimination or bullying. Unfortunately, those who cling to the law often bully the man who receives the gospel of grace. This ground is catching it from both sides. They were used to being outsiders to the secular world, but now they are put out of their own church for believing the gospel. As a result, instead of weathering the storm, the truth of the gospel shrivels up in their hearts and they cling to the old written code.

The next group is the thorny ground. In this ground, much like the rocky ground, the seed is crowded out because of challenges. The difference here is that the seed does get grounded. The plant does not develop enough to produce fruit, but it lasts longer than the plant with no depth of root.

I have seen good preachers get a hold of the grace message and begin preaching it full on. Then, after a time, their new messages begin to sound just like their old messages, only now they are sprinkled with hints of grace. That is not effective. I did it and I can testify that it doesn't work. No fruit comes of the intermingling of grace and law. The reason these preachers return to the old news, instead of preaching the good news, is the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire of other things.

Jesus addresses the worries of this life head-on. He gave us the answer to every worry, whether it

is financial, physical, or emotional. Jesus' answer to worry is to "*seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*"⁷ The Kingdom of God operates under a very particular methodology. Contrary to much teaching that is common today, the Kingdom of God does not operate by the Ten Commandments. The Kingdom operates by grace. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy *in* the Holy Ghost.⁸ The Spirit leads kingdom citizens.

Worries of this life can only exist where something other than the Kingdom is being sought after. For example, if you have to get 10 miles across town for a job interview, you don't worry about how you'll get there when you own a working vehicle. If you have to get across town, don't have a car, and there is no public transportation, then you may worry about how you'll get there. You have to seek a way to get to your interview. If you receive a notice that your cable TV is going to be shut off if you don't pay the past due amount, you may worry if you have no money in the bank. However, if you simply neglected to pay the bill, but you have plenty of money in the bank, then you don't worry. You simply pay the bill.

The Kingdom of God encompasses every area of human need: right standing with the creator,

⁷ Matthew 6:33

⁸ Romans 14:17

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safety, and delight. When you seek the Kingdom, everything you need is automatically added. The key of the Kingdom is the Holy Ghost. He is the great prize, not the things. When you seek what you have been given, you become engulfed in this really neat state of being called contentment.

In the state of contentment, the size of your ministry doesn't matter. The amenities of your home are unimportant, and the type of transportation you have becomes irrelevant. All that matters when you are content is what you already have. Contentment destroys the love of money, which just so happens to be the root of all evil. The Holy Ghost is our prized possession and He will never be taken from us. Hallelujah!

The worries of this life are thorns that can crowd out the seed, and so is the lure of wealth. I like the King James Version of Mark 4:19. It renders this concept as the "*deceitfulness of riches.*" This is a huge deal for the man who is led by the law. Why? Because, the law promises riches to those who are blessed by God.

Of course, God wants you prosperous. I'm a prosperous man, and trust me, it's much more comfortable than being a poor man. I've been both. However, the measure of God's blessing in my life is not the size of my bank account. I'm not successful because I have money, or a good job, or

a nice car, or any of those things. I'm successful because the Lord is with me.

The way deceitfulness of riches crowds out the word is by taking the place of the gospel. There is one gospel; it is the gospel of grace. The preaching of prosperity as a measure of God's approval is not the gospel, and God does not count its results as fruit.

I'm taking so much time to explain this part of the parable because it is crucial to understanding the point Jesus is making. Jesus isn't preaching a salvation message; He's preaching a gospel message. In the gospel, riches do not equal the blessing of God. We know that for sure because of the large number of rich people who are completely disconnected from God, and the large number of poor people who are connected to God. We can see this truth plainly in our everyday lives.

The gospel is not the law. The law says that the blessed are rich. If you do x, y, and z, then God will prosper you. The law is "if, then," and "do good, get good; do badly, get bad." The gospel is simply "Jesus, Jesus." By including the deceitfulness of riches as a thorn, Jesus was affirming the distinctions between law and grace, and between the new and old covenants.

The Word of God is so richly layered that we can never exhaust the depths of its meaning. This parable in particular is like an onion. As soon as

you peel back one layer, you find there is another one to explore.

The seed is the word, but it is also the word carriers. God's method of multiplication is preaching. If you want to experience a life of miracles, live a life of preaching the gospel. This doesn't mean you should quit your job as a banker and start a road ministry. You can preach the gospel as a banker, as a teacher, as a police officer, as a cashier, as a mom, etc. The seed is planted all over the field, not just in the four walls of the church house.

Mark 4:20 confirms that the seed is not just the word, but people too. It says, "*And the seed that fell on good soil **represents** those who hear and accept God's word...*" Jesus provides a complementary parable in Matthew 13. In verse 38 He says, "*The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom.*" The place you are planted can be determined by how you accept the word. This is the factor that seals the deal for walking in the supernatural.

When you accept the word, you will produce a harvest. It's a guarantee. What harvest will you produce? Fruit of a like kind. Everything produces after its own kind.

When you believe the word, you receive it into the fibers of your being. Jesus is the Word. When you accept Him, you will reproduce others who

accept Him. Some people will produce 30 or 60 times as much, and others will produce 100 times as much. The main thing to note is that everyone produces. God places those who *hear and accept* His word on good soil. Glory to God!

Everyone hears the word. The factor that determines the harvest is whether or not the word is received and accepted. It works the same way natural food does. You can hear about a dinner, you can even see and smell it, but you won't get any nourishment from it until you receive into your belly. Just like with natural food, some people will receive more benefit from the meal than others will, but everyone who eats receives something.

Jesus uses several more stories to explain His main point. In one story He asks, "Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed?" The answer is obvious to His audience, and should be obvious to us as well. "Of course not!" is His answer.⁹

Jesus is teaching us that anyone who receives the Word of God will share it. The gospel cannot be contained. It's delivered to us in seed (word) form, and it grows into a large tree (our lives on display) that can't be hidden.

⁹ Mark 4:21

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This leads us into the third key to walking in the supernatural: act in faith.

7 FAITH IN ACTION

I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.

—Luke 6:47-48 (NLT)



This passage from Luke clearly identifies how we can live in the supernatural on purpose. In fact, these two verses perfectly encapsulate what this entire book explains. You live a supernatural

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live by coming to God, hearing and accepting what He says, and doing it.

I understand that this is very practical teaching. There doesn't seem to be anything spectacular about it. It's not deep, mystical, or spooky. Well, friend, it isn't hard to tap in to the supernatural. It's available to everyone who believes. Why is that? It is because we are spirit beings living in a natural world.

Really, the supernatural is merely a different realm or dimension. Earlier, we discussed the law of gravity, which rules over the entire planet. We also discussed the fact that there are laws higher than gravity that cause us to be able to nullify the law of gravity's effects.

When I write about living in the supernatural, I am writing about operating in the earth based on the higher laws of the spirit realm. The things of this natural world are temporary and fade away, but the spirit is eternal.¹ The things of the spirit can be transferred into the natural realm by faith. Faith isn't a creative force, it doesn't manufacture anything; faith is a transferring conduit, it manifests things from the spirit realm in the physical world. That's how the spirit realm operates, on the law of belief.

¹ 2 Corinthians 4:18

In this passage from Luke, Jesus lays out the three steps to having a supernatural existence. We have already looked at the first two steps and discovered that they are foundational for supernatural living. The third step is perhaps the most important step of all. While this third step can't happen without the first two steps, without this final step the previous steps are made of no effect.

In order walk in the supernatural, in order to live like God, you have to do the word you heard and received from God. This is where many well-intentioned believers fall short. We are all doing something; even inaction is, in a sense, action. Choosing to not do something is still doing something. Doing nothing is actually doing something.

If you choose not to eat, you are choosing to starve. If you choose not to exercise, you are choosing to weaken your body. If you choose not to receive the life of God, you are choosing to receive death. You can choose to believe in the love of God, and receive His word, but until you act on that word, you are choosing to live according to the laws of the natural world.

If you build your house (your life) based on a natural word, and then when the storm comes, the storm will have power over your life. Why? Because you are bound by the laws of this world. You can't fly because of the law of gravity.

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However, if you do the word you receive from God, you place yourself in a different dimension. You step out of the realm of the natural and into the realm of the supernatural. Your life can't be shaken by the conditions of the world because you are operating by a different set of laws.

In the natural, if a flood meets a house, the house is going to move. A hurricane will win the fight against a mud hut any day of the week, unless that mud hut exists under a different set of laws. If the mud hut exists under the law that levies and sandbags protect it, then the hurricane may come, but it won't be able to affect the hut.

The Word of God seems crazy to the natural man, just like a human being in outer space probably seemed crazy to the men who lived in the 1400's. God may lead you to do something that has seemingly no significance. He may simply tell you to wear a purple shirt to the grocery store, but that purple shirt may be the thing that attracts the very person you needed to meet in order to land the million-dollar contract you were hoping to get.

Friends, I'm not getting over into legalism or self-effort; however, in order to live a supernatural life, you're still going to have to obey the Word of God. The factor that differentiates life under the law and life under grace is the source of your leading. The Law of Moses can lead you, or the

Spirit of God can lead you. Under either system, you have to act on the word in order to get results.

As we talk about doing the word you receive from God, it is vital that we understand that we *can* do the word God speaks. In his letter to the Romans, Paul issues one of Scriptures most famous statements.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.*
—Romans 12:1

In the past, Romans 12:1 had been taught from a law-based theology system, and had lost its true meaning. Nonetheless, it is one of the most powerful verses the believer has at his disposal.

Paul, in one succinct sentence, provides us with God's expectation of service from His people. God's expectation, according to Romans 12:1, is that we present our bodies to God as living sacrifices. We don't present our bodies as filthy rags, unworthy, and worthless. We present our bodies as a living sacrifice, one that is holy and acceptable to God.

If you have ever studied the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, then you already know how

rigid a standard the sacrifices had to meet. In our case, Jesus met the rigid standards in our stead. Jesus made us holy and acceptable to God through His work, and none of our own. When we present our bodies, alive and active, to God, He views us as we are, but not as we do. We are holy, which in this passage literally means “a saint.” It implies something that is set apart and different.²

The word *acceptable* doesn’t mean passable, or just good enough. Acceptable in this passage isn’t the same as a “C” average in school. The word acceptable in Romans 12:1 means “well pleasing.” It’s the equivalent of an “A+” in school.

It’s important that we gain understanding of what the author intended so that we have confidence to do the word from God. Languages are fluid and word meanings change throughout time. That’s why we have to go back to the original languages and see what the words meant at the time what we read was written.

The word *reasonable* doesn’t mean the minimum, or just enough. Presenting our bodies to God as holy and acceptable isn’t the bare minimum we can do for God. Keep in mind that God doesn’t need anything from us; He is the creator of heaven and earth. In this verse, reasonable ac-

² Thayer, Joseph. “Hagios.” 40. *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

tually means “the logical conclusion.” Paul is saying, “Once all the facts are considered, this is the rational response.”

Your reasonable service to God is to present yourself to Him as a fully accepted, fully loved, and fully pleasing son. Other translations translate *service* as “worship.” Either word is an accurate translation—by keeping both in mind, we get a good understanding of the concept Paul is introducing.

If we were to keep reading in Romans 12, we would find Paul explaining the type of activities believers engage in. However, if we don’t recognize that verse 1 is the platform from which all of the actions start, we will mistakenly believe that the actions are what make us “holy, and acceptable.” When we receive a present, we do something with it. If it’s fine jewelry, we wear it; if it’s a game, we play it. However, if it’s an unacceptable gift, either we throw it away, or some of us might even regift it. We need to see ourselves as God sees us in order to perform the word that God gives us.

Previously, we looked at a passage that talked about a house being built on a rock. There is another passage of Scripture where Jesus uses the same type of metaphor to discuss building His church. Let’s see what He says.

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*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples,*

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

*¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist;
others say Elijah; and still others,
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked.

“Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered,

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

*¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,
for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but
by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are
Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

—Matthew 16:13-18

There is so much in this passage of Scripture. Jesus gives Simon the name Peter, the name most of us know him by, which means “rock.” There has been a bit of mass confusion concerning this passage. Some have wrongly believed that Jesus was saying that the church would be built on the foundation of Peter. We know that isn’t possibly a correct interpretation as Jesus Himself is the foundation of the church.

Friend, I’d like to offer what I consider the key to this passage. In fact, I consider what I’m about to share to be the key to Jesus intention for the

church's mode of operation. This is the "ah hah" moment of Jesus captured in the Scriptures. Simon Peter utters something out of his mouth that He could not have been taught. When this happened, Jesus' response is, "You've heard from God for yourself. This is what I will build my church on." Can you see that?

Earlier, we saw that a house built on the natural word can be torn down by natural circumstances and situations, but the house built on the supernatural revelation of a word from God can withstand anything. Jesus asserts that He will build His church on revelation from God, and not by natural means. This church built on a supernatural foundation will withstand the storm, the very attack of hell (Hades) itself.

The way Jesus builds the church is upon belief. In fact, a "church" built on anything else is not the church of Jesus. Churches have been built on the 10 Commandments, but they are not the church of Jesus Christ. Churches have been built on all sorts of things that fall into the category "flesh and blood." Unless a church is built on the revelation of Jesus given by the Holy Ghost, it is not a church built by Jesus.

Jesus is "*full of grace and truth.*"³ If the church isn't built on the platform of grace and truth, then

³ John 1:14

it is not a church built by Jesus. The reason Jesus preached, “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”⁴ is because He was tilling the ground, so to speak. He was softening the ground that had been compressed, uprooting the thorns, and tearing through the rock.

In order for us to walk in the supernatural, we must first repent. I know that repent doesn’t sound like a grace word, but it absolutely is. Repent means to change course. More specifically, repent means to change the way decisions are made. It’s a change of platform or policy.

When the decree to free the Africans taken as slaves was made, slave owners and slaves alike were forced to repent. We celebrate Juneteenth because that is the day the good news about slavery’s end reached the uttermost parts of America. The decree outlawing slavery was signed in 1862 and went into effect in 1863, but the news didn’t reach the “whole world” until June 19, 1865.

I use this example from American history because it nicely illustrates the way the gospel works. Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world⁵. He went about proclaiming the good news, calling for repentance, ending up on the cross shedding His blood as the signature on the

⁴ Mark 1:15

⁵ Revelation 13:8

decree. When Jesus rose from the grave, it was official. Slavery had ended, but not all men knew it. You and I are called to be like General Gordon Granger and spread this freedom to the whole world. We have to preach so that all men will know that they are free from the slavery of sin and the law.

With repentance, everything changes. What was once perfectly legal is now completely illegal. What was once forbidden is now legal. The *modus operandi* has changed. There is a church that Jesus is building, and there is also a church built by flesh and blood.

Man used to function by what was uttered by Elijah and the prophets, but a change swept across the earth. Now, man hears from God directly, man knows Him. That is how we are able to withstand the storm. God's word gives us strength. Our foundation is supernatural. We operate under a higher law. We operate under the law of the Spirit.

After Jesus has His "ah hah" moment, He goes on to explain to Peter how this kingdom works.

*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;
and whatever you bind (declare to be
improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is*

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*already bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth
must be what is already loosed in heaven.*

—Matthew 16:19 (AMP)

In essence, Jesus tells Peter that heaven and earth have merged. The north and south are now united states. In heaven, there are no limits. In heaven, there is no governing by the Law of Moses. The glory of God illuminates heaven, not a natural, physical sun. The glory of Moses faded, but the light of God is ever increasing—from glory to glory.

Whoever hears the words of Jesus and does them, *that* man is like a house built on a sure foundation. There is no gray area. You can't expect to have supernatural results when your platform for belief is the Law of Moses or the Old Testament prophets. Poverty is improper and unlawful in heaven. Sickness and death is improper and unlawful in heaven. Curses, fear, brokenness, and depression are all illegal in heaven; therefore, they are also illegal on earth. Jesus told Peter that He had the authority to bind these things because they are already bound in heaven.

Hope and faith are different. You can hope that poverty is bound in your life or you can believe that it is. Until you believe that you are rich, you will be bound by poverty, no matter how much

hope you have. The words of Jesus produce faith. They produce belief and persuasion. Revelation direct from God will give you faith, and faith will give you what you have. (More on that later.)

To sum it all up, the way that the Christian life is meant to be lived is by direct revelation from God. The way a natural life becomes supernatural is by receiving the word from God *and* acting on it. In both cases, there is a natural component. The natural is governed by principles that are testable, repeatable, and provable. Once the super is added to the natural, a superior set of laws takes over. Once you receive the revelation from God, once God supplies the *super*, you must apply your *natural* to it creating the supernatural. Your natural is simply obeying the supernatural instruction, whatever that may be.

In the next chapter, we will look at how faith provides you with the ability to have what you have.

8 HAVE WHAT YOU HAVE

I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

—Mark 11:24 (NLT)



I figured I'd better start this chapter out with a direct quote from Jesus. I want to let you know that you can have anything you have. Yes, it is true; Jesus said it. The idea is not a William C. Rucker original, though I'd love to take the credit. You really can have anything you have.

What exactly do I mean by, "You can have what you have"? Well, so far, we have seen the three steps to walking in the supernatural – we

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believe the love of God, we receive a word from God, and we act on the word in faith. Friend, once you have mastered the three-step program I outlined, you will then have what you have.

If you want you to receive anything from God, it has to be something that's included in the finished work of Jesus. Sometimes we have the misguided notion that when we see symptoms of sickness, God then goes to work and manufactures healing, or when we have a financial need, God starts the printing press and creates money for us. We wrongly believe that when we pray it sets God into action. The truth of the matter is God hasn't made anything new since day six of creation.

When God rested on day seven, He entered into rest. God didn't start working again when the week started over on day eight. After God set man into his position on the earth, He entered into a continual rest. Now, I am referring to resting from creating and working. God finds rest in fellowship with man. Resting does not mean God is absent from us.

Years ago, I was hooked on a computer game called Sim Tower. It was a part of the Sim (short for simulation) series that included farming, cities, and now even includes people. Well, this game was one of the very first of its kind ever released.

It was not as advanced as the games we have available today.

The goal of Sim Tower was to construct a self-sustaining skyscraper. You could build up to 100 stories high and, if I recall correctly, 10 stories underground. The key to winning the game was to find the perfect balance between residential and commercial units, while providing entertainment, shopping, and elevators to reach the various levels.

Once everything was created and in balance, you could walk away from the game for months while your cash balance grew. Fires and other catastrophes would occur, but because you set the tower up properly, it would run itself and fix itself. In essence, I could enter into rest once I finished constructing the tower. Sure, I watched the game progress, but because of the way it was designed, I didn't have to construct anything new once I entered into rest. Once I finished that 100th story, I was done. The firefighters put out the fires, the police officers kept crime in check, and the maintenance staff kept the building up to code. I was still vested, but I was no longer needed.

The earth was designed in much the same way. God placed everything we need to sustain life here on the planet. If you take a moment and think about all the "new" things we come up

with, you soon realize nothing is new at all. New houses are made from old rocks and dirt; new clothes are made of old animal fur; belts and shoes are made from old cows; and the list goes on. Every new invention is just something old in a new combination. There is no new water on the planet and no new air, yet we never run out. It's an ingenious design.

The things that come from the spiritual realm are no different. Your healing is in you already. Your abundance is already yours. Everything you need for life is already available to you. You already have it; it just has to be transferred.

I used to identify faith as a creative force, meaning my faith would bring a thing into existence. I don't view faith quite like that anymore. I've taken the spookiness out of faith, and returned it to what it is: belief. Faith is simply being persuaded about something. It's uncomplicated.

Bible faith only works for what exists. Remember, belief comes from the Word of God. God only speaks truth. Therefore, if He's spoken it, it is, you have it, and you have the right to see it manifest. The reason we don't get what's ours is that we don't believe that we already have it.

In Sim Tower, all of the elevators, residential and commercial spaces, tenants, etc., already existed. In fact, an infinite amount of cash existed within the game as well. However, if I never

placed the pieces into the tower, I would never see anything. If I didn't have faith that when I placed a new condo on the 100th floor people would occupy that space and pay rent, then I would never have made the transfer. I would never enter into rest because the tower only ran itself at 100 stories.

I didn't have to program any codes into the game to make it run. I just had to make use of what the creator put in place. I clicked "condo," and stuck it where I wanted it. I transferred the condo from the inventory of the game into manifestation. Can you see what I'm trying to illustrate?

Our belief shouldn't be that God *will* heal our bodies one day. Our belief should be that God *has* healed our bodies already.¹ Healing is a part of the finished work of Jesus.

There is the rest God entered into after day six of creation, and then there is also the finished work of Jesus, which was set into action at Calvary. In this section, I've combined them into a single thought. I take that liberty because even Jesus death on the cross was a finished work before it was seen on the earth. In the realm of the supernatural, in the realm of the spirit, there is no such thing as time. There is time on the earth only be-

¹ 1 Peter 2:23

cause there was a defined beginning. God has no beginning and no end. Without at least one of those factors, you can't have time. Let's return our attention to the subject of having what you have.

While faith is not a creative force, it is a conduit. Faith brings that which is unseen (spiritual) into the realm of the seen (natural). In Mark 11:22, Jesus tells His disciples to "*Have faith in God.*" The only way God operates is by belief. This concept can be challenging to us as sensory beings. We operate based on what we see, taste, feel, see, and hear. God operates based on what He believes – a higher way.

If you are convinced you have the winning lot-to ticket, what happens? You go to the lotto office to claim your winnings. You don't hope, you don't fast, you just do. Why? Because you already have it, the funds just have to be transferred. You can't see the funds, you can't even spend them yet, but you have faith that they exist and that they are yours based on the ticket.

Healing is yours. You have it! You may not feel it, but it's there. You just have to make the transfer. Abundance is yours! You may not have the physical items in your hand now, but you have abundance. Just make the transfer.

Do you realize that the very Spirit that formed and fashioned the earth is residing within you. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead

lives in you.² The life force of the Almighty God, Master of the Universe, is inside of you. It is because of His presence in you that I can so confidently say you already have it, whatever “it” is.

No, God isn’t creating anything new, per se, but His power is available to do whatever needs to be done. The system is in place. That is why Jesus says: “*Seek first the kingdom...*”³ Jesus knows how the kingdom works. The kingdom doesn’t work by deeds, it works by belief. That’s how you see manifestation.

With God, things are black or white. There’s no gray area. It’s life or death, saved or lost, grace or law. In our society, things are relative, but in the kingdom, they are absolute. The only way God functions is from belief. If you believe it, you will see it. Friend, sometimes, we get belief (faith) and hope mixed up. Nothing ever manifests from hope. Now, hope can bring us to faith, but hope doesn’t bring materialization by itself.

*Since he did not spare even his own Son
but gave him up for us all, won't he also
give us everything else?*
—Romans 8:32 (NLT)

² Romans 8:11

³ Matthew 6:33

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If you were wondering what qualifies you to receive from God, wonder no more: Jesus is our qualification. As we see in Romans, God didn't even spare His Son. Can you imagine giving your only child up for someone, then withholding a few dollars from him or her? It sounds absurd, doesn't it? God literally gave up Jesus to have you and me. With Jesus, we get everything else that God has. God's very life is in us because we have Jesus.

We rarely take time to consider just what giving up Jesus meant for God. Jesus didn't come into existence in Mary's belly. Jesus was there in the beginning⁴ as a part of God's family. They had fellowship. Their life was so great that God wanted to share this life with others. In order to do this, the makeup of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) had to change forever. When God gave up Jesus, He didn't just allow His physical body to die. When God gave up Jesus, He gave up the Son He'd known forever.

When Jesus put on flesh, He was forever changed. The Jesus that God loved so dearly was gone for eternity. If this weren't so, Paul would have written, "God loaned out His Son," instead of writing "God 'gave up' His Son." The Trinity of eternity past consisted solely of spirit beings. The

⁴ John 1:1

Trinity of today includes flesh and blood. You and I are seated in the Holy Trinity that is God.⁵

(That is a *selah* moment. Don't rush past it.)

This truth is why I have changed my approach to soul winning. I used to start out identifying that every man is a sinner and doomed to hell. I'd walk through the Romans Road, as it's called. I don't do that anymore. I definitely still use the Book of Romans, but now I tell sinners that they are righteous. I tell them what they have.

Since everything works on belief, I have to convince them to believe God loves them. When you turn on Christian television today, much of what you see makes it's easy to believe God is vengeful. It's easy to believe that He's waiting on you to make a mistake so that He can smite you. In fact, much of what is on the air makes God look schizophrenic.

One minute the preacher is saying, "God is love. See John 3:16. Jesus came to save you." Then that same preacher turns around and says, "It's holiness or hell. You've got to get right or get left. Ain't no liars on this train to heaven." Others make Jesus out to be an attorney of sorts, pleading with God not to kill us. They make it seem like

⁵ Ephesians 2:6

Jesus is the good God, and God the Father is the bad God. It's only by the power of the Holy Spirit that anyone manages to find God through all of that.

My approach to evangelism has changed from a fear-based approach to a faith-based approach. I'm no longer trying to convince people not to go to hell, but I'm inviting them into the life of God. Being righteous is not the same thing as having the life of God.

When I minister to those who aren't in fellowship with God, I'll tell them that they can pray for anything and they can have it. I'll show them Scriptures about how good God is. I will build their faith; I'll persuade them of God's grace.

A really interesting phenomenon happens in many faith circles. These circles teach that you confess what you believe, not what you see. With that I do agree; however, when it comes to sin, they say you must confess your sin continually or God won't forgive you. I don't agree with that.

You can have what you have, but you can't have what you don't have. Jesus took the sin of the whole world; we don't have that anymore. We can't have what we don't have. When bringing people into the life of God, they must have faith in God. There's no sin in God. They can confess that Jesus took their sin and paid its penalty. They can confess that the power of sin is broken over their

life by the blood of the lamb. They can confess anything they have, but it is wrong to have them confess something they don't have. Biblical confession is saying the same thing that God says, and God says, "You are righteous."

There's a popular saying that "confession brings possession." I can certainly agree with that saying on many levels. If that saying is true, then why confess sin? Are you saying you want more of it? A Biblical confession is that you are the righteousness of God; confessing sin is not Scriptural because you are not saying what God has said.

Confession alone doesn't bring possession. Confession attached to belief in the heart brings possession. That's why for a sinner to be saved, we must convince him that he is righteous. He must believe in his heart that he has right standing with God, and then he can have what he has.

As we end this chapter, I want to look at one more Scripture:

*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may
have boldness in the day of judgment:
because **as he is, so are we in this world.***

—1 John 4:17

There is a lot we could talk about in this verse. What I want you to see is the last part of the verse.

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Friend, as Jesus is, so are you right now. This is not a statement about the future in Heaven. As Jesus is, so are you right now, *in this world*.

Now, let me ask you a few questions: Is Jesus sick? Is Jesus poor? Is Jesus depressed? Is Jesus defeated? Is Jesus unloved by God? Well, however you chose to answer those questions (hopefully you answered according to the Scripture); you are the same way in this world.

You have the exact same equipment Jesus had as He walked the earth. Everything that Jesus had you have, and more. Jesus knew what He had, and that empowered Him to exercise His power. Everything in this world works on belief. If you believe it, you can do it.

I challenge you today to believe the Word. The earth is yours!⁶ Walk in your authority. Walk in your power. Own your kingdom. Take over. Rule, ruler, rule!

⁶ Psalm 115:16

9 BEHOLD JESUS

We've all heard the saying, "You are what you eat." Well, I'd like to make one small change, at least for this chapter in this book. I'll say, "You are what you see."

If you're familiar with my teaching you are probably screaming, "I'M NOT MOVED BY WHAT I SEE!" or "I WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT!" Don't worry, I haven't changed my teaching on the subject, but I want to take a moment and explore a different side of seeing.

Actually, I don't claim that, "You are what you see," but rather, "You are what you behold." Behold is such a great word. It just sounds majestic,

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doesn't it? Beholding implies much more than merely seeing something; it carries weight. If you behold something, you look at it intently, you consider it, and you observe it with great attention to detail. Beholding is quite the opposite of glancing.

I don't know how often behold was used in the past, but I rarely hear it used nowadays. That's okay, though. We are going to use it a lot when we talk about Jesus.

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with
so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every
weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and
let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*
—Hebrews 12:1-2

We've dealt with many ways aspects of walking in the supernatural throughout this book, but none of them works without looking unto Jesus. Looking to Jesus means that we are looking away from everything else. It means that our eyes are fixed on Him, that He is the center of our focus.

*And all of us, as with unveiled face,
[because we] continued to behold [in the Word
of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,*

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*are constantly being transfigured into
His very own image in ever increasing splendor
and from one degree of glory to another;
[for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.
—2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)*

Friend, do you see that? As we behold the glory of the Lord, as we behold Jesus, *we* are changed into *His* image. Hallelujah! I get so excited every time I begin to think about it. Talk about grace! Talk about getting something without working for it.

This transfiguration, or transformation, comes from the Lord. It's the (super) natural result of beholding Jesus. Just as Moses face shone because He beheld just the hind parts of God, you and I are transformed because we behold Jesus. Moses' glory faded with time, but our glory increases from one degree to another. Our glory is ever increasing. Hallelujah!

Sometimes people attempt to show their spiritual maturity by boasting of how they don't want God for what they can get from Him. I used to be like that, but I'm just not that deep anymore. I love God because of the way He loves me. My boasting is about everything I get from Jesus: free life, glory, and the very presence of the Creator of the universe dwelling inside of me. I'm not ashamed to say that I'm a God user. You may call

me Jimmie, because I will take all that God will “gimmie.”

Does a mother think less of her infant because all the child does is suck her dry, literally? No, of course not. It's the mother's nature to give. The mother instinctively cares for her child without any expectation of a return. As that child grows and develops, he loves his mother because of the way she loved him. With God, it's no different. In fact, He expects it to be that way.

I've heard some really passionate sermons about “Doing good for God,” and “How to please God.” Would I ever preach those sermons? Not at all. Am I saying that we shouldn't “do good things for God”? Not at all. The issue is the platform from which these things are done.

If we are doing things with the heart motive of earning God's love and approval, we are actually displeasing to God. Displeasing is a harsh term because God is not ever displeased with us, but rather, He wants us to have His quality of life. Anything other than God's best is displeasing to Him. God is displeased with the action or with the circumstance, but He is never displeased with the person.

Here's an idea that may seem radical: we don't work for God, God works for us. Before you start the bonfire to burn this book, think back to the example of the mother and child. That mother

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works hard for her child while the child is at rest. The mother gives up her sleep schedule and rearranges her entire life around the needs of the child. God is our father. He gave us life, and He has rearranged His entire existence to accommodate our need. Is that hard to believe?

*Therefore he [Jesus] is able, once and forever,
to save those who come to God through him.*

***He lives forever to intercede with
God on their behalf.***

—Hebrews 7:25 (NLT)

Belief comes from the Word of God. What we just read is the Word of God. (You should highlight that verse in your Bible to make sure that it stands out when you come across it again.) Friend, you see this gospel is so good. God is at work for you and He is happy to do it.

It's not the mature Christian that works hard for God. God doesn't get mad at us if we don't witness to ten people a day, say fifty Hail Mary's, give our last dollar in the offering, and pray for six hours in the Holy Ghost. We can do those things if that's what we want to do, but it doesn't change how God looks at us or how He feels about us. The mature Christian is at rest.¹

¹ Hebrews 4:9

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The mature Christian spends her time beholding Jesus. Let's see it in the Scripture.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.
³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.
⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"
⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
—Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

Mary chose to listen at Jesus' feet rather than to serve Him. That's a major key and we would do well to take note. Jesus commended the woman who sat down in a posture of rest and receiving, while correcting the woman who was hard at work. Many of us think, perhaps subconsciously, that if we work really hard for God, He will commend us. That is the way religion has trained us to think.

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I read a quote on social media that said, “your beliefs don’t make you a better person, your behavior does.” I’m not sure where it originates, but it is a very common sentiment, especially among non-believers. Christians must remember that being a good person is not the criteria for enjoying the life of God. The life of God is based entirely on belief apart from, or in spite of behavior. Right believing results in corresponding behavior, but behavior alone means nothing.

According to Scripture, belief is the driving force of behavior.² In the passage we just read, it *appears* that Martha has the right behavior. She’s busy taking care of Jesus and His friends. Further, the social custom of the day was for women to serve. Martha was behaving right, yet she was wrong. Mary, the one who broke the so-called rules, chose the one thing Jesus thought was important, time with Him.

Jesus spent His time teaching (working) and commended Mary for resting. In this passage, Jesus praised the person He was working for, but He rebuked the person working for Him. I know this goes against our religious sensibilities, but it doesn’t change the fact that this is Bible. God desires to work for man.

² Proverbs 23:7

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Think about this, can man hold the earth together? Can man cause seeds to sprout? Can man make rain fall from the clouds? Even if you get very scientific, at the root of any equation you find God making all things work. If God were to withdraw from His creation, if God were to cease His work, then man could not exist.

Obviously, I'm not talking about a continual working of God, as in labor. I've already explained that God has been at rest since day 7. What I'm talking about is man's total inability to be self-sufficient and sustain life without what God has worked.

Let me give you a little more word to help you believe that God is working for you.

*For **God is working** in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

—Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

What did Jesus do? How did Jesus live on the earth? Jesus did what He saw the Father do. He said what He heard the Father say. This isn't deep or spooky. Religion makes it seem that way. This relationship is natural.

When I served in children's ministry, I could tell exactly how the parents acted, and what they really believed, based on what their kids would do and say. The kids did what they saw their par-

ents do. They said what they heard their parents say, even if it wasn't appropriate for church. The life of the parent was acted out through the child.

If we desire to live the supernatural life, all we need to do is look at Jesus. We can intently study what He did; paying attention to the details, and that life, His life, will possess us. We are designed to reproduce the things to which we give our attention.

I can often tell what type of television programming a person gives their attention to by how they react during intense situations. If there is a conflict and that person reacts with dramatic antics, cussing and getting loud, you can just about guarantee they love soap operas, or reality TV. If someone has a fear of being left at home alone, or going through the woods at night, they probably have given their attention to horror movies. If a person has a song for every situation, they probably like musicals (like me). We are programmed to repeat what we pay attention to. That's why we should fix our eyes on Jesus.

I'm not trying to get into a legalistic approach. I watch a variety of programming from time to time. I glance at reality TV and soap operas, but I am careful to behold Jesus. (I will note that I avoid horror films all together. I'm not saying that you have to, but I don't think it's a good idea to train yourself to be afraid. Further, the Christians in the

horror films never demonstrate the power of God. Demons seem to overpower the Christian at every turn. I simply will not give attention to that. I rule over demon spirits and every attempt of the enemy. he has no power over me and I'm not afraid.)

If my eyes are fixed on Jesus, nothing is impossible. You recall that Peter walked on the water.³ He had no trouble while His attention was on Jesus. As long as He beheld the supernatural, He walked in the supernatural. Remember, it was as impossible for Jesus to walk on the water as it was for Peter. When Peter gave attention to the circumstances, he began to sink.

*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and,
beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

*³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand
and caught him. "You of little faith," he said,
"why did you doubt?"*

—Matthew 14:30-31 (NIV)

I love the fact that the Bible says, "*beginning to sink.*" When Peter took his eyes off Jesus, he didn't plummet into the depths of the sea. Instead, we see grace in action. Even when we take our eyes off Jesus, *immediately* grace reaches out a hand and pulls us back up.

³ Matthew 14:22-33

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Notice also that Peter “*saw the wind.*” In other words, he gave attention to what was happening around him. Jesus equates this with doubt. Remember that you can tell the mountain to move and command it to obey only if you don’t *doubt* in your heart.

Anything other than beholding Jesus is doubt. What do I mean by that? Well, I admit that I have made very broad statement. I’m about to get radical again. Do you realize that whenever someone lives a “good life” in order to “make it in to heaven” he is operating in doubt? When someone pays tithes to avoid being cursed, they are operating in doubt. When someone confesses sin to “get right with God,” they are operating in doubt (and ignorance).

Again, none of those things is wrong alone. The issue is the heart motive. Many people that do and say those things are depending on their own strength and power to please God. Anything not of faith is sin. I could also say everything that is not of faith is sin.⁴ Any attempt to worship God apart from beholding Jesus is inane. We read earlier that it is “*God working in us.*”⁵ We can’t do it ourselves.

When Peter began to observe his surroundings, he was already on the water. He was living the

⁴ Romans 14:23

⁵ Philippians 2:13

supernatural life. This reminds me of Paul's letter to the Galatians: "*Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?*"⁶ When Peter met Paul in Heaven, he probably asked, "Why didn't you tell me that before I sank?"

All of us follow the pattern of Peter from time to time. When we came into faith, we came because of Jesus. Yet, somehow, we decided Jesus was only the starting point and now we must go the rest of the way on our own. No! Jesus is not the starting point. He is the only point. He's the beginning and the end, the author and finisher.

It's easy to sin when you are looking at natural circumstances. When your bank account is overdrawn by a couple thousand dollars, it's easy to steal a grape or two at the grocery store. Desperate times call for desperate measures, right. It's easy to drink yourself into a stupor when the doctor's report says you have two weeks to live. It's easy to commit adultery when you've just caught your wife out with another man.

Have you ever tried to sin while beholding Jesus? It doesn't work too well. Jesus teaches, "*don't worry about what you will eat or drink; your Father knows what you need.*"⁷ Beholding Jesus reminds

⁶ Galatians 3:3

⁷ Matthew 6:25-34

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you *“by His stripes you are healed.”*⁸ Jesus says, *“do good to those who do wrong to you.”*⁹

You see, friend, when beholding Jesus you find the answer to every situation. As you fix your attention on Jesus, His reality becomes your reality. As you look to Jesus, you observe your own potential. Remember, “You are what you see,” so behold Jesus.

⁸ Isaiah 53:5

⁹ Matthew 5:44

10 SPIRIT LED LIVING

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God,
they are the sons of God.*

—Romans 8:14

*But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are
not under obligation to the law of Moses.*

—Galatians 5:18 (NLT)



One of my favorite preachers recently began preaching the grace message. He's actually been preaching at grace for a couple years, but at the time of this writing, he is starting to preach grace

with Holy Ghost boldness. Though he is still a part of a denomination that hasn't accepted the grace message yet, he has gotten a hold of Biblical grace like no one else in that circle. At one of the big faith conventions, he preached a very foundational, but radical grace message—one that drew quite a strong reaction.

Thanks to the wonders of technology, I was able to watch the message stream live on the Internet, and to see the response of the attendees and other ministers present. What this man preached that day was Scriptural and accurate. It was chocked full of revelation. In fact, I thought he'd gotten a hold of my teaching and took his message straight from there. (I am only kidding. If we are hearing from the same God, we should be saying the same thing. I know he didn't hear my teaching, but he definitely heard my teacher—the Holy Ghost.)

Sometime after the convention, I happened across the TV broadcast of another minister who had spoken at the same meeting. This very seasoned minister decided he was going to explain what the grace minister had preached. He called the grace preacher by name, mentioned where he'd heard him preach, and then said that he was going to give the "other side of the coin." He began to explain what the grace minister taught, and rather accurately, I must admit. Then he began to

head down the dreadful road I refer to as mixture—law and grace together.

He began preaching about how believers still need the law and I started yelling at my television, “NO! NO! That’s NOT it!” His message, in summary, was that we are saved by grace, but God never threw away the 10 Commandments so we should still live by them. Grace saves us, but it’s the law that keeps our behavior in check. I’m thinking, “Has this guy ever met the Holy Ghost?”

If he had preached that grace saves us, but the law shows us our sin, then I would agree. I see that in the Scripture. What I don’t see, however, is that sons of God need the law in order to behave like their Daddy. (You know, all supernatural living is, is acting like God on the earth.)

The entire letter to the Galatians was the Apostle Paul’s response to what this veteran “mixture” preacher had to say. Paul would call those who are persuaded by that man’s preaching “foolish.” Let me show you the Scripture.

*Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell
on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death
was made as clear to you as if you had seen
a picture of his death on the cross.*

*² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive
the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses?*

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Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.

³ How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

—Galatians 3:1-3 (NLT)

We have already seen in the Scripture that the sons of God are led by the Spirit, and not under the law. We have also seen that it is foolish (senseless and silly) to begin in the Spirit (get saved under grace) and try to be perfected by depending on the law.

The law drives us to do something we are powerless to do.¹ It's impossible to be God-like without God Himself. That was satan's downfall. That's the thing that got Eve in trouble, too.

There are a million ways to define and explain sin, but I define sin simply as "differing from God." That's a pretty wide net, isn't it? Anything that is not the exact likeness of God is sin. That's why God placed Himself in us, so that we would be holy as He is holy,² and be perfect as He is perfect.³ For the believer, the very Spirit of God is our guide. God gave us Himself so that we could be like Him.

¹ Romans 8:3

² 1 Peter 1:16

³ Matthew 5:48

SPIRIT LED LIVING

*For the **grace** of God has appeared that
offers salvation to all people.¹² It **teaches us**
to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright and
godly lives in this present age,
—Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)*

The Scripture suggests that it is the grace of God that teaches us to live righteously. It's the goodness of God that leads man to repentance.⁴ The law and its demands were not intended to lead man anywhere except into the realization that he needed a savior.

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth...
—John 16:13*

The Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, is the believer's guide. He leads us. In fact, the Holy Spirit leads us to grace which teaches us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Grace.⁵ To say that you are saved by grace, but then led by the law is to say that the Spirit of God isn't capable of doing what Jesus said He would do.

Since Jesus said the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, then He must also be the Spirit of Grace be-

⁴ Romans 2:4

⁵ Zechariah 12:10; Hebrews 10:29

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cause grace and truth are tied together. According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Counselor, and also the Teacher.⁶ If Jesus thinks the Holy Spirit is all of that, what does the Law of Moses have left to be? Maybe Jesus was mistaken. Perhaps Paul was misguided as well. Maybe Jesus and Paul meant to say that the law leads the sons of God. No! Of course not.

Jesus didn't misspeak, and neither did Paul. God's full intention is to personally lead His family as a good Father. In establishing a new covenant, He has made the law obsolete.⁷ Choosing to be led by the law is like choosing to take notes using a chisel and stone tablet instead of taking notes on an iPad.

*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

God is a personal God. He's not just God, but He is Father. He doesn't operate under external rules and regulations. He placed His essence into us so that we would "naturally" operate su-

⁶ John 14:26

⁷ Hebrews 8:13

pernatually. You can't help but to walk in miracles when the Spirit of God is leading you.

The things the citizens of a nation are limited by don't limit sons of kings. The sons of kings live above the natural order of the country. So it is with the sons of the King. His Spirit in us enables us to far exceed that which those who live only by their natural senses could ever accomplish. The reason that nothing is impossible for you is because the creator of all possibility lives inside of you. Pay attention to what Jesus said about how the Spirit operates.

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth,
is come, he will guide you into all truth:
for he shall not speak of himself;
but **whatsoever he shall hear, that shall
he speak**: and he will shew you things to come.*
—John 16:13

The Spirit hears from the Father and that is what He speaks. Can you see that the Father leads the Spirit? The Father leads Jesus, too. When Jesus was on earth, He was led by the Spirit.

*Then **Jesus was led** (guided) by the
[Holy] Spirit into the wilderness (desert)
to be tempted (tested and tried) by the devil.*
—Matthew 4:1 (AMP)

Remember, Paul wrote that those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. Jesus is the Son of God, so it makes sense that the Spirit led him. I know that this line of thinking can be a challenge to our deeply seated sense of reverence, but Jesus walked the earth the exact same way as you and I do. He had nothing available to Him that you and I don't have.⁸

While it is true that Jesus completely fulfilled the law, it's equally true that Jesus took upon Himself all sin. In other words, Jesus did some things that we won't do. We will never pay the price for sin; Jesus made the full payment for that. There's nothing left for us in that area. However, we are to be led by the Spirit. That's for us today.

Being led by the Spirit isn't always a spectacular event. You won't always fall into a trance, hear an audible voice from heaven, or have God appear to you in a pillar of fire, but you will always have a sense of what He is saying. Even more than having a sense of what He is saying, you will know what to do, or rather, what He would have you to do.

Growing up, there were times I would venture out into unfamiliar territory as I explored and asserted my independence. When I was in a situation that alarmed me, or when I traveled too far

⁸ 1 John 4:17

out of bounds, I would often hear my mother's voice. Every day of my childhood, my mother told me, "God loves you, and so do I. You're a king's kid." She said that to me before I went to school, before I went to bed, when I got home, and whenever I talked to her on the phone. In fact, to this day she still says it to me.

When I got into situations that were uncomfortable, I would hear her speaking to me, which gave me the confidence to do what I had to do. If I was doing something that I shouldn't have been doing, those same words rang in my ears and kept me from going too far. Obviously my mother's voice couldn't be heard audibly when we were not together, but in those times I still heard her voice. God's voice is no different. When you have continually heard His Word, it will spring up in you and you will know what He wants.

Now that I am an adult, I hear my mother come out of me every day. The way I interact with people, the way I offer correction, it's all Mom. Why is that? It's because she is in me. We are one. I think my thoughts are my thoughts, but they are really her thoughts in me. I use my mother as an example, but the same thing can be said of my father as well. My father and I take it to an even higher level. He doesn't just pop out of my mouth when I speak, we look just alike, too. He's in me and I'm in him.

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My parents lead me every day of my life. Even when I am thousands of miles away from them, they live in me. Not only do they live in me, but I also live in them. I am in their thoughts every day. Whether we speak or not, we are together. This is how God the Father and Jesus operated.

Jesus did not begin His public ministry until He was 30 years of age. We know that before He taught, He studied the Torah and learned from the teachers. He had to grow in revelation just like you and I grow in revelation.⁹

The Father had to be formed in Jesus so that He would think the Father's thoughts, and act the way the Father acts. That is what it means to be one. That is the way God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit live. They are one in thought and in methodology. While they each have unique, individual personalities, their mode of operation is one. Jesus prayed for us so that we can be included in their union and in their fellowship.

*I have given them thy word... that they all may
be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that
they also may be one in us... I in them, and thou in me,
that they may be made perfect in one...*

—John 17:14, 21, 23 (abridged)

⁹ Luke 2:46-52

In this passage, Jesus describes the relationship between the Father and Himself. There have been whole denominational splits over whether God the Father and Jesus are the same. There's a Oneness church that doesn't believe God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are individuals. They have taken one Scripture, out of context, and made a doctrine out of it. In the passage we just read, Jesus explains what it means to be one. Jesus prayed that we, meaning you and me, be made one with Him and the Father.

How are we made one with God? We are made one by receiving His word. We are one because we believe the same word. The United States is one country, yet it is comprised of 50 states and more than 316 million people. We pledge allegiance to one flag. We are united as one people, all without losing our individuality.

Do you realize that you obey laws you don't even know exist? You're led by a constitution that you've probably never thoroughly read. Our culture influences our behavior more than written laws even could. It's the exact same thing with the kingdom of God.

Being led by God happens to happen all of the time. When we don't follow His leading, and something happens, even a minor situation, we blurt out "something told me..." That something is the leading of God. As you apply the things we

have discussed in this book, you'll find that you are led by God on purpose. That's when the supernatural really invades your life.

God's laws, His ways, are written in our hearts and in our minds.¹⁰ We may not follow them perfectly all of the time, but they are there. Of course, I'm not talking about the Mosaic Law. (That should be clear at this point.) I'm referring to the things that really matter to God. That's what is natural to us. Did you know that British psychologists from the University of Lincoln argue that people may actually be hard-wired to "love thy neighbor"? Science is confirming what the Word of God has known since time began.

Being led by God happens in many wonderful ways, but most often, we are led by His life having been formed within us through His word. A Greek poet, said, *"in him we live, and move, and have our being."* Paul quotes the secular poet in Acts 17:28 and confirms, *"we are His offspring."* The original writer thought he was referring to Zeus, but we know that He had tapped into revelation about the true and living God.

Our very existence is in God, and His existence is in us. All that we are is born out of all that He is. Where He goes, we go. What He does, we do. We are hidden in Christ.¹¹ Once the Spirit of

¹⁰ Hebrews 8:10

¹¹ Colossians 3:3

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God takes residence within us, we begin the journey of growing into the full stature of Christ.¹²

*And this is eternal life: [it means] to know
(to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with,
and understand) You, the only true and real God, and
[likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ
(the Anointed One, the Messiah),
Whom You have sent.
—John 17:3 (AMP)*

Much of our preaching has taught us to equate eternal life with going to heaven. Eternal life isn't a location or a destination; eternal life is knowing God. When you know God, you become united with Him. As you are united with Him, you begin to become like Him. As you become like Him, you act like Him. As you act like Him, you are brought into a supernatural existence. Just as an infant is fully human, but must grow into maturity, we are fully sons of God who are growing into maturity.

God leads us from the inside out. His life in us is the greatest gift we could ever receive. It is by grace that we are saved, a free gift of God.

I thank God for grace!

¹² Ephesians 4:13

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*For by one sacrifice he has made
perfect forever those who are being made holy.
—Hebrews 10:14 (NIV)*



Often when we don't seem to be yielding the results of our faith, we seek an answer within ourselves. What is it that we are doing wrong? Where did we miss it? What sin did we commit? I recognize that the road we are about to travel may seem contrary to what you have been taught most of your life. In fact, it will likely flip over your doctrinal apple cart and cause you to rethink (repent)

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what you thought you believed. I suppose that in order to fully live out the life of God we need to settle this matter based on Scripture, instead of tradition.

The matter we need to settle is sin. More specifically, what God actually requires in order for Him to forgive sin. You've probably heard that sin stops the power of God from working. That's something I used to teach, but I was wrong. I'd like to settle the matter from the Scripture so that we can be confident of our right standing with God and know that His power is always working for us.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful
and just to forgive us our sins, and to
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

—1 John 1:9

You have likely heard this Scripture quoted many times. Preachers around the globe have proclaimed, "If you've backslidden, come back to God. 1 John 1:9 says ... get restored into right relationship, get back in fellowship with God." It sounds really good. In fact, I have been guilty of giving that very type of invitation during altar calls myself. While it sounds good, even somewhat logical, it is not a new covenant idea.

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We certainly can take comfort in, and be encouraged by the fact that God is faithful to forgive us when we ask. It is not my intention to undermine the value of godly sorrow; however, in order to have the confidence we need to live as Jesus lived, we can never question whether or not God has already forgiven us. Further, we should never devalue the blood of Jesus by acting as though it alone was not sufficient to secure the eternal and continual forgiveness of every human being.

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

*⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

—1 John 1:5-8

It is important to allow the Bible to interpret itself. We need to figure out what walking in darkness is, and how to walk in the light.

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¹²*He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to **his people, who live in the light.***

*For **he has rescued us** from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who **purchased our freedom** and forgave our sins.*

—Colossians 1:12-14 (NLT)

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
“I am the light of the world.*

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

—John 8:12 (NIV)

*For you were once darkness, but **now you are light** in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

—Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

The Scripture is clear. You can likely find grace in these Scriptures without my commentary. Nevertheless, I would like to highlight Ephesians 5:8 for just a moment. Many of us are most familiar with the King James Version of the Bible. If that’s the translation you are following along in, this verse could pose a bit of difficulty in interpretation. In the KJV it says, “*ye were sometimes darkness.*” It is important to know that the word translated “sometimes” is more accurately translated “once.”

In essence, Paul is saying, “you *were once* darkness” (past tense). The NIV translates Ephesians 5:8 spot on. In fact, if you look up the definition of the Greek word translated sometimes, you will see that it absolutely does not mean “sometimes” the way we think of “sometimes.” It does mean “at some time,” or “at one time,” but this word does not imply, nor does it allow for the thought of going back and forth, from one side to the other.

Today we might say, “In April, sometimes it is hot, sometimes it is cold.” That is not the idea being presented in Ephesians 5:8. “At one time in January it was cold. Formerly, the temperature was below zero, but today, August 1st, it is a warm 80 degrees.” is the type of statement Ephesians 5:8 is like. Can you see that there is no wavering back and forth implied?

As we saw in John 8:12, Jesus is the light. If we are in Jesus, we are in the light. In fact, if we just cross over to His side, we are in the light. Too often, we equate our actions with whether we are walking in the light or in darkness. Walking in the light is actually a position, not a behavior. It’s a state of being. Either you are in England, or you are in America. You can never be in both places at once. A better example is either you have had solid food or you have not. Anyone that has raised a baby knows that once he tastes real food, he never

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wants to go back to baby food. There is no undo when it comes to an experience. You are a virgin or you are not. At one time, we all were virgins—now, that may no longer be the case.

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,
and the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son
cleanseth us from all sin.*

—1 John 1:7

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful
and just to forgive us our sins,
and **to cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.*

—1 John 1:9

Notice verse seven uses the word “cleanseth,” while verse nine uses “to cleanse.” “Cleanseth” is present tense. It is an active word that denotes a continuous action. A stone held under a waterfall is continually being cleansed. You can throw dirt onto the stone as much as you’d like, but none of it will stick. Sin can try to defile a believer, but it won’t stick because we are continually cleansed under the fountain of the blood of Jesus.

Does this mean there is no more sin? That we can do whatever we want and there is no such thing as sin anymore? The truth of the matter is God is not counting sin against us. God counted

all sin (past, present, and future) against Jesus. Jesus' blood took away sin, and won't give it back.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes twice "*all things are lawful.*"¹ If all things are lawful, then there can be no law breaking. As believers, we are led by the Spirit and constrained by the love of God. There are things that Christians just don't do. All things are allowed, but not everything is beneficial.

What shall we say then?

Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

²*God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin,
live any longer therein?*

¹¹*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to
be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

—Romans 6:1-2, 11

Here Paul says to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin. Reckon means to consider, or count. If we are dead to sin, how can it have any effect on us? If we are in the light, the blood of Jesus constantly washes us from all sin. Our account does not fill up because we are always under the blood. Don't be scared of the "if." Think of it as a mathematical equation.

¹ 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23

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In math, you have concepts such as “if ‘x’ then ‘y’.” “X” is settled and absolute. It exists and is not going anywhere. Believers have to realize their position is firmly established *in* Christ. Therefore, believers are in the light and aren’t going anywhere. We have to believe more in Christ’s righteousness than we do in our sins.

Now, if what I have said is true, and it is, then where does that leave us in regard to our sins? Are our sins somehow shielded from the cleansing power of the blood until we confess them? Does God stop the flow of the blood every time we sin, and then our confession mystically turns the fountain back on? That should sound absurd after what we just learned. Our sin doesn’t ever make it into our account. This, my friend, is “non-imputation of sin.”

*Blessed is the man to whom
the Lord will not impute sin.*

—Romans 4:8

Paul takes this idea from a psalm of David. This truth is found in the Old Testament.² I want you to see that Paul isn’t just making something up. He is talking about the exact same thing as David. Let’s see this verse in a few different translations:

² Psalm 32:1,2

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*"Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will
not take into account."*

(New American Standard Bible)

*"How joyful is the man the Lord
will never charge with sin!"*

(Holman Christian Standard Bible)

*"Blessed is the man to whom,
the Lord will not reckon sin."*

(American Standard Version)

*"Blessed is the man whom the Lord
will by no means charge with sin."*

(World English Bible)

God will never, not at all, by no means charge you with sin. Your sins are completely forgiven, and you are completely cleansed. Can you think of any more over-the-top, almost too-good-to-be-true good news than this?

Confession of sin is not a requirement for walking in the supernatural power of God. I know you weren't expecting that. Why would we have to confess our sin to God if He doesn't even remember it? Since God is not counting our sin against us, what are we confessing? Why are we confessing?

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*I, even I, am he that **blotteth out thy transgressions** for mine own sake,
and **will not remember thy sins.***

—Isaiah 43:25

*I have **blotted out** like a thick cloud
your transgressions, and like a cloud your sins.
Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.*

—Isaiah 44:22 (AMP)

*Who is a God like You, Who **forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression**
of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not
His anger forever, because He **delights in mercy**
and loving-kindness. ¹⁹ He will again have
compassion on us; He will **subdue and tread**
underfoot our iniquities. You will **cast all our**
sins into the depths of the sea.*

—Micah 7:18-19 (AMP)

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath
he **removed our transgressions** from us.*

—Psalm 103:12

Both the Old and New Testament confirm that God, in His sovereignty, has decided to forget about our sin. The psalmist so creatively says, “as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed

our sin from us." Why do *we* insist on remembering them?

Am I suggesting that we should not feel any type of remorse when we wrong each other, or do something evil? Your conscious should definitely check you when you do something wrong. I'm not telling you that sin is without negative consequence. What I am attempting to persuade you of is God is not waiting for you to do something *before* He forgives you. Forgiveness of sin is included in the finished work of Jesus.

When you do something wrong, it's okay to go to God and apologize. In fact, it's a good thing to be open with God about your areas of opportunity. When you do something that hurts your natural brother or sister, you apologize to them and your parents, right? You know your parents forgave you before you did it, but you still talk to them about it. That is a part of the relationship. Just don't think that it is your confession that earns God's forgiveness.

Your confession is not why God has forgiven your sin. Your sin is forgiven because of the blood of Jesus. You confess, or rather, talk to God about your sin *because* you are already forgiven. Do you realize that Paul never once instructed the church to confess sin to be forgiven?

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How is it that you think God would tell us to *“bless those who curse you,”*³ but choose to hold a grudge towards us until we confess? Keep your grace goggles on. In this instance, you don’t even need your grace goggles; you just have to employ a little common sense. Would God ask us to do something He doesn’t do Himself?

The reason this is such an important concept and so essential to reach a resolution on when deciding to live a supernatural life is because condemnation kills. It is well researched, and scientifically verified, that emotions directly correlate to our physical health. Fear can literally paralyze you, and fear can literally kill you.

Have you ever paid attention to the life span of humans before the Law of Moses was given? It was extraordinarily long. Men commonly lived hundreds and hundreds of years. Once the law was given, we see the life span drastically reduced. The law itself did not shorten man’s years, per se. God did not change the DNA of man so that we would live a shorter time. Fear was introduced in a way that was previously unknown.

I can think of nothing more stressful than being uncertain about a certain eternal future. You know that when you breathe your last breath you transition into forever, but you don’t know, for sure,

³ Luke 6:28

whether that forever will be in hell. That is no way to live. The amount of anxiety that builds up when you wonder about your eternal destiny is certainly enough to kill you.

“What if I missed confessing a sin, am I going to hell? What if I committed a sin and don’t know?” Friend, Jesus died for us to live free from the stress and worry of those types of thoughts. Jesus rose to assure us that the full price for all our sin, for all of eternity, had been fully satisfied.

*Therefore, there is now **no condemnation**
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
²because through Christ Jesus
the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you
free from the law of sin and death.*
—Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

The stress and worry of being damned should have no place in the life of a believer. The gospel, the good news is that Jesus saved you. That’s what a believer is supposed to believe.

I used to think that we should have an executing line right after altar call. That way, when someone got saved, we could kill him or her fast enough that they wouldn’t mess up their salvation with sin. I really thought it was better to die right after being saved than to live in a state of perpetu-

al insecurity. Now the truth has set me free, and I am able to enjoy life.

There is a marked difference between feeling condemned and being convicted by the Holy Spirit. Condemnation results in fear, while the Holy Spirit always points to the righteousness of Jesus resulting in liberty. Many Christians accept the devil's condemnation, mistaking it for the conviction of Holy Spirit. This should not be. Too many Christians believe that there is no condemnation only when they don't sin. If there were no sin, there could be no condemnation to begin with. Jesus was already condemned for our sins so that we can't be.

Remember, God is fair and just. He doesn't allow double punishment. It is God's justice that gives us confidence in the security of our salvation. Rejoice that God is holy and just. Jesus was condemned and you are free. Hallelujah!

I reiterate many of the same points because we have been so programmed, and so conditioned in wrong believing that hearing the truth once is just not enough. It may seem redundant, but your brain has to be washed, repeatedly, to get the stains of error out. When you read something like what I've written in this chapter, you can't get it all the first time through. You'll likely experience quite a bit of cognitive dissonance. That's okay.

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Take a deep breath and let it all sink in. Receive your freedom.

Now, you are free to believe that there is nothing holding you back from experiencing the very life of God. Walk in your freedom. Experience and enjoy the God kind of life.

12 GRACE GIVING

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
—Acts 20:35 (NLT)*



Movies and television series tend to limit the supernatural to things like ghosts, special powers, magic, and the like. The Bible, however, has made it clear that the supernatural can operate in every area of your life, even in your money. We have already given quite a bit of attention to how we become open to the supernatural through our belief and by beholding Jesus; still, there is another

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very practical access point into the supernatural, and that is through our giving.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we find out what the Christian standard for giving is. Paul never commands any of his churches to tithe into his ministry. In fact, Paul worked as a tent-maker in order to provide his own financing, so that no one felt obligated to sow into his ministry. Paul had a clear understanding about the effect of giving and its benefits; as a result, he didn't turn away gifts.

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows
generously will also reap generously.
—2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)*

The idea of this verse could likely be found in any farming textbook across the world. If you plant a few seeds, you only get a few crops. This idea doesn't seem like revelation; it seems more like common sense. Let's look at the preceding verse.

*Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort
the brethren, that they would go before unto you,
and make up beforehand your bounty,*

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*whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be
ready, as a matter of bounty [blessing],
and not as of covetousness.*

—2 Corinthians 9:5

The context of this farming lesson is actually in relation to giving financially. Paul had been bragging about the way the Corinthian church was going to give; so he sent a team to them, in advance, to make sure everything was ready. Paul's reputation is on the line here. It's important for him that the gift is all that he said it would be, and more. Because of Paul's bragging, others had been stirred to give.

If Paul doesn't receive a substantial offering, it could mean big trouble for him. Yet, he tells the church to give willingly, not grudgingly. Though it is his neck on the line, he doesn't manipulate the church into giving. He removes any pressure they may have felt. Then he drops the supernatural grace giving key into their laps.

The word translated *generously* from verse 6 literally means "blessing." *Covetous* means "a greedy desire to have more."¹ Paul's teaching in this passage is actually in direct contrast to much of the popular teaching on giving done today. Let's look at this passage from a literal translation.

¹ Thayer, Joseph. "Pleonexia." 4124. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

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*Necessary, therefore, I thought [it]
to exhort the brethren, that they may go before to
you, and may make up before
your formerly announced blessing, that this be
ready, as a blessing, and not as covetousness.*

*⁶ And this: He who is sowing sparingly,
sparing also shall reap; and he who is sowing in
blessings, in blessings also shall reap;
—2 Corinthians 9:5-6 (YLT)*

I admit that I felt angry, hurt, confused, and even betrayed when I got this revelation. Perhaps revelation is too spiritual of a word for what took place. What happened was during my personal time with the Lord, I studied this passage. I took time to study the meaning of the Greek words and to really absorb what the author was intending to impart. Then I understood why what I had been taught before never sat well with my conscience, and why I didn't see the reaping in my own life that I expected.

My entire life, I'd heard this passage used to get a big offering. I'd used it myself to raise money. People have been so misled in the area of giving that it literally brings me to tears. Out of desperation, many give far more than they can afford in hopes that God will bless them. Across Christian TV stations, you hear goofy things like "sow your \$201.40 seed and God will make 2014

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your year for acne free skin.” We have completely twisted what Paul was teaching. Let’s read the next verse.

*Every man according as he purposeth
in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly,
or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

—2 Corinthians 9:7

Religion teaches people to give out of their need, out of necessity. Not only that, but it often attaches a particular dollar amount to the giving. Religion takes all the joy and cheerfulness out of giving. On the other hand, supernatural grace giving is giving done the way God gives.

In grace giving, God will place an amount to give in your heart. That amount will be easy for you to give; you’ll do it cheerfully. It may be the largest amount you’ve ever given, but supernaturally, you will love doing it. Remember, the blessing of the Lord makes you rich and adds no sorrow with it.² You won’t have to fake this joy. When you give out of grace, your joy will be real and sincere.

I’m a big giver. I love to give, but there are times I have given the wrong way. The worst giv-

² Proverbs 10:22

ing I've ever done has been at church. One occasion still haunts me to this day.

One of my singers invited me to a church for a conference they were having. I believe she was singing a solo or something of that nature, so I agreed to attend. This is years ago, and I was still very gullible. I hadn't learned that even preachers lie in church.

This night, the pastor of the church was not preaching. He had brought in a "prophet" as part of the conference. Well, this prophet promised that for a seed of only \$250, God would unlock a major blessing. He singled me out and asked that I come to the front. He then proceeded to say that the Lord said if I was obedient and sowed this seed, then by Christmas (this conference was in November) God would have a truck full of what I'd been believing for pull up to my house and deliver all that I needed.

Well, at the time I was believing God to provide close to one hundred thousand dollars in studio equipment. This didn't seem like a bad exchange. If I sowed \$250.00, then I'd get a \$100,000.00 return. To top it off, if I sowed the money right then, I would get an "anointed key" that would open the lock on the back of the truck.

As I write this story down, it seems even more ridiculous than it did as a memory. You probably can guess that the truck never came. I did get the

studio equipment; however, I paid for every piece of it myself. A truck delivered some of the equipment, but the “anointed key” didn’t fit into the lock, the doors, the ignition, or anywhere else on it.

When I gave the \$250 dollar seed, I thought I was sowing in faith. I didn’t know the profit, I mean prophet, and that whole church was a farce. I was sincere in my giving, but I was sincerely wrong. I gave out of covetousness and need, not out of blessing. The entire time I was giving, I lacked joy. I was not a cheerful giver because I was not giving out of grace.

Years later, I was faced with another opportunity to give in a church conference. This time, the preacher didn’t have any keys and he did not name a specific amount to give. I could have held on to the memory of the false prophet and ignored the Spirit of God, but instead I gave \$1,000.00 in the offering. As he was preaching, I filled out my offering envelope and took it right up to the altar.

When I gave the \$250.00 offering, I was working for a large telecommunications company and had a very comfortable salary. When I gave this substantially larger offering, I was unemployed and preparing to move across the country to attend ministry school. I had no job lined up, and the preacher didn’t promise me anything for my

seed. This time I felt such a desire inside to give that I just couldn't hold it.

My brain was screaming for me to keep that money. I needed it. Even though my brain said "no," my heart was fully filled with joy and eager to give in spite of my lack. I had sincere joy because I was giving out of grace.

The entire time I was in ministry school, all of my needs were met. I didn't pay my bills late, I didn't lack for food or high-speed Internet. I was living in an all-sufficient state, and I was able to abound to the good work of being prepared for the work of ministry.

Was it my seed that caused my needs to be met? If you had asked me that question at that time, I would have certainly answered with a resounding "Yes!" Now, my answer is grace based. I can't take the credit. God met my needs, supernaturally. Is there a blessing in obedience to the Spirit of God? Absolutely! However, my giving didn't force God's hand to move on my behalf. My giving just opened up my hands to receive what God had already given to me. He gave me an opportunity to see that His word is true.

Now we are getting to the part of grace giving that defies natural reasoning. This next passage is where we find the key that causes us to jump over natural principles, and takes us into the territory of supernatural finances.

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*And God is able to make **all** grace abound toward you; that ye, **always** having **all** sufficiency in **all** things, may abound to **every** good work:*
—2 Corinthians 9:8

You mean to tell me that even though I am giving away what I have, I'll still have *all* sufficiency? I sure do! Paul is using the terms "all," "always," and "every," without reservation, and without fear of overreaching.

You're not bribing God with your giving; you're just walking in the supernatural. When you give, you connect intangible faith with the tangible world. That word *sufficiency* means "a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed; a mind contented with its lot, contentment."³ Doesn't that sound like the life you want to live? I sure want to live like that!

How do you get to the point of contentment? Easy, it's by grace. *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*⁴ Jesus is a good caretaker. Not only does He take care of your needs, He gives you what you want, too.

Paul isn't telling the Corinthians to give so that God will bless them. He is assuring them that when they give what they want to give, they

³ Thayer, Joseph. "Autarkei." 841. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 11th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

⁴ Psalm 23

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won't give themselves into lack. God will make all grace flourish in their lives, and they will be content.

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower
and bread for food will also supply and
increase your store of seed and will enlarge
the harvest of your righteousness.*

*¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that
you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result
in thanksgiving to God.*

—2 Corinthians 9:10-11

God is the source. He supplies the seed you have to sow. This same God is the One who will multiply your ability to sow even more. He will make sure you have enough to give to every charitable cause you want. He's not giving you something to give (sow) for the *purpose* of getting more (reap). Paul calls that covetousness. God is giving you something to give so that you can be like Him, so that you can do what you want. The Gospel of John tells us that "*God so loved that He gave...*"⁵ God is a giver.

Do you think God lacks anything? Of course He doesn't. He's the creator and sustainer of eve-

⁵ John 3:16

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rything. He gives because it's His nature. God gives because He wants to. He loves to be a blessing and to share His life. Let's look at what Jesus said about sowing and reaping.

*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not,
neither do they reap, nor gather into barns;
yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.
Are ye not much better than they?*
—Matthew 6:26

Jesus' teaching here is in direct opposition to what the vast majority of churches teach about money. (As a traveling preacher, I can make this statement confidently because I've personally visited many churches across the globe.) This verse follows an extended passage on money and possessions. Jesus is directly contradicting the so-called law of sowing and reaping where finances are concerned. It's not that Jesus is completely invalidating the law; instead, He is teaching that the family of God isn't bound by it.

"Look at the birds," Jesus says. "*Your* Father feeds them even though they don't give Him a tithe," He explains. Clearly, I'm paraphrasing, but that is the essence of what Jesus is teaching. After all the teaching He does on money, and assuring the hearers not to worry, Jesus drops the bomb, so to speak.

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*But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you.*

—Matthew 6:33

The connection I want you to make is that sowing and reaping is not the way kingdom kids operate. The children of God don't have to work for anything. Living from God literally means living off of God's resources. You can spend God's money and you can use God's ideas. You don't brag about your righteousness, you brag about His righteousness.

The kingdom of God is "*righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost*."⁶ Don't miss that. The kingdom of God is *in* the Holy Ghost. Where is the Holy Ghost? He's in you! God's righteousness is a gift received through faith in Jesus. Notice, neither tithes and offerings, nor sowing and reaping is included in the equation.

We are supposed to operate the same way God operates. Since that is so, we should give to be a blessing. We shouldn't give hoping to hit the jackpot as if God is a giant slot machine. Furthermore, we shouldn't give grudgingly or sparingly as if we have a limited supply. We give out of blessing, and in return, we receive blessing. The

⁶ Romans 14:17

issue isn't whether or not giving has a return on it because it absolutely does. The issue is the motive behind the giving; whether it was done based on the leading of the law or the leading of the Spirit.

Natural giving is done with the expectation of a return. Natural giving is an investment that carries risks. Supernatural giving is done out of grace. Supernatural giving has no risk because it is not done for the purpose of receiving a harvest (return on investment). It also has no risk because God is the source of all we have, so whether we give or not, God is there to supply our every need. That's a radical idea, I know.

A way to verify whether your giving stems from a life of grace or not is to check the result. Does the result of your giving produce thanksgiving to God, or thanksgiving to you? I'm not suggesting if someone tells you, "thank you," for a gift you gave to him or her you then haven't given out of grace. The homeless woman on the street will likely thank you if you give her something she needs, and she should.

The way to determine if you are giving out of blessing or out of covetousness is, when you hear "thank you," does your heart swell with pride because you feel as though you've done some wonderful thing? Or do you feel gratitude towards God for being able to bless someone else? Are you giving out of obligation and requirement, or are

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you giving out of grace? Are you giving to receive kudos, or are you giving because you want to? Jesus puts it like this:

*When you give to someone in need,
don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing
trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call
attention to their acts of charity!
I tell you the truth, they have received all
the reward they will ever get.*

*³ But when you give to someone in need,
don't let your left hand know what your right hand
is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father,
who sees everything, will reward you.*

—Matthew 6:2-4

Supernatural grace giving isn't compulsory or required. It's a privilege and a joy. If ever you are wondering if your gift is too large, just remember the gift God gave you, His very own Son. God gives because He is good. You can't make Him change His nature, but His nature sure can change you.

In the next chapter, we will look at living a led life. It's one thing to be driven to do something, it's quite another to be led in doing something. As we have seen in our look at giving, we will see that God wants us to be led in all we do.

13 GRACE GIVEN FRUIT

*For the grace of God that bringeth
salvation hath appeared to all men,
¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and
worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,
and godly, in this present world;
—Titus 2:11-12*



Even as the law was a schoolmaster that brought us to faith, grace is a schoolmaster that brings us into walking in the Spirit and the fullness of Sonship. Grace trains us to reject ungodli-

ness. Well-meaning preachers have missed this point for too long. It's not the pastor's job to train you to be holy. The pastor is supposed to teach you about grace, and grace will teach you how to live.

Of course, it is good for the preacher to say, "don't steal, love your husband, be kind," but to attempt those things without grace is futile. Star Trek is famous for the line "resistance is futile." Teaching good behavior apart from grace is futile. Grace is the teacher; the Spirit of God leads us into all truth.¹

Ungodliness is anything that is not the full expression of God's nature, character, and ability. Ungodliness is trying to be like God without God. Grace is not the liberty to go out and act crazy, as some have wrongly believed. Grace is the liberty to be personally tutored by the Spirit of God Himself. Grace is the liberty to be led by the Spirit, instead of led by the law.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
—Galatians 5:22-23*

¹ John 16:13

The only entry into the fruit of the Spirit, into the supernatural qualities of godliness, is grace. The law cannot give joy or peace. The law cannot generate faith. The fruit of the Spirit is only produced when the Spirit is in you. Somehow, we as a body of believers have gotten the idea that we are personally responsible for bringing forth fruit. Jesus repeatedly tells us that apart from Him we can do nothing.² I think we should believe Him.

It would be absurd for a husband to tell his wife, "Have a baby!", and never enter into her. The husband plants what is needed to produce fruit into his wife. Apart from him, she cannot have a baby. Similarly, it is the vine that transports nutrients into the branches that they may bear fruit. If a branch does not produce fruit, then it is probably not connected to the vine. While it is *possible* for a branch to be fruitless while connected to the branch, it is unlikely. It is *impossible* for a branch to be fruitful if it is disconnected from the vine.

The crux of the matter is that we don't manufacture the fruit of the Spirit on our own. We can't take responsibility for "having more faith," because faith comes from the Spirit. It is a gift. There aren't ten steps to increasing your faith, there is

² John 15:5

only one: stay connected to the vine. There is no special path to peace; it is a gift.³

Notice that verse 23 includes temperance, which means self-control, as fruit of the Spirit. Self-control is not the same as self-effort. When Jesus gave Himself over to the will of God to be crucified, He exercised self-control.

God will never override your will and force you to do anything. Only demonic spirits possess people, never God. God will press you, but never possess you. God does not take control of you and work through you like you're a robot. God works with you. The really neat thing about God is He doesn't expect you to be perfect right out the gate. Like a good teacher, He knows you're going to mess it all up before you get it right, and He is okay with that.

The difference between relying on self-effort and relying on grace is the power source. Self-effort relies on your limited power while grace relies on the infinite power of God. God gives you the ability to live out His will for your life. There is a response on your part, but it is God who is at work in you, energizing, and creating in you the power and desire to do His will.⁴

³ John 14:27

⁴ Philippians 2:13

GRACE GIVEN FRUIT

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that
we should walk in them.*
—Ephesians 2:10

As a saxophonist, when I prepare to perform a piece I select a mouthpiece, reed, and ligature that will complement the selection. For a jazz work, I will use a different setup than I would for a classical piece. I may even choose to use a particular horn because its tone and response favor the musical style of the piece I planned, in advance, to perform.

There are good works that God has planned for each of us to perform. He composed these songs in advance and hand selected just what instrument He would use to perform them. Picture it this way: God wrote a song, created an instrument to play it on, and now He is performing it.

Similarly, God predestined good works for you and me to do, and then He gave us the ability to do them. As if that were not enough, God rewards us just for cooperating with Him as He does these good works through us. You see, there is no self-effort involved; instead, it is a work of grace.

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*Thou therefore, my son,
be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*
—2 Timothy 2:1

We can be strong in the grace of God. In other words, we can allow the grace to be more effective. (I'm referring to grace as God's enabling power. This is not a salvation issue.) The decisions we make can either allow the grace of God to abound or to be frustrated. Did you know that the law is actually below God's true standards? Living by the law doesn't provide the same quality of life God has. That is why there are offerings for sin built right in to the law. God built a doorway into the law to allow Himself a way to bless imperfect people. Unfortunately, even keeping the law flawlessly did not make man "*perfect as God is perfect*."⁵

Being strong in grace is how true holiness is realized and accomplished. When God said, "*Let there be light*," there was light because He released it from His being. Light didn't have to try to be light; it just was light because God said so. Light came out of God.

When God says to us, "*Be holy*," His words make us holy.⁶ He releases holiness because He is holy. We don't have to try to be holy; we are holy

⁵ Matthew 5:48

⁶ Ephesians 5:26

because God says so. Holiness comes from God. That is not to say that grace is a “God will do it all for me” way of living. It’s not a genie in a bottle. Grace is a “God has perfectly positioned me to accomplish His will, and He’s given me the power to do it” way of living.

When we look at Abraham’s promise, we see that he still had to lay with Sarah in order to produce Isaac. God didn’t place Isaac into the womb of Sarah apart from Abraham’s participation. When Abraham lay with Hagar (a representation of the law), he did so relying on his own strength. God does not even acknowledge the results of that union. God calls Isaac Abraham’s only son, even though Ishmael came first.⁷ When Abraham conceived with Sarah (a representation of grace), he did so relying on the promise, and God accepted that fruit.

Fruit was God’s promise to Abraham just like it is God’s promise to us. God brings the fruit into manifestation. Our only job is to believe. Our faith gives God a channel through which His work can be done. Faith is the atmosphere of miracles. We accept that we cannot live the life of Christ without God’s enabling, and we also accept that we must take advantage of the grace given by God.

⁷ Genesis 22:2

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We get to live out the finished work of Christ. We don't have to live *for* God; we get to live *from* God.

Hallelujah!

14 GRACE CONFESSIONS

Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak...

—2 Corinthians 4:13 (AMP)



My hope is that the information I've shared in this book has caused you to make some radical adjustments to your belief. With those adjustments, I want to caution you not to throw the baby out with the bath water, so to speak. We shouldn't throw out everything we learned before our eyes opened to grace. There is great truth giv-

en in every generation, in every denomination, and in every movement. No one has gotten it all exactly right, but almost everyone has gotten something right. I'm just refining and adding clarity to the revelation of my fathers.

I am a product of great men of faith such as Kenneth Hagin, Keith Butler, and Creflo Dollar. They gave me a very solid foundation to build on. When the message of faith they taught is taken to the extreme, we end up in legalism, which isn't right. However, we can still take many of the principles we learned from them and put them to use under grace. We know now that it's not our power that makes faith work, it's God's power at work in us. We have learned that it is what we believe that cause us to do the things we do. In other words, belief governs behavior. We say and do those things we believe.

One principle I'd like to borrow from my fathers is that of confessing the Word of God. It's been said, "confession brings possession." I want to sharpen that a little. I say, "confession brings convincing." We can learn from the world of advertising that the more you see and hear something, the more it gets into you. That why new products, things no one really needs, flood the market with commercials and then suddenly everyone must have this thing they never needed be-

fore. The repetitive commercial convinced the people to buy the product.

In that sense, confession does bring possession, but it does so through convincing. As you say the following confessions aloud, as often as you'd like, you'll begin to believe them deeply. You'll believe your own voice, and you'll begin to believe your words. You're going to brainwash yourself with these confessions.

If you do this enough, you'll begin to believe what you're speaking more than you believe your senses and circumstances. As you become more and more convinced, you'll notice your life will begin to line up with your belief. Some people call it the law of attraction; I call it God's goodness. When you are fully convinced, you are in faith. When you are in faith, God's life is yours for the living, so enjoy it.

You may start with these confessions, but don't stop here. Write your own confessions. Personalize them for what you want to see. Share your confessions with your friends and family. Confess what you believe together, and then rejoice in the Lord because you have what you believe and say.

Favor & Love Confessions

The Lord, God Almighty, blesses the righteous;
I am the righteous so I know that God has blessed
me. I am surrounded with the favor of God
as with a shield of love.

Favor goes before me. Only goodness and mercy
follow me. God's unfailing love pursues me every
day of my life. God prepares a feast for me,
and my cup overflows with blessings.

God's favor lasts a lifetime; I wake up singing
songs of joy. God wants me to know that He
deeply, greatly, and affectionately loves me!
I am God's beloved.

I believe and receive that I am God's beloved.
He wants me to feel that I am loved by Him.
He wants me to know that I am special to Him.
He wants me to know that He values me as
His beloved. God is giving me more and more
revelation of His love for me!

The God of all creation, my Daddy, smiles on me,
and is so gracious towards me. God enlightens
me, and gives me favor and peace.

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I have found favor in the sight of God;
He makes all that I do prosper. Even those
who don't usually acknowledge God can
see that God is with me.

The angels marvel at the attention God gives me.
God has crowned me with glory and honor,
and given me the authority to rule over the works
of His hands. I am graced with favor,
and favored with grace. I can't shake it.
God will never let me go.

I'm a believer, and I believe what I say. Father,
I thank You for favor. I receive Your love now
and I am enjoying my walk in unmerited favor.

My Father is the All-Sufficient One who covers
me in favor. God's thoughts and plans for
me are good. God plans for me to prosper
and so I shall prosper.

God has redeemed my life from destruction
and crowned me with loving kindness,
and tender mercies. God fills my life with good
things. I am satisfied with God's desires for me.
My youth is renewed like the eagles.

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God loves me with the same passionate love
He has for Jesus. I have been given His glory and
honor. I am one with God. God is in me.

I constantly have good things to say.
I am in favor with all people. People go out
of their way to bless me.

Sin has no dominion over me; I am completely,
fully, and totally under grace. I am clothed
completely in God's favor.
I am blessed with every spiritual blessing. God
generously provides all that I need. I have
plenty left over and I share with others.

I have favor in great abundance. I am lavishly
loved by the Creator of the universe. My steps are
ordered and only good things are in store for me.

(Psalm 5:12; Psalm 23:5-6; Psalm 30:5;
Numbers 6:25-26; Genesis 39:3-4; Psalm 8:4-6;
Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 103:4-5; John 16:13;
James 1:5; John 17:22-23; Acts 2:47;
Romans 6:14; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 9:8)

Wisdom

God's grace is exceedingly abundant with faith and love. When I call Him, He answers and tells me great and mighty things I didn't know. I have perfect knowledge of every situation and every circumstance that I come up against, because I have the wisdom of God.

Jesus is my wisdom. I have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's matchless grace that He lavishes on me.

I have received the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God; the eyes of my understanding are being enlightened.

God has given me wisdom and understanding. He has made known to me the mystery of His will. The Spirit of Truth lives in me and teaches me all things. He guides me into all truth.

(1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:17;
John 16:13; Ephesians 1:9; 1 Timothy 1:14)

Righteousness

It is God's will that I reign in life through Jesus Christ. I receive a fresh abundance of grace today, and I embrace the gift of righteousness.

Jesus was made to be sin, and I was made righteous. For my sake, He became poor, and through His poverty, I have become rich.

I am saved, not because of righteous things I have done, but because of God's mercy.

God saved me through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. I have been justified by God's grace and made joint heir with Jesus, having the hope of eternal life.

Today I do the work of righteousness God requires: I believe in the One He sent.

Grace and peace is multiplied to me in the knowledge of God and of Jesus.

God's divine power has given me everything I need for a godly life through the knowledge of Jesus. I am favored and deeply loved.

I am the righteousness of God.

(Jeremiah 33:3; 1 Timothy 1:14; Ephesians 1:7-9, 17-18;
Romans 5:17; Titus 3:4-7; John 6:29; 2 Peter 1:2-3)

Provision

Because of God's great love for me, the blessing
that makes rich without sorrow rests heavily
on me, and on my finances, and on everything
I set my hand to do.

I am blessed everywhere I go. God favors me
with abundant prosperity. I am thankful for the
blessing of The Lord, which makes me rich
without sorrow or struggle.

My God and my Father supplies all my needs
from His riches in glory because of what Jesus
Christ has done for me. He makes all grace
abound in my life. I have everything I need
and more. Not only do I have enough for my
own wants and desires, I have plenty left over
to give joyfully to others.

I am thankful to be God's distribution center. I am
like a tree planted by the riverbank bearing
luscious fruit in every season, without fail.

Everything I do prospers and I prosper in
everything I do. God did not spare His Son Jesus;
instead, He gave Him up for me. So with Jesus,
God graciously gives me everything else.

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I have no lack in any area. God blesses everything I do. I have been made me the head and not the tail, I am always at the top and never at the bottom. I shall always have the upper hand because God favors me.

My God is good and His mercy endures forever. He always causes me to triumph. God is my desire and I am fully satisfied.

(Deuteronomy 28:3-13; Proverbs 10:22; Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Psalm 1:3; Romans 8:32; Psalm 34:10)

Faith

The word of The Lord forever stands firm in heaven. I am a believer, and not a doubter.

Like Abraham, my faith is unshakeable.

I do not waiver, I believe God.

My faith and trust grows ever stronger. I am completely sure that God is well able to do anything He promises. I hold unswervingly to the hope I profess, because God is faithful.

God's word always produces. It always accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it, and it prospers everywhere it goes.

I have faith in God.

My God is not a liar, I do not doubt Him. He fulfills all His promises. Not one of His words has ever failed.

God is never angry with me or against me because of the precious blood of Jesus.

I have no fear. I am full of faith.

I choose to believe. The gift of faith is active and effective in my life. I receive it with joy. I am fully persuaded of God's goodness, grace, and love.

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Faith works by love and God is love.

God loves me unconditionally.

Because of God's love, I believe.

I am a believer. My faith is on a solid foundation
and cannot be shaken.

I walk by faith, not by sight.

(Psalm 119:89; Romans 4:19-21; Hebrews 10:23; 2
Corinthians 5:7; Numbers 23:19; Galatians 5:6; 1 Kings 8:56)

Healing

The Spirit of God, the very same Spirit Who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in me. Just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He is giving life to my mortal body by this same Spirit living within me. Healing is within in me, it is my possession. I don't wonder if it is God's will that I be healed, I am sure of it.

God is both able and willing to heal me, so I receive perfect health and wholeness now. Jesus was beaten so I could be whole; He was whipped so I could be healed. Therefore, I am healed, and I am whole.

Jesus personally carried my sins in his body on the cross so that I would be dead to sin and all of its results. Since I am dead to sin and death, I am alive to righteousness and life. I don't have a right to be sick, it is illegal for me.

By His wounds, I am completely healed.

My brain is healed and functioning at above average capability. My eyes are healed and see with absolute clarity. My lips, teeth, tongue, and gums are healed. My hearing is healed. My throat, voice, esophagus, and stomach are healed. All my internal organs are healed and function in perfect obedience

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to the way God designed them to operate.
My blood is healed. My antibodies are strong,
plentiful, and work with military precision,
with no mishaps. My joints, bones, and
ligaments are healed. My muscles are healed.
My skin is healed. My hands and feet are healed.
No lump, mass, cyst, growth, cancer, tumor,
or any other abnormality can exist on
or in my body. I am healed!

Jesus paid the total cost for my healing and
I have no right to sickness or disease. My God
rescues me from every trap, and protects me
from deadly disease and plagues.

Jesus came that I would have life and enjoy life. I
have life in abundance, to the full, because of
Jesus. My Father is the God who heals;
therefore, I am a carrier of healing.

With all that I am, I praise The Lord. I will never
forget the good things He does for me. He has
forgiven all my sins and He has healed all my
diseases. I am healed because God loves me. I am
God's beloved. I am the righteousness of God.
I am healed. Thank You, Jesus!

(Romans 8:11; Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24;
Psalm 91:3; John 10:10; Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:2-3)

SALVATION PRAYER

If you would like to personally receive the grace of God, and accept Jesus as your savior, pray these words from your heart:

Jesus, I accept You as my Savior. Thank You for dying in my place. Thank You for enduring the punishment I deserved. I believe that Your precious blood has cleansed me from all my sin, past, present, and future. I believe that You rose from the dead, and that You are alive now and forevermore. I believe that I am a beloved child of God and heaven is my home. Thank You for giving me life. I receive Your life and Your Spirit. In Jesus name, Amen.

We Want to Hear From You

If you prayed this prayer, have a prayer request, a testimony, or even a question, please send us an email at info@livefree.cc.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Will Rucker is the lead pastor of Freedom Life Grace Church in Dallas, TX, and separately heads Like Hymn Ministries, Int'l, a non-profit, performing arts organization. He is a proud Liberty University alumnus, having earned degrees in Religion, Biblical Studies, and Church Ministries.

Will teaches the Bible in a practical and easy to understand style. As an Apostle of Grace, Will's ministry is focused on the New Covenant, and revealing the finished work of Jesus. Anointed by the Holy Ghost, Will preaches the kingdom of God, and teaches those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence – and will continue doing so, passionately, until Jesus' return.

Be a part of what God is doing! Help us spread the Good News across the globe. For more information on how you can partner with and support this ministry, or for more resources by Will Rucker, visit his website at www.williamruckerministries.com.