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The Gospel of Grace — Lest Any Man Should Boast



The Gospel of Grace — Lest Any Man Should Boast Revealed as the Complete Removal of Human Confidence, Effort, and Glory So That Christ Alone Is the Source, and the Glory of Salvation



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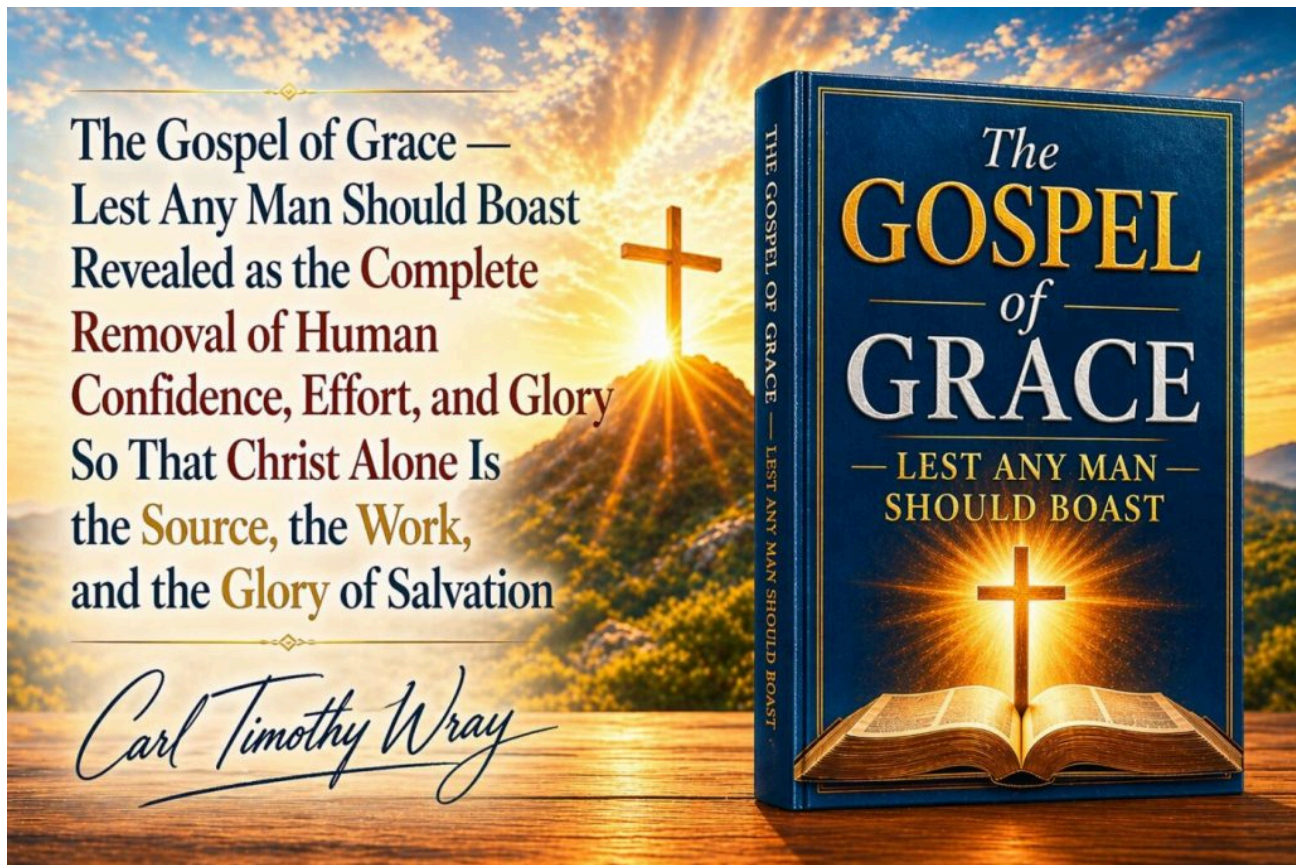
The Gospel of Grace: Author

By Carl Timothy Wray

[Carl Timothy Wray](#) is a teacher of the Finished Work of Christ, devoted to unveiling the full counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation. His writings focus on the Gospel of Grace as the revelation of God's sovereign work—where salvation is not initiated, sustained, or completed by man, but fully accomplished in Christ. Through a clear and consistent unveiling of Scripture, Carl exposes religious mixture, removes the burden of performance, and reveals the rest, identity, and assurance found in Christ alone. His mission is to proclaim a Gospel where God receives all the glory and man stands as the recipient of divine life.



The Gospel of Grace — Lest Any Man Should Boast reveals the true meaning of salvation by grace through faith, showing that all human effort, works, and self-confidence are completely removed in the finished work of Christ. This book explains how boasting is not just outward pride but inward reliance on self, and how the cross of Christ eliminates every ground for human glory. Through powerful Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, this teaching uncovers how faith is given by God, righteousness is established in Christ, and the believer stands justified apart from works. If you've struggled with performance, effort, or trying to earn favor with God, this message will lead you into rest, freedom, and the true understanding of the [Gospel of Grace](#).



1. New Book 2. Download Free PDF

🔥 The Gospel of Grace: Introduction

There is one thing the natural man will fight to keep until his final breath—
a reason to take credit.

It may not sound like pride.

It may not look like arrogance.

It may even wear the language of humility.

But deep within the heart of man is a quiet desire to say:

"I believed"



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"I chose."

"I endured."

And in that subtle place...

boasting lives.

The Gospel of Grace does not merely forgive sin—

it **removes every foundation upon which man could ever glory in himself.**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast." — Ephesians 2:8–9

This is not a small statement.

This is not a side note in the Gospel.

This is the **divine boundary line** God has drawn around salvation.

Nothing of man enters.

Nothing of man contributes.

Nothing of man completes.

Because if even the smallest fragment of salvation could be traced back to human effort—

➔ Man would boast.

➔ Flesh would glory.

➔ Grace would be compromised.

This book is not about silencing loud pride—

it is about exposing **hidden confidence.**



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Boasting is not just what a man says...

it is **what he trusts in.**

A man can be silent and still boast.

A man can appear humble and still boast.

A man can preach Christ—and still secretly trust in himself.

So the question is not:

“Do you brag?”

The question is:

👉 **What are you relying on as the reason you stand?**

From Abraham before the law...

to Israel under the law...

to Christ at the cross...

to the new man in the Spirit...

God has been working one consistent purpose:

➡ **to remove boasting completely**

➡ **to establish Himself as the only source of life, righteousness, and standing**

▮ “Where is boasting then? It is excluded.” — Romans 3:27

Not reduced.

Not managed.

Excluded.

This is the Gospel of Grace.



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Boasting is gone—
but yet been fully seen.

Chapter 1 — What Does “Lest Any Man Should Boast” Really Mean?

Definition — The Surface Meaning

The phrase “lest any man should boast” comes directly from one of the clearest declarations of the Gospel:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.” — Ephesians 2:8–9

At the surface level, this seems simple:

- Salvation is by grace
- Not by works
- So no one can boast

Most read this and think:

☞ “God doesn’t want people bragging.”

But that is only the outer layer.

Because the word “boast” does not just mean speaking proudly...

- ➔ It means having **any reason to take credit**
- ➔ It means having **any ground of confidence in yourself**
- ➔ It means having **any part of salvation traced back to you**



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...is not just correcting speech—

👉 It is **removing human contribution entirely**

Revelation — The Deeper Meaning

To understand boasting, we must see what God is actually eliminating.

Scripture doesn't say boasting is discouraged...

It says it is **excluded**:

“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.” — Romans 3:27

Excluded means:

- Shut out
- Denied access
- Given no place to exist

So what exactly is being excluded?

👉 **Any system where man can take credit for his standing before God**

This includes more than obvious works.

It includes:

- Trusting your obedience
- Trusting your repentance
- Trusting your consistency



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your faith as something you produced

Because if any part of salvation originates from man...

➔ Man now has something to boast in.

That's why Scripture goes even further:

▮ "That no flesh should glory in his presence." — 1 Corinthians 1:29

Not reduced glory...

Not shared glory...

☞ **No flesh glorying at all.**

Boasting Redefined

Boasting is not volume—

☞ **It is source.**

Boasting is:

- ➔ What you rely on
- ➔ What you credit
- ➔ What you believe is the reason you stand

A man can say nothing...
and still be boasting inwardly.

Because boasting lives in **confidence**, not conversation.



God's Intent from the Beginning

This was not introduced in the New Testament.

God declared this long before:

“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me...”

— Jeremiah 9:23–24

God has always been after one thing:

👉 **to remove every other ground of glory**

- Not wisdom
- Not strength
- Not riches
- Not effort

Only Him.

The Problem with Man

Man does not naturally reject God...

👉 He tries to **partner with God**

This is the root issue.



- A role
- A contribution
- A reason to say, "I was part of this"

But grace does not allow partnership in origin.

Because if man contributes to the root...

➡ He will claim part of the fruit.

The Absolute Nature of Grace

Grace is not:

- God helping you
- God assisting your effort
- God finishing what you started

Grace is:

👉 **God doing what man could never begin**

That's why Paul writes:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..." — Titus 3:5

And again:

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Christ..." — Galatians 2:16



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Every door is being closed.

Every pathway back to self is being cut off.

Why Boasting Must Be Removed

Because boasting does something dangerous:

☞ It **shares glory with God**

And God will not share His glory:

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another...” —
Isaiah 42:8

If salvation includes man’s effort...

- ➔ Glory is divided
- ➔ Grace is diluted
- ➔ Christ is diminished

So God designed salvation in such a way that:

☞ **only He can be credited**

Declaration

Boasting has no place in the Gospel.



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salvation.

the presence of God.

Every root of self-confidence is being uprooted.
Every trace of human credit is being removed.

You do not stand because of what you did.
You do not stand because of what you chose.

👉 **You stand because God acted.**

Call to Action

Search your heart.

Not your words—your **source**.

What are you trusting in?

What are you leaning on?

What do you believe is the reason you stand before God?

Lay it down.

Because the Gospel of Grace is calling you into something higher:

- ➔ A place where Christ alone is your righteousness
- ➔ A place where God alone is your source
- ➔ A place where all boasting is silenced

Rest there.



Live there.

Chapter 2 — Boasting Is Confidence: What Are You Trusting In?

Definition — Boasting Is Not Speech, It Is Trust

Most people think boasting is something you say.

But Scripture reveals something deeper:

👉 Boasting is not about words...

👉 **It is about confidence.**

What a man **trusts in**...
that is what he boasts in.

That's why Paul writes:

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.” — Philippians 3:3

Notice the connection:

- Rejoicing in Christ
- **No confidence in the flesh**

Because confidence in self...



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Revelation — The Invisible Nature of Boasting

Boasting does not need a voice.

It lives in **where you lean**.

A man may never say, "I deserve this" ...
...but if he believes his actions contributed—

☞ he is boasting.

Scripture exposes this hidden dependency:

"But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead." — 2 Corinthians 1:9

God allows man to come to the end of himself for one reason:

➡ **to remove self-trust completely**

Because as long as a man trusts himself—even slightly—

➡ grace is not fully seen

➡ boasting is still alive

Two Sources of Confidence

Every man is drawing from one of two wells:



✘ Confidence in the Flesh

“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm...” —
Jeremiah 17:5

This includes:

- Your effort
- Your discipline
- Your consistency
- Your spiritual performance
- Even your ability to “believe right”

This is subtle...

Because it often looks like sincerity.

But it is still:

☞ **self as the source**

✔ Confidence in God Alone

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” — Proverbs 3:5–6

This is not partial trust.

This is not shared trust.

☞ This is **total dependency**



Where a man says:

- Not my strength
- Not my effort
- Not my understanding

➔ **Only Him**

What You Trust In Reveals What You Boast In

This is the dividing line.

A man may say "grace" ...
but still trust his consistency.

A man may preach Christ ...
but still rely on his obedience.

A man may speak humility ...
but still draw confidence from himself.

So the real question is not:

☞ "What do you believe?"

The real question is:

☞ **What are you leaning on?**

David Saw This Clearly



“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” — Psalm 20:7

Chariots and horses represent:

- Strength
- Ability
- Resources
- Systems

Today, that same principle applies spiritually:

Some trust in:

- Their prayer life
- Their discipline
- Their knowledge

But the man of grace says:

👉 **“My confidence is not in what I bring—
but in who He is.”**

Paul’s Personal Testimony

Paul didn’t just teach this—he lived it.

“Though I might also have confidence in the flesh... But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” — Philippians 3:4–7



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Everything a man could boast in:

- Knowledge
- Zeal
- Discipline
- Religious status

And he said:

➡ **All of it is loss**

Why?

Because confidence in the flesh...

☞ is boasting in disguise.

The Great Exchange

God does not improve your confidence...

☞ He replaces it.

From:

- Trust in self
- ➡ To
- Trust in God who raises the dead

This is not behavior modification—

☞ This is **source transformation**



The Root Problem

Man does not struggle with sin as much as he struggles with:

☞ self-reliance

Because self-reliance feels safe...

- "I can manage this"
- "I can maintain this"
- "I can stay right with God"

But grace declares:

- ➔ You cannot sustain what you did not start
 - ➔ You cannot maintain what you did not produce
 - ➔ You cannot complete what only God began
-

Declaration

Every false confidence is falling.

Every hidden trust in self is being exposed.

You are not sustained by your effort.

You are not preserved by your strength.

☞ **You stand because God upholds you.**



Call to Action

Examine your confidence.

Not your language—your **leaning**.

Where do you go when pressure comes?

What do you rely on when weakness shows up?

Is it your strength...

or His?

Let go of self-support.

Step into full dependency.

Because the Gospel of Grace is not calling you to try harder—

☞ It is calling you to **trust deeper**

🔥 Chapter 3 — The Hidden Boasting in Religious Obedience

Definition — When Obedience Becomes a Source

Obedience, in itself, is not the problem.

The issue is **what obedience becomes in the heart of man**.

When obedience is seen as:



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son God accepts you

- The basis of your standing
- The cause of your righteousness

☞ It has shifted from fruit...

☞ to **source**

And the moment obedience becomes your source—

➡ **boasting is born**

Revelation — The Subtle Nature of Religious Boasting

Boasting does not always look like pride.

Sometimes it looks like:

- Discipline
- Commitment
- Dedication
- Consistency

But underneath it all, there can be a hidden voice saying:

☞ "This is why I stand."

Jesus exposed this clearly:

"God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are... I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." — Luke 18:11–12



This man wasn't lying.

He was actually doing those things.

But he turned his obedience into:

➔ **his confidence**

➔ **his righteousness**

➔ **his reason for acceptance**

And Jesus said the other man—the one with no works to present—

➔ went home justified.

The Deception of Sincere Effort

This is what makes it dangerous.

Religious boasting is not always arrogant—

☞ it is often **sincere**

A man can:

- Pray sincerely
- Serve faithfully
- Live morally



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trusting in those things.

That's why Scripture says:

"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." — Romans 10:2–3

They weren't rebellious...

👉 They were **trying**

But trying to establish righteousness is still:

➡ **boasting in self**

When Righteousness Is Self-Produced

The prophet saw this long before:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." — Isaiah 64:6

Notice this carefully:

It doesn't say **sins** are filthy rags...

👉 It says **righteousnesses**

Meaning:



- ➔ The best man can produce
- ➔ The cleanest life he can live
- ➔ The highest standard he can reach

Still cannot stand before God.

Why?

Because it originates from man.

And anything that originates from man—

☞ gives man room to boast.

The Law Exposed This Completely

The law was never given to make man righteous.

It was given to:

- ➔ Reveal man's inability
- ➔ Expose hidden boasting
- ➔ Show that man cannot produce what God requires

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse...” — Galatians 3:10

Why?

Because the law demands perfection.



And the moment a man tries to meet that demand—

☞ he has entered into a system where he must rely on himself.

And reliance on self...

☞ is boasting.

The Root of Religious Boasting

It all comes down to this:

☞ **Man wants to participate in what only God can accomplish**

He wants:

- A role in his salvation
- A part in his righteousness
- A reason to say, "I was involved"

But grace removes that completely.

Because if man contributes to the root—

☞ he will claim part of the fruit.

The Difference Between Fruit and Source

This is the dividing line most miss:



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ious Mind

- Obedience = the reason I am accepted

✓ Grace-Revealed Mind

- Obedience = the result of being accepted

One produces boasting...

The other produces gratitude.

One says:

☞ "Look what I've done"

The other says:

☞ "Look what He has done in me"

Christ Ends This Entire System

Jesus did not come to improve your obedience.

He came to:

☞ **be your righteousness**

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." —
Romans 10:4

End means:



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- Termination

- Fulfillment

- ➔ No more self-produced righteousness
 - ➔ No more performance-based standing
 - ➔ No more ground for boasting
-

Declaration

Every hidden confidence in obedience is being exposed.

Every reliance on performance is being removed.

You are not accepted because of what you do.

You are not justified because of what you produce.

☞ **You are accepted in Christ alone.**

And everything that flows from your life—

- ➔ flows from Him
 - ➔ not from you
-

Call to Action

Look beyond your actions...

Look at your **source**.



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believe you are right with God?

Is it because of what you've done...
or because of what Christ has done?

Lay down every hidden confidence.

Let obedience return to its rightful place:

▶ not as your foundation

▶ but as your fruit

Rest in Christ.

Stand in Him.

And let all boasting fall.

🔥 Chapter 4 — Faith Is Given, Not Generated

Definition — Is Faith Yours or God's?

The Gospel declares:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” — Ephesians 2:8

Most people agree grace is a gift...



etly assume:

☞ **faith is their part**

They believe:

- God provided salvation
- But they produced the faith to receive it

And in that subtle shift—

☞ **boasting survives**

Because now a man can say:

☞ “God did His part... and I did mine.”

Revelation — Faith Removes Boasting Because It Is Given

Scripture does not present faith as something man originates.

It presents faith as something:

☞ **God supplies**

| “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” — Romans 12:3

Not developed...

Not self-produced...



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(en, distributed)

And again:

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...” — Hebrews 12:2

Author means:

- ➔ the origin
- ➔ the source
- ➔ the beginning

So if Christ is the author—

☞ faith did not begin with you.

Even Belief Is Granted

This is where it gets undeniable:

“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ... to believe on him...” —
Philippians 1:29

Belief itself is:

☞ **given**

Not earned

Not produced

Not generated

Given.



Why This Matters

Because if faith originates from you—

➔ you now have something to boast in.

You can say:

- “I believed when others didn’t”
- “I responded correctly”
- “I had enough faith”

And now, subtly:

☞ **you become the difference**

But grace will not allow that.

Faith as a Work vs Faith as a Gift

This is the divide:

✗ Faith as a Work

- “I chose to believe”
- “I produced faith”
- “My faith saved me”

➔ Hidden boasting remains

✓ Faith as a Gift

- "God opened my eyes"
- "God gave me faith"
- "Christ is the source of my belief"

➔ All boasting removed

The Blind Cannot See Unless Given Sight

Jesus revealed this principle clearly:

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." —
John 6:44

And again:

"Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given
unto him of my Father." — John 6:65

No man can...

Unless it is:

☞ **given**

Faith is not man reaching God—

☞ It is God enabling man to see.

Faith Comes by Hearing — But Who Opens the Ear?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” — Romans 10:17

But hearing is not automatic.

God must open it:

“The Lord opened her heart, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.” — Acts 16:14

So even the process of faith:

- Hearing
- Receiving
- Believing

☞ is initiated by God.

The Final Removal of Boasting

Now we see the full picture:

- Grace is given
- Salvation is given
- Righteousness is given
- **Faith is given**



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ains for man to boast in?

👉 Nothing

That's the point.

The True Nature of Faith

Faith is not:

- A human effort to believe harder
- A mental decision to try
- A spiritual work to achieve something

Faith is:

👉 the awakening of the heart by God Himself

It is:

- ➔ seeing what God reveals
 - ➔ receiving what God gives
 - ➔ resting in what God has done
-

Declaration

Faith did not come from you.

You did not produce it.

You did not sustain it.

You did not complete it.



☞ **God gave it.**

So you cannot boast in your belief—

Because even your belief...

➡ came from Him.

Call to Action

Release the pressure.

You are not responsible to manufacture faith.

You are not called to produce belief.

Turn your eyes to Christ—

☞ the author

☞ the finisher

☞ the source

Rest in Him.

Because the same God who gave you faith...

➡ will complete what He started.



Chapter 5 — Abraham: Boasting



Excluded Before the Law

Definition — Righteousness Before Works

Most people think grace began in the New Testament.

But God established the pattern long before the law ever existed—
in the life of Abraham.

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” — Romans 4:3

Abraham was declared righteous:

- Before the law
- Before commandments
- Before religious systems

☞ Simply by believing God.

This reveals something powerful:

- ➔ Righteousness was never meant to come from works
- ➔ Therefore, **boasting was never meant to exist**

Revelation — Boasting Was Denied at the Beginning

Paul makes it unmistakably clear:



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Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before
God. — Romans 4:2

Abraham could have had something to boast in—

☞ **if works were involved**

But they weren't.

So Paul asks:

▮ "Where is boasting then? It is excluded..." — Romans 3:27

This wasn't a new idea.

It was the original design.

The Moment Everything Was Settled

Let's go back to the source:

▮ "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." —
Genesis 15:6

Notice what is missing:

- No works
- No performance
- No conditions
- No effort

Just:



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and God's response

God did the counting.
God did the declaring.
God established the righteousness.

Abraham contributed nothing to the result—

➡ therefore he had nothing to boast in.

Faith vs Works — The Clear Divide

Paul explains the difference perfectly:

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” — Romans 4:4–5

This is one of the strongest statements in Scripture.

If you work—

➡ God owes you (debt)

If you believe—

➡ God gives freely (grace)

And grace eliminates debt...

☞ which eliminates boasting.

The Shocking Truth: God Justifies the Ungodly

Read that again:

“God... justifieth the ungodly...” — Romans 4:5

Not the improved

Not the cleaned up

Not the qualified

☞ **the ungodly**

Why?

Because if God waited for godliness—

☞ man could claim credit for becoming worthy.

But God justifies the ungodly to ensure:

☞ **all glory belongs to Him**

Abraham Had Nothing to Present

Abraham did not come to God with:

- A track record
- A performance
- A righteousness



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h:

👉 nothing but belief

And that belief itself...

➡ was met by God's declaration.

Even Circumcision Came After

Paul makes this point to shut down religious systems:

"Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? ...How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision?

Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision." — Romans 4:9–10

Meaning:

👉 Abraham was declared righteous **before** any outward act.

So no ritual...

no system...

no obedience...

➡ could be the reason he stood righteous.

The Promise Was Never Through the Law

"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham... through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." — Romans 4:13



The inheritance came by promise—

☞ not by performance.

Because if it came through the law:

| "...faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect." — Romans 4:14

Abraham's Faith — What Was It Really?

Abraham's faith was not:

- Effort
- Striving
- Self-production

It was:

| "Being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."
— Romans 4:21

Faith is:

☞ **confidence in God's ability—not yours**

And when confidence is placed fully in God—

➡ boasting disappears.



Why Abraham Matters to You

Paul says this wasn't just written for Abraham:

“Now it was not written for his sake alone... But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed...” — Romans 4:23–24

This is your pattern.

This is your foundation.

This is your Gospel.

Declaration

Righteousness has never come from works.

It has never come from performance.

It has never come from effort.

☞ It has always come from God.

And because it comes from God—

- ➔ you have nothing to boast in
- ➔ nothing to present
- ➔ nothing to claim

Only Him.



Call to Action

Let Abraham teach you.

Lay down:

- Your effort
- Your performance
- Your need to qualify

And believe.

Not in yourself—

☞ but in the God who justifies the ungodly.

Stand where Abraham stood.

And let all boasting fall.

🔥 Chapter 6 — Israel: Boasting Exposed Under the Law

Definition — The Purpose of the Law

Most people believe the law was given to make man righteous.

But Scripture reveals something different:

☞ The law was given to **expose man**, not fix him.



“Now we know that what things soever the law saith... that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” — Romans 3:19

Notice the language:

- **Every mouth stopped**
- **All guilty**

Why?

☞ Because the law confronts man’s confidence.

Revelation — The Law Targets Boasting

The law didn’t just reveal sin—

☞ It revealed **self-righteousness**

It exposed the deep belief in man that says:

“I can do this.”

“I can meet the standard.”

“I can be righteous.”

Paul describes Israel this way:

“Behold, thou art called a Jew... and makest thy boast of God...” — Romans 2:17

They weren’t boasting in idols...



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...e boasting **in their relationship with God**

The Subtlety of Religious Boasting

Israel had:

- The law
- The commandments
- The covenant

And instead of humbling them...

☞ it became their **confidence**

“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.” — Romans 10:2

They were sincere.

They were passionate.

But they missed the point.

The Fatal Error

Here it is:

“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” — Romans 10:3

This is the root of boasting:



☞ **establishing your own righteousness**

Not denying God...

Not rejecting God...

👉 Trying to **add yourself to God's work**

God Warned Them From the Beginning

Even before they entered the land, God told them:

“Speak not thou in thine heart... saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land...” — Deuteronomy 9:4

And again:

“Understand therefore, that the Lord thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people.” — Deuteronomy 9:6

God knew:

👉 Man would try to take credit.

The Law Could Not Produce Righteousness

The law demanded perfection:

- Complete obedience



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ation

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight...”

— Romans 3:20

Why?

Because the law shows you what is right—

☞ but gives you no power to become it.

The Result of the Law

Instead of producing righteousness, the law produced:

- Awareness of sin
- Exposure of weakness
- Revelation of inability

“Therefore by the law is the knowledge of sin.” — Romans 3:20

And deeper than that—

☞ it revealed the **pride of man**

Israel’s Pursuit — The Tragic Outcome

“Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.” — Romans 9:31

“Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law...” —
Romans 9:32

They tried to earn what can only be given.

And in doing so—

☞ they stayed in boasting.

The Curse of Self-Reliance

“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm...” —
Jeremiah 17:5

This includes trusting:

- Your effort
- Your obedience
- Your ability to keep the law

Because the moment you trust in yourself—

☞ you are under a system that demands perfection.

And no man can meet that demand.

Why the Law Had to Fail



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intended the law to succeed in making man righteous.

It was designed to:

- ➔ Break man's confidence
- ➔ Shut down boasting
- ➔ Lead man to Christ

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” — Galatians 3:24

The law brings you to the end of yourself—

☞ so you can receive what only God can give.

Declaration

Your effort cannot justify you.

Your obedience cannot establish you.

Your performance cannot sustain you.

The law has already proven it.

☞ You cannot produce righteousness.

And because you cannot produce it—

➔ you cannot boast in it.

Call to Action



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do its work.

Let it expose:

- Your inability
- Your weakness
- Your need

But don't stop there.

Let it lead you to Christ—

- 👉 the end of the law
- 👉 the end of striving
- 👉 the end of boasting

Lay down self-effort.

Receive divine righteousness.

And rest in the One who fulfilled it all.

🔥 Chapter 7 — The Cross: Where Boasting Was Crucified

Definition — The Cross Ends Human Contribution

The cross is not just where sin was forgiven...



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...the man was removed from the equation.

Most see the cross as:

- Payment for sin
- A doorway to forgiveness

But Scripture reveals something deeper:

☞ The cross **ended the old man completely**

▮ “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...” — Romans 6:6

If the old man is crucified...

➡ then the one who could boast is gone.

Revelation — The Cross Silences All Glory in Self

Paul makes one of the strongest declarations in Scripture:

▮ “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” — Galatians 6:14

Why?

Because the cross does something absolute:

☞ It leaves **nothing in man to glory in**



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Was Crucified at the Cross?

Not just sin.

Not just guilt.

👉 The entire identity of the old man

- His efforts
- His righteousness
- His identity
- His ability to claim anything

Everything that could say “I did”...

➡ was nailed to the cross.

The Death of Self-Confidence

The cross declares:

- You cannot fix yourself
- You cannot improve yourself
- You cannot complete yourself

Because the solution was not to repair man—

👉 it was to **crucify him**

The Exchange That Removes Boasting



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a divine exchange took place:

“And you... hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances... nailing it to his cross.” — Colossians 2:13–14

Everything against you was removed.

Everything you could try to fix—

➡ was already dealt with.

So now:

👉 There is nothing left for you to contribute.

All Were Included in His Death

“All we like sheep have gone astray... and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” — Isaiah 53:6

Not some.

👉 All.

Meaning:

- All sin placed on Him
- All judgment satisfied in Him
- All need for self-effort removed through Him

Why the Cross Had to Be This Absolute

Because if anything remained for man to complete—

➡ boasting would survive.

If anything remained undone—

➡ man could step in and claim part of the work.

But the cross left nothing unfinished.

The Old System Was Fully Ended

| “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” — Colossians 3:3

You are not improving the old man—

☞ **you are living from a new life**

And the old life...

➡ had all its boasting nailed to the cross.

The Cross Removes All Distinction

At the cross:



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... and the weak

... and the immoral and the immoral

- The disciplined and the broken

☞ all stand on the same ground

Because all were:

- ➔ crucified
- ➔ included
- ➔ finished in Him

So no man can say:

"I got here because of me."

The Only Place Left to Glory

| "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." — 1 Corinthians 1:31

Why?

Because the cross removed every other option.

No glory in:

- Works
- Effort
- Obedience
- Faith as self-produced

☞ Only Christ remains.



The Final Blow to Boasting

The cross does not weaken boasting...

☞ it **executes it**

Because the one who boasted—

➡ has been crucified.

Declaration

The cross has ended your striving.

The cross has ended your effort.

The cross has ended your right to take credit.

You did not fix yourself.

You did not save yourself.

☞ **You were crucified with Christ.**

And now:

➡ Christ is your life

➡ Christ is your righteousness

➡ Christ is your standing

Call to Action



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o improve what God has already crucified.

Stop trying to complete what Christ has already finished.

Lay down:

- Your effort
- Your striving
- Your need to contribute

And stand in the cross.

Because at the cross:

- 👉 all boasting died
- 👉 all glory returned to God
- 👉 all life began again in Christ

🔥 Chapter 8 — Christ: Made Unto Us Everything

Definition — If Christ Is Everything, What Is Left for You?

The Gospel does not leave you empty.

It removes your self-source...
so it can establish **Christ as your only source.**

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and
righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” — 1 Corinthians 1:30



Read that carefully:

Christ is made unto you—

- Wisdom
- Righteousness
- Sanctification
- Redemption

Not given to help you become these...

👉 **He is these for you**

Revelation — The Total Replacement of Self

The cross did not just remove your failure...

👉 It removed your **entire need to produce anything**

Because everything you were trying to become—

➡ **Christ has already become for you**

This means:

- You don't become righteous → Christ is your righteousness
 - You don't achieve holiness → Christ is your sanctification
 - You don't earn redemption → Christ is your redemption
-



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Righteousness — Not Achieved, But Received

“For he hath made him to be sin for us... that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” — 2 Corinthians 5:21

You are not becoming righteous...

☞ You are **made righteous**

And if you are made righteous—

- ➔ there is nothing left to earn
- ➔ nothing left to prove
- ➔ nothing left to boast in

Christ in You — The New Source

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” — Colossians 1:27

The Christian life is not:

- You trying to live for God

It is:

☞ **Christ living in you**

So now:

- Your life → His life
- Your strength → His strength
- Your righteousness → His righteousness



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Perfection Already Established

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” —
Hebrews 10:14

Not progressing toward perfection...

👉 **perfected forever**

Because Christ is complete.

And if Christ is your standing—

➡ your standing is complete.

Nothing Left to Add

If Christ is:

- Your righteousness
- Your holiness
- Your redemption
- Your life

Then what remains for you to contribute?

👉 **Nothing**

That’s the power of this chapter.



The End of Self-Improvement Religion

Religion says:

- Become better
- Try harder
- Grow into righteousness

Grace says:

☞ **Christ is already everything you are trying to become**

So now growth is not:

- ➡ becoming something new
- ➡ but **realizing what has already been given**

The Vine and the Branch

| “I am the vine, ye are the branches... without me ye can do nothing.” — John 15:5

A branch does not produce life.

It:

- ☞ receives
- ☞ abides
- ☞ expresses

So your life is not:



- Self-produced effort

It is:

☞ **Christ expressed through you**

Why This Removes Boasting Completely

Because if Christ is everything—

▶ you cannot take credit for anything.

Not your righteousness

Not your growth

Not your fruit

Not your standing

☞ **All of it is Him**

The Only Glory Left

| “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” — 1 Corinthians 1:31

Why?

Because there is nowhere else to glory.

Everything else has been removed.

Everything else has been replaced.



The Great Reality

You are not:

- The source
- The producer
- The sustainer

☞ **Christ is**

And you are:

- ➔ the recipient
 - ➔ the vessel
 - ➔ the expression
-

Declaration

Christ is your righteousness.

Christ is your holiness.

Christ is your redemption.

You are not becoming these things—

☞ **He is these things in you**

There is nothing left for you to earn.

Nothing left for you to complete.

Only Christ.



Call to Action

Stop trying to become what Christ already is.

Stop striving to produce what has already been given.

Turn your eyes inward—

☞ Christ in you

Abide in Him.

Rest in Him.

Let Him be everything.

And let all boasting fall.

🔥 Chapter 9 — The New Man: God Working Within

Definition — Who Is Living This Life?

The Gospel does not call you to live for God.

☞ It reveals that **God lives in you**

The question is no longer:



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...enough?"

The question becomes:

☞ Who is the source of my life now?

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

— Philippians 2:13

Not helping you...

Not assisting you...

☞ working in you

Revelation — The End of Self-Operation

The greatest shift in the Gospel is this:

☞ You are no longer the one producing your life.

Paul said it plainly:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”

— Galatians 2:20

This is not symbolic.

This is **functional reality**.

- Not I → removed as source
- Christ → established as source



The New Man — A New Source of Life

The new man is not:

- A better version of the old you
- A stronger version of your will
- A more disciplined version of your effort

The new man is:

👉 **a life that originates from God**

God Works the Will and the Doing

Look again:

| “God... worketh in you both to will and to do...” — Philippians 2:13

That means:

- The desire → comes from God
- The action → comes from God

So even:

- Your hunger for Him
- Your desire to obey
- Your movement toward righteousness

👉 **is Him working in you**



You Cannot Produce This Life

Jesus made this absolute:

“I am the vine, ye are the branches... without me ye can do nothing.” — John 15:5

Nothing means:

- Not a little
- Not partially
- Not occasionally

👉 **nothing**

So any attempt to produce spiritual life from yourself—

➡ is still the old system of boasting.

The Promise of Divine Operation

God declared this long ago:

“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes...” —
Ezekiel 36:27

Notice:

👉 **I will cause you**

Not:



- You will cause yourself

- You will figure it out
- You will sustain it

God becomes:

- ➔ the cause
- ➔ the source
- ➔ the power

The Daily Life of the New Man

This is how life now functions:

- You don't try to produce righteousness
 - ☞ Christ expresses it through you
- You don't strive to maintain holiness
 - ☞ Christ sustains it within you
- You don't generate strength
 - ☞ Christ becomes your strength

Why This Removes Boasting Completely

Because if:

- God works the will
- God works the doing
- Christ lives in you
- The Spirit causes your walk



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is left for you to claim?

👉 Nothing

You cannot boast in:

- Your obedience
- Your growth
- Your consistency

Because all of it...

➡ originates from Him.

The End of Pressure

This is where rest enters.

You are not responsible to:

- Maintain yourself
- Sustain yourself
- Perfect yourself

Because:

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it...” — Philippians 1:6

He began it.

👉 He finishes it.



The True Christian Life

The Christian life is not:

- Effort toward God
- Performance for God
- Striving to please God

It is:

☞ **God expressing Himself through you**

Declaration

You are not your source.

You are not your sustainer.

You are not your strength.

☞ **God is working in you.**

Christ is living through you.

The Spirit is causing your walk.

And because He is the source—

➡ all boasting is gone

➡ all glory is His



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Action

Stop trying to carry what God has taken responsibility for.

Stop striving to produce what He has already supplied.

Yield.

Rest.

Trust.

Let God work in you—

☞ both to will

☞ and to do

And live from the life that is already within you.

Chapter 10 — He That Glorieth, Let Him Glory in the Lord

Definition — The Only Place Left to Glory

After everything God has done—

after removing works...

after removing self-confidence...

after removing even faith as a human source...

☞ only one place remains.

| “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” — 1 Corinthians 1:31



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suggestion.

This is the **final position of grace**.

If all boasting in self is removed...

☞ then all glory must return to God.

Revelation — Glory Redirected, Not Eliminated

God did not eliminate glory—

☞ He **redirected it**

Man was created to glory...

But sin corrupted that glory into:

- Self-exaltation
- Self-confidence
- Self-dependence

Grace restores glory to its rightful place:

➡ **God alone**

The Final Question Has Been Answered

Throughout this entire journey, one question has been asked again and again:



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is boasting?"

And the answer has been consistent:

“It is excluded.” — Romans 3:27

Not hidden...

Not controlled...

👉 **excluded**

Now we see why.

Because all glory belongs to the Lord.

God Designed Salvation This Way

God structured salvation so that:

- Man could not initiate it
- Man could not sustain it
- Man could not complete it

Why?

“That no flesh should glory in his presence.” — 1 Corinthians 1:29

God did not leave room for partnership in glory.

Because if man shares the work—

👉 he will share the glory.



The Only Safe Place for Glory

Scripture defines it clearly:

“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” — 2 Corinthians 10:17

This means:

- Not glorying in your obedience
- Not glorying in your growth
- Not glorying in your faith

☞ Only in the Lord.

What Does It Mean to Glory in the Lord?

It means:

- ▶ Your confidence is in Him
- ▶ Your identity is in Him
- ▶ Your righteousness is in Him
- ▶ Your life is in Him

It means you say:

- “He is my righteousness”
- “He is my strength”
- “He is my life”

And nothing points back to you.



The Heart That Has Seen Grace

When a man truly sees grace:

He no longer says:

- “Look what I’ve done”
- “Look how far I’ve come”
- “Look how strong I am”

He says:

☞ **“Look at what the Lord has done.”**

David’s Expression of This Reality

“My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.” — Psalm 34:2

This is the transformation:

- Boasting doesn’t disappear
☞ it **changes direction**

From self...

➡ to God

Heaven’s Testimony



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no one is boasting in themselves:

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...” — Revelation 5:12

All glory goes to Him.

All honor goes to Him.

All praise goes to Him.

Why?

☞ Because He did it all.

The Final Reality

You brought nothing to your salvation.

You added nothing to your righteousness.

You sustained nothing in your strength.

☞ **God did it all in Christ**

So now:

- ➔ God gets all the glory
- ➔ Christ receives all the honor
- ➔ The Spirit works all things

And man stands as the recipient.



Declaration

There is no glory in self.

There is no confidence in flesh.

There is no credit to be taken.

☞ **All glory belongs to the Lord.**

Christ is your righteousness.

Christ is your life.

Christ is your standing.

And because He is all—

➡ you have nothing to boast in

➡ except Him

Call to Action

Turn your eyes fully to Him.

Lay down:

- Every trace of self-glory
- Every hidden confidence
- Every desire to take credit

And glory in the Lord.



Let your life say:

☞ “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory...” — Psalm 115:1

Stand in grace.

Rest in Christ.

And let all boasting be swallowed up—

➡ in the glory of God.

The Gospel of Grace — Lest Any Man Should Boast

By Carl Timothy Wray



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2. [**The Gospel of Grace**](#) — Made Willing in the Day of His Power
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