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The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed



The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Revealed as Fulfilled in Christ, Not Performed by Man



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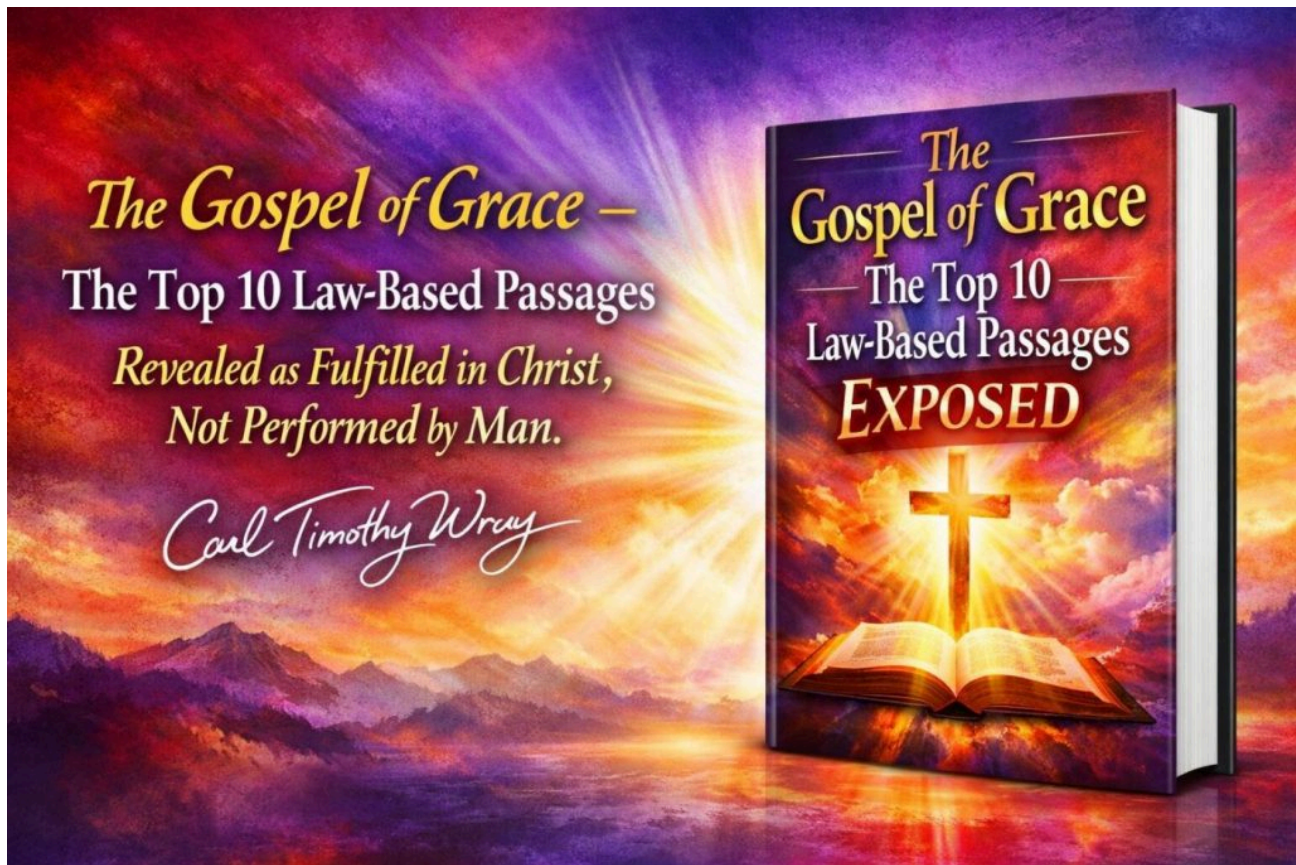
The Gospel of Grace: AUTHOR

By Carl Timothy Wray

[Carl Timothy Wray](#) is a teacher of the Finished Work of Christ, committed to unveiling the full counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation. His writings focus on the Gospel of Grace, the Atonement, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, and the manifestation of the sons of God. Through clear and consistent teaching, Carl reveals that salvation, transformation, and obedience are not produced by human effort, but are the result of Christ's life working within the believer. His mission is to remove confusion, relieve spiritual pressure, and establish believers in the rest, righteousness, and fullness of the Gospel of Grace.



This book, *The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed*, addresses some of the most misunderstood and often misapplied verses in the Bible. Many believers struggle with passages that seem to demand performance, effort, and self-produced obedience. Through the full counsel of Scripture, this teaching reveals how these verses are not requirements placed on man, but realities fulfilled in Christ and expressed through His life within us. Centered on the keyword "Gospel of Grace," this book helps readers shift from law-based thinking to the mind of grace, bringing clarity, freedom, and rest in the finished [work of Jesus Christ](#).



1. New Book 2. Download Free PDF

🔥 The Gospel of Grace: INTRODUCTION — The Tension Is Not in the Word

There is a tension many believers feel when reading the Bible.

Not with all Scripture...

But with certain passages.

Verses that sound like demands.



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feel like pressure.

Verses that seem to say:

- "Do this"
- "Be this"
- "Prove this"

And if we're honest, those verses can create a quiet struggle in the heart.

A tension between what we read...

And what we experience.

Because on one hand, we hear:

|"You are saved by grace... not of works."

And on the other hand, we read:

|"Be perfect."

"Work out your salvation."

"Take up your cross."

"If you love me, keep my commandments."

And without clarity, the mind begins to wrestle:

|"Which is it?"

|"Is this about what Christ has done...
or what I must do?"



The Problem Is Not the Scripture—It Is the Mind Reading It

The Word of God is not divided.

But the mind often is.

There is a way of reading Scripture that produces:

- Pressure
- Striving
- Self-evaluation

And there is a way of reading Scripture that produces:

- Peace
- Clarity
- Rest

The difference is not in the verse...

It is in the **lens**



Law-Based Thinking vs The Mind of Grace

When Scripture is read through a law-based mindset...

Every verse becomes a demand.

...tion becomes a burden.



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Every command becomes something man must produce.

But when Scripture is read through the Gospel of Grace...

Those same verses become:

**Revelations of what Christ has fulfilled
and what His life now produces within us**

This Book Is Not Removing Scripture—It Is Revealing It

This book does not ignore difficult passages.

It does not explain them away.

It does not soften them.

It does something far more powerful:

It rightly divides them

It takes the verses that have produced tension...

And reveals them through the finished work of Christ.

From Pressure to Peace



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imple:

To take the Word that has been read as pressure...

And reveal it as life.

Because when the source is seen clearly:

- The burden lifts
- The striving ends
- The confusion fades

And the Word begins to do what it was always meant to do:

| **Give life**

The Pattern You Will See

In every chapter, we will walk through:

1. The law-based interpretation
2. What it produces in the natural mind
3. The revelation of grace
4. Christ as the source
5. Life as the expression

And as we move through these passages...

The tension will begin to disappear.



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Invitation

This is not a call to do more.

This is not a call to try harder.

This is an invitation to see clearly.

Because once you see that Christ is the source of everything...

You stop striving to produce
and begin living from what has already been given.

Final Opening Line

The tension was never in the Word...
it was in the way we were reading it.

And once that changes...

Everything changes.

Chapter 1 — If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed



Verse That Created Pressure

There are few words of Jesus that have carried more weight in the heart of believers than this:

John 14:15

“For if you love me, keep my commandments.”

For many, this verse has not felt like good news.

It has felt like a test.

A quiet measuring stick that asks:

- “Do I really love Him?”
- “Am I obeying enough?”
- “Why do I still struggle?”

And without clarity, this verse can create a tension that never seems to go away.



How the Natural Mind Reads This Verse

When this verse is read through a law-based mindset, it is immediately turned into a demand:

“If you truly love God, you will prove it by your obedience.”

This interpretation produces:

- Pressure to perform
- Constant self-evaluation



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falling short

- A cycle of trying harder

Because the focus becomes:

☞ **My obedience proves my love**

And the believer is left looking inward, measuring themselves against a standard they cannot consistently meet.

The Problem Is Not the Verse—It Is the Lens

The words of Jesus are not the problem.

The problem is how those words are being read.

Because the natural mind does something subtle but powerful:

☞ **It reverses the order**

When the Order Is Reversed, the Meaning Is Lost

Let's look carefully:

Jesus said:

| "If you love me... keep my commandments."

But the law-based mind hears:



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ep my commandments... then you love me."

That small reversal changes everything.

Because now:

- Obedience becomes the root
- Love becomes the result

And that is not what Jesus said.

The Order of Truth

Jesus begins with love.

Not obedience.

That is intentional.

That is the key.

Truth:

Love is the root.

Obedience is the fruit.

Love Must Come From Somewhere

This brings us to the question that removes the tension:

... where does love come from?



Scripture answers clearly:

1 John 4:19

“We love him, because he first loved us.”

Love does not begin with man.

Love begins with God.

Obedience Flows From Life

When love is present...

Obedience follows.

Not forced.

Not strained.

Not performed.

But flowing.

Just like a branch does not struggle to produce fruit...

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches...”



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...the vine produces the fruit.

In the same way:

| The life of Christ produces obedience.

! What Happens When This Is Misunderstood

When this verse is read backward, it produces:

- Striving instead of rest
- Fear instead of confidence
- Effort instead of faith
- Self-focus instead of Christ-focus

Because the believer begins trying to produce something that can only come from God.

🔥 The Grace Revelation

This verse is not a demand placed on you.

It is a revelation of what happens when God's love lives in you.

| If love is present... obedience will follow.

And that love is not self-produced.

It is:



God
in Christ

👉 living within you

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when the source is seen clearly.

No longer:

- “I must obey to prove I love Him”

But:

| **“His love in me produces the life that obeys Him.”**

Declaration

| I do not strive to prove my love.
 | I receive His love, and it lives in me.
 | I do not force obedience.
 | His life produces it through me.
 | Christ is my source, my life, and my expression.

Transition to Chapter 2

Now that we have seen how this verse is fulfilled in grace...

We move to another statement that has created pressure for many:



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| **“be ye perfect...”**

Chapter 2 — Be Ye Perfect

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Feels Impossible

There are certain words in Scripture that, when read through the natural mind, feel completely out of reach.

This is one of them:

Matthew 5:48

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

For many believers, this verse creates an immediate reaction:

- “How can I ever be that?”
- “I’m not perfect.”
- “I fail too often.”

And without understanding, this verse can produce:

- 👉 Pressure
 - 👉 Condemnation
 - 👉 A constant sense of falling short
-



/ the Natural Mind Interprets Perfection

When this verse is read through a law-based mindset, it becomes:

“You must reach flawless perfection.”

It is interpreted as:

- A standard to achieve
- A level to reach
- A condition to meet

And the result is predictable:

- Comparison with others
- Frustration with self
- Fear of never measuring up

Because man begins trying to become what he cannot produce.



The Problem Is Not the Standard—It Is the Source

God’s standard is not lowered.

God is perfect.

But the question is not:

“Is perfection required?”



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is:

“Where does perfection come from?”

The Shift From Achievement to Fulfillment

The law-based mind says:

“Become perfect.”

Grace reveals:

“Perfection has been fulfilled in Christ.”

Perfected in Him

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

This changes everything.

Perfection is not something you are trying to reach...

It is something Christ has already accomplished.

Complete in Christ

Colossians 2:10

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“And ye are complete in him...”

You are not becoming complete by effort.

You are complete in Him.



Perfection as Identity Before Expression

This is the key:

- Perfection is first **given**
- Then it is **revealed**
- Then it is **expressed**

It is not:

- Achieved → then received

It is:

Received → then expressed



The Work God Finishes

Philippians 1:6

“He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it...”

God does not start something He expects you to finish.



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- Begins
 - Continues
 - Completes
-

⚠️ What Happens When This Is Misread

When this verse is read as a demand:

- The believer strives to be flawless
- Failure leads to discouragement
- Effort increases, but peace disappears

Because man is trying to produce divine perfection.

🔥 The Grace Revelation

Jesus was not placing an impossible burden on man.

He was revealing the nature of the Father...

A nature that would later be:

- 👉 Given through Christ
 - 👉 Placed within the believer
 - 👉 Expressed through His life
-

🇬🇧 From Pressure to Peace



The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not the source of perfection
 - Christ is your perfection
 - His life is being revealed in you
-

The Tension Removed

No longer:

| “I must become perfect”

But:

| **“Christ is my perfection, and His life is being expressed in me”**

Declaration

I do not strive for perfection.
 Christ is my perfection.
 I am complete in Him,
 and His life is being revealed through me.
 What He has finished, I now live in.

Transition to Chapter 3

Now that we have seen perfection fulfilled in Christ...

We move to another verse that has created pressure:



EN

| **work out your salvation...”**

Chapter 3 — Work Out Your Salvation

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like Effort

Few verses have been used to place more responsibility on the believer than this one:

Philippians 2:12-13

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

When read quickly, many stop at the first line:

| “Work out your own salvation...”

And the natural mind immediately interprets it as:

- “I must work to maintain my salvation”
- “I must do my part to complete what God started”
- “My effort determines my outcome”

And without the full context...

This verse becomes a burden.



How the Natural Mind Reads It

Law-based thinking isolates the command:

“Work out your salvation.”

And turns it into:

- A demand for effort
- A call to self-discipline
- A requirement to produce results

Which produces:

- Fear of failure
 - Pressure to perform
 - Constant self-evaluation
-



The Second Line Changes Everything

The key is not in the first statement alone...

It is in what follows.

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

This is not separate.

This is the explanation.



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Work Out — What God Works In

The verse is not saying:

“Work to produce your salvation”

It is saying:

“Express what God is already working within you”



The Direction Is Inward to Outward

This is the pattern of grace:

- God works in
- Man lives out

Not:

- Man works up
 - God responds
-



Salvation Is Not Being Created—It Is Being Expressed

Salvation is not something you are building.

It is something that has already been:



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- Given

- Accomplished
- Established in Christ

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace are ye saved through faith... not of works...”

What Is Actually Being “Worked Out”?

Not salvation itself...

But the **life of salvation**.

What God has placed within you is now:

- Being revealed
 - Being expressed
 - Being lived out
-

God Supplies Both the Will and the Doing

Look closely:

“God works in you both to will and to do...”

That means:

- The desire comes from Him
- The ability comes from Him





Key truth:

You are not the source of the will...

You are not the source of the doing...

! What Happens When This Is Misread

When this verse is misunderstood:

- People try to produce spiritual desire
- People force themselves into obedience
- People carry a burden they were never meant to carry

And the result is:

- Exhaustion
 - Frustration
 - A sense of never doing enough
-

🔥 The Grace Revelation

This verse is not a call to strive...

It is a revelation of **divine activity within you.**

God is working in you.

Right now.



EN

ng desire

- Producing action

- Producing life
-

From Effort to Expression

The shift is simple:

No longer:

| “I must work to become”

But:

| **“God is working in me, and I am living it out”**

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when the source is seen clearly.

No longer:

- Trying to create something spiritual
- Trying to produce life

But:

👉 Living from what God has already placed within



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 Declaration

I do not work to produce my salvation.
 I live from what God has already placed within me.
 He is working in me—both the will and the doing.
 My life is the expression of His work.

Transition to Chapter 4

Now that we have seen salvation as something expressed, not produced...

We move to another verse that has caused pressure:

“Without faith it is impossible to please God...”

Chapter 4 — Without Faith It Is Impossible

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like a Requirement

For many, this statement has felt like a spiritual demand:

Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please him...”



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h a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “You must have enough faith”
- “You need to increase your faith”
- “If your faith is weak, you are failing God”

And without clarity, this verse produces a quiet pressure:

“Do I have enough faith?”

How the Natural Mind Interprets Faith

Law-based thinking turns this into:

- A requirement to meet
- A level to reach
- A condition to maintain

So the believer begins trying to:

- Build faith
- Strengthen faith
- Hold on to faith

And when they struggle...

They question themselves.

The Question Is Not “How Much Faith?”—But “Where Does Faith Come From?”



THIS IS WHERE everything shifts.

The issue is not the importance of faith.

The issue is the **source of faith**.

Faith Does Not Originate in Man

Scripture answers clearly:

Romans 10:17

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

Faith is not something you manufacture.

It comes.



Faith Is Given, Not Generated

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace are ye saved through faith... it is the gift of God.”

Faith is not your work.

It is:

-  **a response to what God reveals**
-  **a gift that comes through hearing**

The Faith of Christ

Galatians 2:20

“...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...”

This takes it even deeper.

It is not just:

- Your faith in Him

But:

His faith working within you

From Effort to Response

Law-based thinking says:

“Try to believe harder”

Grace reveals:

“See clearly—and faith will come”

Faith is the natural response of the heart when truth is revealed.



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Why People Struggle with Faith

When people try to produce faith:

- It feels forced
- It feels unstable
- It comes and goes

Because they are trying to generate something that must be:

👉 **given by God**

🔥 What This Verse Actually Means

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” is not a threat.

It is a revelation.

Because faith is the only way to:

- Receive what God has done
 - Trust what God has said
 - Live from what God has given
-

🌊 Faith as Rest, Not Striving

Faith is not:

- Effort
- Struggle



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Faith is:

Resting in what God has already accomplished

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not the source of faith
 - God supplies what He requires
 - Faith comes through revelation
-

Declaration

I do not strive to create faith.
 Faith comes as I hear and see what God has done.
 His truth awakens trust within me.
 I live by the faith He supplies.

Transition to Chapter 5

Now that we have seen faith as something given, not produced...

We move to another verse that has created pressure:

“Take up your cross daily...”



Chapter 5 — Take Up Your Cross Daily

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like Constant Striving

For many believers, this statement has felt heavy and demanding:

Luke 9:23

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Read through a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “I must constantly deny myself”
- “I must continually crucify my desires”
- “I must work to kill the old man every day”

And without understanding, this produces:

- 👉 Strain
 - 👉 Confusion
 - 👉 A sense of never doing enough
-

How the Natural Mind Interprets the Cross

Law-based thinking turns this into:



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effort

a personal burden

- A responsibility to destroy self

So the believer begins trying to:

- Deny every desire
- Suppress every struggle
- Fight against themselves

But this leads to exhaustion.

The Question Is Not “How Do I Crucify Myself?”

The real question is:

What has already been crucified?

The Cross Is Not Something You Produce

Scripture answers clearly:

Galatians 2:20

“I am crucified with Christ...”

Romans 6:6

“Our old man is crucified with him...”



This is not future.

This is not something you must accomplish.

This is something that has already happened.

The Cross Is a Revelation Before It Is an Experience

You do not create the cross in your life.

You **see it**.

And when you see it:

- Your identity shifts
 - Your perspective changes
 - Your grip on self loosens
-

“Deny Yourself” Revisited

To deny yourself is not to:

- Punish yourself
- Suppress yourself
- Fight yourself

It is to:

No longer look to yourself as the source





From Self-Effort to Christ as Life

Before:

- Self is the center
- Self is the focus
- Self is the source

After revelation:

- Christ is the center
- Christ is the life
- Christ is the source

⚠️ Why Effort-Based “Cross Carrying” Fails

When people try to “take up the cross” by effort:

- It becomes a burden
- It becomes inconsistent
- It leads to frustration

Because they are trying to do something that has already been done.



The Grace Revelation

The cross is not something you perform daily...

It is something you **live from daily.**



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You are not trying to die...

You are living from the One who has already dealt with the old man

Following Him Becomes Natural

When Christ becomes your life:

- Following is not forced
- Denial is not strained
- The old loses its hold

Because something greater is present.

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not responsible to crucify yourself
 - Christ has already dealt with the old man
 - Your life is now in Him
-

Declaration

I do not strive to crucify myself.

I am crucified with Christ.

I no longer look to myself as the source.

Christ is my life, and I follow Him as He lives in me.



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Transition to Chapter 6

Now that we have seen the cross as something revealed, not produced...

We move to another verse that has created pressure:

| **“If you do not forgive...”**

Chapter 6 — If You Do Not Forgive

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Has Troubled Many Hearts

For many believers, this statement has felt heavy and even frightening:

Matthew 6:14-15

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Read through a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “My forgiveness depends on my ability to forgive”
- “If I struggle to forgive, I am not forgiven”
- “I must forgive perfectly or I am in danger”



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understanding, this produces:

- ☞ Fear
 - ☞ Guilt
 - ☞ Emotional pressure
-

🔪 How the Natural Mind Interprets This Verse

Law-based thinking turns this into a condition:

“God will only forgive you if you forgive others.”

So the believer begins to:

- Force forgiveness
- Suppress hurt
- Struggle internally

Trying to meet a condition that feels impossible at times.

🧠 The Question That Must Be Asked

Is forgiveness something you must produce...

Or something you receive that then flows from you?

🔄 Forgiveness Begins With God

Scripture brings clarity:



Ephesians 4:32

"...forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Colossians 3:13

"...even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

The order is clear:

- God forgives first
 - Man forgives from what he has received
-

The New Covenant Foundation

Hebrews 8:12

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins... will I remember no more."

Forgiveness is not something you are trying to earn.

It is something that has already been:

- 👉 Given
 - 👉 Established
 - 👉 Secured in Christ
-

Why Forgiveness Flows Naturally



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on sees:

- The depth of their own forgiveness
- The mercy that has been given
- The grace that has covered them

Something begins to happen in the heart:

☞ Forgiveness flows

Not forced...

But produced by what has been received.

⚠ **Why Forcing Forgiveness Fails**

When forgiveness is approached through effort:

- It feels artificial
- It feels incomplete
- It does not heal the heart

Because forgiveness cannot be:

☞ Forced externally

It must be:

☞ Produced internally



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Understanding Jesus' Words in Context

Jesus was revealing a principle:

A heart that has not received forgiveness...

Will struggle to give it.

But a heart that has truly received mercy...

Will express that same mercy.

The Grace Revelation

This verse is not meant to trap you in fear...

It is meant to reveal:

| Forgiveness received becomes forgiveness expressed

From Pressure to Healing

When this is seen clearly:

- The fear of losing forgiveness disappears
- The pressure to perform is removed
- The heart begins to heal

And forgiveness becomes:



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grace

on of what God has done

The Tension Removed

No longer:

- “I must forgive to be forgiven”

But:

“I forgive because I have been forgiven”

Declaration

I have been forgiven in Christ.
 God’s mercy has covered me fully.
 His grace heals my heart,
 and His forgiveness flows through me.
 I do not force forgiveness—
 I live from it.

Chapter 7 — Abide in Me

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like Maintenance



lievers, this statement feels like something they must constantly manage.

John 15:4

“Abide in me, and I in you...”

Read through a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “I must stay connected at all times”
- “If I slip, I’m no longer abiding”
- “I have to maintain my relationship with God”

And without clarity, this produces:

- ☞ Self-monitoring
- ☞ Anxiety
- ☞ Fear of drifting



How the Natural Mind Interprets Abiding

Law-based thinking turns abiding into effort:

- Trying to stay close
- Trying to feel connected
- Trying to hold on to God

So the believer begins watching themselves:

- “Am I abiding?”
- “Did I lose it?”
- “Am I doing enough to stay connected?”



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is replaced with pressure.



The Question That Must Be Asked

Is abiding something you maintain...

Or something that has already been established?



Union Is the Foundation

Jesus did not say:

| “Create a connection with me”

He revealed:

| **“Abide in me, and I in you”**

This is not one-sided.

This is **mutual indwelling**.



Christ in You

Colossians 1:27

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

This is not a future possibility.



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present reality.




The Vine and the Branch

John 15:5

"I am the vine, ye are the branches..."

The branch is not trying to connect to the vine.

It is already:

-  Connected
 -  Supplied
 -  Sustained
-

Abiding Is Remaining, Not Striving

To abide is not to:

- Force connection
- Create closeness
- Maintain relationship by effort

To abide is to:

Rest in what is already true

Why Effort-Based Abiding Fails



...e try to "abide" through effort:

- They become self-conscious
- They focus on their performance
- They lose sight of Christ

Because they are trying to maintain something that was never theirs to maintain.

Resting From Your Own Works

Hebrews 4:10

“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works...”

Abiding is connected to rest.

Not effort.

Life Flows Naturally

When you rest in union:

- Life flows
- Fruit appears
- Obedience follows

Not because you are trying...

But because you are:



EN

from the connection already given

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not trying to stay connected
 - You are already in Christ
 - Christ is already in you
-

Declaration

I do not strive to abide.
 I rest in my union with Christ.
 He is in me, and I am in Him.
 His life flows through me naturally.
 I live from connection, not for it.

Transition to Chapter 8

Now that we have seen abiding as resting in union...

We move to another verse that has created pressure:

“Be holy...”

Chapter 8 — Be Holy

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based



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es Exposed

The Verse That Feels Like a Standard to Reach

For many, this command has sounded like a constant demand:

1 Peter 1:16

“Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Read through a natural lens, it feels like:

- “I must become holy by my behavior”
- “I need to clean myself up”
- “I must reach a higher level of purity”

And without clarity, this produces:

- ☞ Pressure
- ☞ Self-consciousness
- ☞ A focus on outward behavior

How the Natural Mind Defines Holiness

Law-based thinking reduces holiness to:

- External conduct
- Moral performance
- Behavioral correction

So the believer begins trying to:



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Appeal holy

- Maintain holiness through effort

But the deeper struggle often remains untouched.

The Question That Must Be Asked

Is holiness something you achieve...

Or something you receive and express?

Holiness Begins in Christ

Scripture answers clearly:

1 Corinthians 1:30

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us... sanctification...”

Christ is not just the example of holiness...

He is your holiness

Sanctified Once for All

Hebrews 10:10

“... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

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Holiness is not something you are trying to become.

It is something that has already been:

- ☞ Given
- ☞ Established
- ☞ Secured in Christ

Identity Before Expression

This is the key:

- You are made holy in Christ
- Then that holiness is revealed through your life

It is not:

- Act holy → become holy

It is:

| Be made holy → live from that reality

Transformation, Not Imitation

2 Corinthians 3:18

“...are changed into the same image from glory to glory...”

Holiness is not imitation.



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ation.

It is the life of Christ being formed and revealed within you.

⚠️ **Why Effort-Based Holiness Fails**

When holiness is approached through effort:

- It becomes external
- It becomes inconsistent
- It produces either pride or discouragement

Because man is trying to produce something that belongs to God.

🔥 **The Grace Revelation**

“Be holy” is not a demand for self-production.

It is a revelation of:

▮ **The nature you have received in Christ**

God is holy.

Christ is your life.

Therefore:

👉 Holiness flows from that life

Holiness as Life Expressed

When you live from Christ:

- Your desires begin to change
- Your thinking begins to shift
- Your life begins to reflect Him

Not because you are forcing it...

But because:

His nature is being revealed in you

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not trying to become holy
 - Christ is your holiness
 - His life is being expressed through you
-

Declaration

I do not strive to become holy.
 Christ is my holiness.
 I am sanctified in Him,
 and His nature is being revealed in my life.
 I live from what He has made me to be.



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Chapter 9 — Seek First the Kingdom

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like Priority Pressure

For many believers, this statement feels like something they must constantly manage and prioritize:

Matthew 6:33

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

Read through a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “I must always put God first perfectly”
- “If I get my priorities wrong, things will fall apart”
- “I need to constantly evaluate whether I’m seeking correctly”

And without clarity, this produces:

- 👉 Stress
 - 👉 Fear of missing God
 - 👉 A constant sense of imbalance
-

How the Natural Mind Interprets Seeking



Law-based thinking turns this into effort:

- Try harder to prioritize God
- Try to think about Him more
- Try to structure life around Him perfectly

So the believer begins:

- Measuring priorities
 - Questioning decisions
 - Feeling like they are never doing enough
-

The Question That Must Be Asked

Is seeking the Kingdom something you force...

Or something that flows from the life within you?

The Kingdom Is Not Just a Place—It Is a Reality

Jesus reveals something deeper:

Luke 17:21

“The kingdom of God is within you.”

This changes everything.

You are not trying to find something far away.



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- 👉 The Kingdom has been brought near
 - 👉 The Kingdom has been placed within
-

🔥 Righteousness Is Already Given

Romans 14:17

“For the kingdom of God is... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

And that righteousness is not something you are trying to earn.

It is something you have received in Christ.

🌿 Set Your Mind Above

Colossians 3:1-2

“Set your affection on things above...”

This is not about forcing thought...

It is about seeing clearly where your life truly is.

🔄 Seeking as Response, Not Effort

Law-based thinking says:



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er to seek God first”

Grace reveals:

“When Christ is your life, your focus naturally aligns”

You do not force your heart toward what it sees as life.

You are drawn to it.

! Why Effort-Based Seeking Fails

When seeking becomes effort:

- It becomes stressful
- It becomes inconsistent
- It produces guilt when life feels out of balance

Because man is trying to direct what must be:

← **guided by life within**

🔥 The Grace Revelation

“Seek first the Kingdom” is not a burden to carry.

It is a revelation of life in Christ.

When Christ is your life:



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art is drawn to Him

us shifts naturally

- Your priorities align without force
-

From Striving to Alignment

The shift is simple:

No longer:

- Trying to seek correctly

But:

Living from the One who is already within you

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not chasing the Kingdom
 - The Kingdom is within you
 - Christ is your righteousness
-

Declaration

I do not strive to seek the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God is within me.

Christ is my righteousness, my peace, and my joy.



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is drawn to Him naturally,

and my life aligns with His.

Chapter 10 — Be Doers of the Word

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

The Verse That Sounds Like Performance

For many believers, this statement has felt like a constant demand:




James 1:22

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...”

Read through a natural lens, it sounds like:

- “I must do everything I hear”
- “I need to apply every teaching perfectly”
- “If I’m not doing enough, I’m failing”

And without clarity, this produces:

-  Pressure
 -  Overload
 -  A sense of never measuring up
-

How the Natural Mind Interprets This Verse

Law-based thinking turns this into:

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- A list of actions

- A call to constant performance
- A requirement to prove sincerity

So the believer begins trying to:

- Apply everything at once
- Perform every instruction
- Live up to every standard

And the result is exhaustion.

The Question That Must Be Asked

Is doing something you produce...

Or something that flows from what you have received?

The Word Must Be Mixed With Faith

Hebrews 4:2

“The word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith...”

The issue is not hearing alone.

It is:

 How the Word is received



Hearing Produces Doing

When the Word is heard through faith:

- It becomes life
- It takes root
- It begins to express itself

You do not force it.

| It produces itself within you

Righteousness Fulfilled in Us

Romans 8:4

“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us...”

Notice:

- Not fulfilled by us
 - But fulfilled **in us**
-

God Produces the Walk

Ezekiel 36:27

“I will cause you to walk in my statutes...”



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self-effort.

This is:

- ☞ God producing the life
 - ☞ God producing the walk
 - ☞ God producing the expression
-

! Why Effort-Based Doing Fails

When doing is approached through effort:

- It becomes overwhelming
- It becomes inconsistent
- It produces guilt

Because man is trying to produce what only God can bring forth.

🔥 The Grace Revelation

“Be doers of the Word” is not a command to perform.

It is a revelation of what happens when:

- ☞ The Word is received in faith
 - ☞ The life of Christ is active within
-

🌊 From Hearing to Living



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imple:

No longer:

- Trying to do the Word

But:

Living from the Word that has become life within you

The Tension Removed

The pressure lifts when you realize:

- You are not the source of the doing
 - The Word becomes life within you
 - That life expresses itself naturally
-

Declaration

I do not strive to do the Word.

I receive the Word, and it becomes life within me.

God produces the will and the walk.

His life in me fulfills what He has spoken.

FINAL CONCLUSION — The Tension Is Gone



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ked through ten passages...

Verses that once sounded like demands...

Verses that created pressure...

Verses that seemed to place the burden on man.

And in every case, we have seen the same truth:

- 👉 The problem was never the Word
- 👉 The problem was the lens

The Pattern Is Now Clear

Every passage followed the same pattern:

- Law-based thinking → turns it into a demand
- Grace revelation → reveals Christ as the source
- Life in Christ → produces the expression

The Gospel of Grace Revealed

The Gospel is not:

- Man striving to meet God's standard

It is:

Christ fulfilling the standard

life expressing it within you





The End of Performance

No more:

- Trying to produce love
- Trying to produce obedience
- Trying to produce righteousness

Instead:

**Christ is your life
and everything flows from Him**



Final Declaration

I no longer read Scripture as a burden.
I see Christ as the fulfillment of every word.
He is my life, my righteousness, and my source.
What God requires, He supplies—
and His life in me expresses it fully.



Final Call

Lay down the pressure.

Release the burden.

Stop striving to produce...



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...ing from what has already been given.

The tension was never in the Word...

It was in the way we were reading it.

The Gospel of Grace — The Top 10 Law-Based Passages Exposed

By Carl Timothy Wray



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ospel of Grace Series

1. [**The Gospel of Grace**](#) — The Finished Work Proclaimed
2. [**The Gospel of Grace**](#) — If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments
3. [**The Gospel of Grace**](#) — How Grace Is Administered from the Throne
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