

The Excellence of Living by Grace

God at work in MAN

By Josiah Okheape

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This book is a **compiled and edited work** based on publicly taught messages and spiritual insights by **Apostle Michael Orokpo**. The teachings herein are presented for **educational and devotional purposes** and remain the intellectual and ministerial expressions of the original teacher.

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Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible.

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Acknowledgement

This book is humbly compiled from the profound teachings of **Apostle Michael Orokpo**, whose ministry has illuminated the revelation of grace, divine enablement, and life in Christ for many believers.

The insights presented in this work are not claimed as original doctrines of the compiler but are drawn from Apostle Michael Orokpo's public teachings and messages on grace. This compilation seeks to preserve, organize, and present these truths in a structured format for study, meditation, and spiritual growth.

May God continue to strengthen and enlarge his work in the Body of Christ.

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Introduction

Why Grace Must Be Accurately Understood

The Christian life was never designed to be sustained by human effort. From the very beginning, God intended that man would live by divine supply, not self-generated strength. Yet one of the greatest challenges in Christianity today is not the absence of grace, but the **misunderstanding of grace**.

Many believers speak of grace, sing about grace, and even pray for grace—yet live daily by struggle, pressure, and self-effort. This contradiction reveals a deeper issue: grace is often reduced to a concept, a doctrine, or merely God’s response to sin, rather than understood as **God Himself at work in man**.

The teachings compiled in this book confront that misunderstanding directly. They present grace not first as an idea, but as a **Person**—revealed in Jesus Christ. From that foundation, grace is further unveiled as **divine enablement** and as a **dispensation** that defines how God now relates with man. In this framework, grace is not opposed to responsibility, but it completely replaces self-reliance.

This book is not an attempt to make grace attractive or convenient. It is an attempt to make grace **accurate**. Grace is shown as the end of human strength, the death of religious striving, and the beginning of a life where God supplies both the desire and the ability to live for Him.

The content of this book is drawn from the teachings of **Apostle Michael Orokpo**, whose ministry consistently emphasizes divine life, spiritual alignment, and the centrality of God’s work in the believer. While the structure and explanations are presented by

the author, the spiritual insights and doctrinal emphasis are credited to his teachings.

As you read, you are invited to abandon the burden of trying to make Christianity work and to embrace the excellence of living by grace—where God is not assisted by man, but **fully expressed through man**.

Part One
The Revelation Of Grace

Chapter 1: Grace Is a Person

Many believers speak about grace as though it were merely a divine advantage—something God releases when human effort fails. Yet Scripture reveals a deeper truth: grace is not first a concept, a doctrine, or a spiritual substance. Grace is a **Person**.

Until grace is understood as a Person, you will continue to reduce Christianity to principles, methods, and self-effort. True Christianity begins when you encounters grace, not as an idea, but as **Jesus Christ Himself**.

Grace Revealed in Jesus Christ

The clearest revelation of grace is found in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.**”*

— *John 1:14*

Grace did not arrive as a message alone; grace arrived as a Man. Jesus was not merely teaching grace—He was grace embodied. Wherever He went, grace walked. Wherever He stood, divine enablement was present.

This means grace is not primarily something God gives; grace is **God Himself revealed and expressed through Christ**.

To encounter Jesus is to encounter grace. To receive Christ is to receive grace in its fullness.

Why Grace Is First a Person Before a Principle

Principles can be learned. Systems can be mastered. Methods can be replicated. But **Persons must be known.**

Christianity fails when believers attempt to practice principles without knowing the Person behind them. Grace does not work independently of relationship. It flows from intimacy with Christ.

The Bible confirms this:

“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.”
— *John 1:16*

Grace flows from **His fullness**, not from our effort. This means the measure of grace a believer experiences is connected to how much of Christ he knows, not how hard he tries.

When grace is reduced to principles:

- Christianity becomes labor
- Obedience becomes strain
- Spiritual growth becomes frustrating

But when grace is known as a Person:

- Obedience becomes natural
- Holiness becomes empowered
- Spiritual life becomes restful

Encountering Grace, Not Just Learning About It

There is a difference between **information about grace** and an **encounter with grace.**

Many people can define grace yet struggle in life because grace was never encountered—it was only studied. Grace is activated through relationship, not merely through knowledge.

Jesus said:

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
— John 17:3

To “know” here is experiential, not academic. Grace becomes effective when Christ becomes real to you.

An encounter with grace changes how a man lives:

- He stops striving to please God
- He starts relying on God’s supply
- He transitions from self-effort to divine participation

Grace does not merely help you try harder; grace **replaces your human strength with divine ability.**

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace is first a **Person**, not a principle
- Jesus Christ is the full revelation of grace
- Grace flows from relationship, not effort
- Knowing Christ experientially activates grace
- Christianity is sustained by divine supply, not human energy

Practical Application

1. Shift your focus from trying to “use” grace to **knowing Christ**

2. Spend time cultivating intimacy with Jesus through prayer and the Word
3. Stop measuring your spiritual life by effort; measure it by dependence
4. When faced with weakness, turn toward Christ—not inward to self

Grace responds to relationship, not pressure.

Summary

Grace is not an abstract concept or a spiritual tool—it is Jesus Christ Himself. Until grace is known as a Person, Christianity remains burdensome. But when Christ is encountered, grace becomes the atmosphere of life, empowering you to live beyond human limitation.

Christianity does not begin with what you do for God, but with what **God supplies to you through Christ.**

Chapter 2: Grace as Divine Enablement

One of the greatest misconceptions about grace is that it merely *forgives* weakness without *addressing* it. Many believers see grace as God's way of overlooking human inability, rather than God's way of **replacing it**.

Grace is not divine tolerance; grace is **divine enablement**. It is God's ability released into human vessels to produce what human strength could never achieve.

Until grace is understood as enablement, you will continue to struggle in areas where God has already made provision.

Grace as God's Ability at Work in Man

Scripture consistently presents grace as an active force at work within the believer.

*"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**"*

— 1 Corinthians 15:10

The Apostle Paul did not deny labor; he denied **self-originated labor**. Grace did not remove activity—it redefined its source. The work was done, but the strength was not human.

Grace empowers:

- Righteous living
- Spiritual endurance
- Ministerial effectiveness

- Supernatural fruitfulness

This means grace does not assist human effort; it **replaces human insufficiency with divine sufficiency**.

The Replacement of Human Strength

The problem with self-effort is not sincerity—it is limitation. Human strength, no matter how disciplined, cannot produce divine outcomes.

God's response to human weakness is not condemnation but **enablement**:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Grace becomes most visible where human capacity ends. Weakness is not a liability in the economy of grace; it is a **gateway**.

When believers rely on self-effort:

- You burn out easily
- You fluctuate spiritually
- You become performance-driven

But when believers rely on grace:

- Consistency replaces struggle
- Strength replaces frustration
- Rest replaces anxiety

Grace does not strengthen the flesh; it **introduces another source of life entirely**.

Why Grace Produces Supernatural Capacity

Grace produces results that cannot be explained by natural ability because its source is supernatural.

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

Grace supplies *sufficiency* beyond circumstance. This is why grace enables believers to:

- Stand firm in trials
- Excel beyond qualifications
- Remain productive under pressure
- Live consistently above sin

Grace does not merely help a believer cope; grace **empowers a believer to overcome**.

This supernatural capacity is not accessed through striving but through **dependence**. The more a believer leans on grace, the more grace manifests.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace is God’s ability working in man
- Grace replaces human strength, not supplements it
- Weakness is a doorway for divine power
- Supernatural results flow from divine supply
- Dependence activates grace; striving resists it

Practical Application

1. Acknowledge areas where self-effort has failed
2. Consciously shift reliance from ability to grace
3. Pray from a posture of dependence, not desperation
4. Act in obedience while trusting grace as the source

Grace empowers obedience; it does not excuse disobedience.

Summary

Grace is not passive forgiveness—it is active enablement. It is God's strength functioning within human vessels to produce divine outcomes. When you stop trying to do God's work with human strength and begin relying on divine supply, grace becomes evident.

Grace does not make life easier; it makes life **supernaturally possible**.

Chapter 3: Grace as a Dispensation

Grace is not only a Person to be known and a power to be experienced—it is also a **dispensation**. This means grace defines the era in which God now relates with man.

Many believers struggle because they live under the expectations of an old system while claiming the benefits of a new one. Until a man understands the **dispensation of grace**, he will attempt to mix effort with enablement, law with life, and performance with provision.

Grace governs how God now deals with humanity in Christ.

Understanding Dispensations

A dispensation refers to a **divine arrangement**—a framework through which God administers His dealings with man during a particular period.

Scripture makes this distinction clear:

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
— *John 1:17*

This verse does not suggest that the law was evil; rather, it shows that the law belonged to a previous arrangement. Grace introduced a **new order**.

Under the law:

- Man tried to obey to gain acceptance

- Righteousness was demanded but not supplied
- Failure produced condemnation

Under grace:

- Acceptance is given before obedience
- Righteousness is imparted as a gift
- Empowerment replaces condemnation

Grace is not an improvement of the law; it is a **replacement of the system.**

How Grace Governs God's Dealings with Man Today

In the dispensation of grace, God no longer relates with man based on performance but based on **identity in Christ.**

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God."
— John 1:12

Sonship—not compliance—is now the basis of relationship. God does not empower men to *become* accepted; He empowers those who are **already accepted.**

This explains why grace:

- Precedes obedience
- Supplies righteousness
- Produces transformation from within

Believers do not strive to qualify for grace; they **live from the advantage grace has already given.**

Why Law and Grace Cannot Coexist

One of the most damaging errors in Christian living is attempting to mix law and grace. Scripture is explicit on this matter:

“And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

— Romans 11:6

Law demands performance. Grace supplies ability. When mixed, both are corrupted.

The law says:

- *Do this and live*

Grace says:

- *Live, and you will do*

The law focuses on external conformity; grace produces **internal transformation**.

Whenever believers attempt to live by effort while claiming grace:

- They lose rest
- They experience guilt
- They become spiritually inconsistent

Grace and law are not partners; they are **contrasting systems**.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace defines the current divine dispensation
- God now relates with believers through sonship
- Grace precedes obedience and empowers it

- Law demands; grace supplies
- Mixing law and grace produces frustration

Practical Application

1. Stop measuring your relationship with God by performance
2. Embrace your identity as a son, not a servant
3. Reject guilt-driven obedience
4. Allow grace to define how you see God and yourself

Living in the wrong dispensation produces unnecessary struggle.

Summary

Grace is not only a message—it is the system by which God now deals with man. The era of striving to earn acceptance has ended. In Christ, believers now live from acceptance, empowered by grace to fulfill God's will.

To live by grace is to live aligned with **God's present arrangement.**

Part Two

Dimensions And Types Of Grace

Chapter 4: The Types of Grace

Grace is one reality, yet it expresses itself in **different dimensions**. Many believers acknowledge grace in salvation but fail to recognize that grace does not end at conversion—it continues as God’s ongoing supply for life, growth, and purpose.

Until the distinctions within grace are understood, believers may stop where God intended progression. Grace is not a single encounter; it is a **continual flow**.

Saving Grace: Entrance into the Life of God

The first and foundational expression of grace is **saving grace**.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
— Ephesians 2:8–9

Saving grace brings man into union with God. It rescues, redeems, justifies, and restores. This grace addresses humanity’s greatest problem—separation from God.

Saving grace accomplishes:

- Justification from sin
- Reconciliation with God
- Freedom from condemnation
- New identity in Christ

Salvation is not a reward for effort; it is the **gift of divine initiative**.

Enabling Grace: Sustaining and Empowering the Believer

While saving grace brings a believer *into* the Christian life, **enabling grace** sustains and empowers the believer *within* it.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
— Hebrews 4:16

Enabling grace provides:

- Strength for obedience
- Power for endurance
- Capacity for growth
- Stability in trials

This grace is not automatic; it is accessed through dependence. Believers who do not learn to draw from enabling grace often revert to self-effort, leading to exhaustion and inconsistency.

Why Salvation Is Not the End of Grace

One of the most subtle errors in Christian thinking is assuming that grace’s primary role ends at salvation. Scripture teaches otherwise:

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”
— Colossians 2:6

The same grace that saves is the grace that sustains. Grace is not merely the door into Christianity; it is the **pathway of Christian living**.

When believers stop at saving grace:

- Growth becomes difficult

- Obedience becomes forced
- Spiritual life becomes mechanical

Grace was never designed to introduce a believer and then withdraw. It was designed to **govern the entire journey**.

The Distinction Clearly Defined

This chapter emphasizes a critical distinction:

- **Saving grace** brings you into life
- **Enabling grace** empowers you to live that life

Both are essential. One without the other results in imbalance.

Saving grace without enabling grace produces stagnation.

Enabling grace without saving grace has no foundation.

Grace is complete, but its expressions must be understood.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace has distinct dimensions and expressions
- Saving grace introduces new life
- Enabling grace sustains and empowers that life
- Salvation is the beginning, not the conclusion
- Growth depends on continual grace supply

Practical Application

1. Recognize that grace is needed beyond salvation
2. Approach God daily for enabling grace
3. Stop relying on past encounters—draw fresh supply
4. Expect grace to sustain every aspect of life

Grace is not seasonal; it is continual.

Summary

Grace operates in dimensions. Saving grace brings a believer into the life of God, while enabling grace sustains and empowers that life. Christianity is not sustained by memory of conversion but by ongoing participation in grace.

Grace is not an event—it is an **ever-present supply**.

Chapter 5: God at Work in Man

Christianity is often misunderstood as God helping man to do better. In truth, Christianity is **God living and working within man**. Grace does not merely assist human effort; it introduces divine life into human vessels.

Until this truth is grasped, believers will continue to struggle, trying to carry out spiritual demands with natural strength. Grace reveals that God's solution was never external assistance—it was **internal habitation**.

Grace as Divine Indwelling

The heart of grace is **divine indwelling**.

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

God did not design Christianity to function from heaven alone. Through grace, God relocates His life into you. The Christian life is not lived for God; it is lived **by God within you**.

This indwelling means:

- God supplies the desire for righteousness
- God empowers obedience
- God produces spiritual fruit

Grace is God's life expressed through human vessels.

Christianity as Participation, Not Assistance

Many believers relate with God as though He were a distant helper. Grace corrects this misunderstanding.

“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

— *Philippians 2:13*

Christianity is not God assisting human willpower—it is God **working through surrendered lives**. Believers do not try harder; they yield deeper.

This participation:

- Eliminates self-reliance
- Produces consistent fruit
- Removes spiritual anxiety

God does not strengthen the old nature; He expresses His life through the new.

When God Supplies the Life

Grace reveals that obedience flows naturally when God supplies the life.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”

— *Galatians 2:20*

The believer’s role is not to generate life but to **host and express it**. When God supplies the life:

- Holiness becomes natural
- Obedience becomes spontaneous

- Growth becomes organic

Grace does not pressure the believer; it **produces the believer**.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace introduces divine indwelling
- Christianity is God working in man
- Participation replaces self-effort
- Yielding activates divine expression
- Life flows from Christ within

Practical Application

1. Stop trying to “do for God”
2. Cultivate awareness of Christ within
3. Yield daily to God’s working
4. Trust divine life to produce results

Grace responds to surrender, not struggle.

Summary

Grace reveals Christianity as God at work in man. You are not called to self-generated righteousness but to divine participation. When God supplies the life, obedience and fruitfulness become natural expressions of His indwelling presence.

Christianity is not man reaching God—it is **God expressed through you**.

Part Three

The End Of Self-Effort

Chapter 6: The Limitation of Human Strength

One of the greatest obstacles to living by grace is the believer's confidence in **self-energy**. Human strength often appears noble, disciplined, and sincere, yet it remains fundamentally inadequate for divine purposes.

God does not reject self-effort because it is immoral; He rejects it because it is **insufficient**. Grace begins where human strength ends.

Until a believer recognizes the limitation of self-effort, grace will remain optional instead of essential.

Why God Rejects Self-Energy

Scripture makes it clear that God does not accept works that originate from the flesh.

*"So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
— Romans 8:8*

The flesh here does not merely refer to sin—it refers to **human ability independent of God**. Even well-intentioned effort, when detached from divine life, cannot produce spiritual results.

God rejects self-energy because:

- It produces pride
- It bypasses dependence
- It competes with grace

Grace requires that God alone receives the glory.

Effort as an Enemy of Grace

Effort becomes an enemy of grace when it replaces dependence.

“Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”

— Galatians 3:3

The problem is not effort itself, but **effort as a source**. When you attempt to complete what grace began through self-effort, you frustrate the very system God designed.

Grace and self-effort operate from opposite principles:

- Effort relies on self
- Grace relies on God

The more a believer trusts effort, the less grace flows.

The Illusion of Religious Performance

Religious activity can easily mask the absence of grace. A believer may appear active yet remain spiritually weak.

“Having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

— 2 Timothy 3:5

Performance creates the illusion of spirituality while bypassing dependence. Grace, however, produces **power without performance pressure**.

Religious striving:

- Produces burnout
- Encourages comparison
- Sustains guilt

Grace produces rest, authenticity, and transformation.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Human strength is limited and insufficient
- God rejects self-energy, not sincerity
- Effort becomes dangerous when it replaces grace
- Religious performance can mask spiritual weakness
- Grace begins where self-reliance ends

Practical Application

1. Identify areas driven by self-effort
2. Repent of independence, not activity
3. Shift from performance to dependence
4. Allow grace to become your source

Grace does not compete with effort—it replaces it.

Summary

Human strength, no matter how disciplined, cannot fulfill divine purposes. God rejects self-energy because it undermines dependence and obscures grace. True spiritual life begins when self-effort ends and divine supply becomes the source.

Grace is not added to human strength—it **replaces it entirely**.

Chapter 7: Dependence — The Language of Grace

Grace speaks a language, and that language is **dependence**. Wherever dependence is absent, grace remains dormant. Wherever self-reliance thrives, grace is resisted.

Many believers desire grace yet communicate independence through their lifestyle. Grace is not activated by determination but by **trusting surrender**. God responds, not to how strong a man is, but to how dependent he becomes.

Why Grace Produces Rest

True dependence always results in rest.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

— *Matthew 11:28*

Rest is not the absence of activity; it is the absence of self-pressure. When grace becomes the source, striving ceases.

Grace produces rest because:

- The outcome is God’s responsibility
- The strength is God’s supply
- The glory is God’s alone

A restless believer is often a self-reliant believer.

Self-Reliance as a Grace Blocker

Self-reliance may appear responsible, but spiritually it is **resistant**.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
— James 4:6

Pride is not always loud; sometimes it is silent confidence in one’s own ability. Humility, in contrast, is honest dependence on God.

Where self-reliance remains:

- Grace is frustrated
- Growth is slow
- Failure becomes devastating

Grace flows freely where dependence is intentional.

Learning to Lean on God’s Supply

Dependence is learned, not assumed.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”
— Proverbs 3:5

Leaning implies weight transfer. To lean on God is to shift responsibility from self to Him.

This involves:

- Praying before acting
- Acknowledging weakness
- Expecting divine supply
- Yielding outcomes to God

Dependence does not weaken responsibility; it **redefines its source**.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Dependence is the language of grace
- Grace produces rest, not strain
- Self-reliance blocks grace
- Humility invites divine supply
- Leaning on God activates grace

Practical Application

1. Examine areas driven by independence
2. Practice conscious dependence daily
3. Replace anxiety with trust
4. Let God carry what you cannot

Grace responds when dependence is expressed.

Summary

Grace is activated through dependence. When you abandon self-reliance and lean fully on God's supply, rest replaces strain and consistency replaces struggle. Dependence is not weakness—it is the doorway to divine strength.

Grace speaks, flows, and manifests through **trusting surrender**.

Part Four
Growing In Grace

Chapter 8: How Grace Grows in the Believer

Grace is complete in its provision, yet it is meant to **increase in expression** within the believer. Many Christians assume grace is static—received once and experienced the same forever. Scripture teaches otherwise.

Grace is designed to grow, expand, and become more evident as the believer matures. When grace stagnates, it is not because God withholds supply, but because alignment has been neglected.

Grace Is Meant to Increase

The Bible explicitly commands believers to grow in grace:

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

— 2 Peter 3:18

This instruction reveals that grace is not merely received—it is **cultivated**. Growth in grace does not mean acquiring more grace from God, but allowing grace to have more influence within you.

Grace increases as your capacity increases. This means that growth in grace is not about God releasing something new, but about you becoming able to **host more of what is already given**. Grace grows where there is space, openness, and alignment.

This understanding corrects the idea that grace is automatic. While grace is freely given, its growth is intentional. You can be saved by grace and yet live far below the fullness of grace because growth has not been pursued.

Grace is therefore dynamic. It responds to engagement, posture, and spiritual alignment.

As grace grows:

- Dependence deepens
- Consistency increases
- Spiritual maturity develops

Grace is dynamic, not dormant.

Why Grace Can Be Stagnant

Grace stagnates when alignment is lost. stagnation in grace is not caused by God withholding supply. God remains constant. Stagnation occurs when the believer becomes passive or disengaged.

“You have fallen from grace.”
— Galatians 5:4

Falling from grace does not mean losing salvation; it means stepping out of **dependence into self-effort**. Whenever you revert to self-reliance, grace ceases to flow freely.

Common causes of stagnation include:

- Pride
- Religious performance
- Legalistic thinking
- Neglect of intimacy
- Spiritual life is treated casually
- Dependence is assumed instead of practiced
- Fellowship with God becomes irregular

Stagnation does not mean that grace has left; it means that grace has lost its expression. The supply is present, but the channel is narrow. Over time, this leads to frustration, dryness, and effort-filled Christianity.

The danger of stagnation is that you may continue religious activity while grace is no longer increasing. This creates form without vitality

Grace flourishes where humility remains.

The Responsibility of the Believer in Growth

While grace is God's supply, growth requires your cooperation.

"We then, as workers together with Him..."
— 2 Corinthians 6:1

Your responsibility is not to produce grace, but to **maintain alignment**.

This involves:

- Staying yielded
- Rejecting independence
- Continual dependence
- Ongoing intimacy with Christ

Grace grows where you remains positioned correctly.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace is meant to grow in expression
- Growth is commanded, not automatic
- Stagnation comes from misalignment

- Self-effort interrupts grace flow
- Alignment sustains grace increase

Practical Application

1. Examine your posture—are you dependent or self-reliant?
2. Return quickly to humility when pride appears
3. Maintain daily communion with Christ
4. Expect grace to increase with alignment

Grace grows where surrender is sustained.

Summary

Grace is designed to increase within the life of the believer. Growth in grace is not about striving for more, but about aligning correctly with what has already been given. When you remain humble, dependent, and yielded, grace expands naturally.

Grace does not grow through effort—it grows through **alignment**.

Chapter 9: The Means of Growing in Grace

Grace grows through **alignment, not exertion**. While grace is God's supply, it increases in the believer's life through specific spiritual postures and practices that keep the heart rightly positioned.

Many believers desire to grow in grace but unknowingly resist it by pursuing growth through effort. Grace responds not to activity, but to **yielded alignment**.

Knowledge of Christ

Grace grows through the **revelation knowledge of Christ**.

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

— 2 Peter 1:2

Knowledge here is not information, but intimate understanding. The more clearly Christ is known, the more fully grace is expressed.

As your understanding of Christ deepens, dependence naturally increases. Grace grows where Christ is magnified. When Christ is seen as sufficient, you stop looking elsewhere for supply.

Ignorance does not stop grace from being supplied, but it does limit grace from being **expressed**. Growth in grace, therefore, requires continual exposure to the truth of who Christ is and what He has accomplished.

As your knowledge of Christ increases:

- Confidence replaces fear
- Assurance replaces insecurity
- Dependence replaces striving

Grace expands where Christ is accurately revealed.

Prayer and Fellowship

Grace also grows through prayer and fellowship with God. Prayer is not presented as a means of persuasion, but as communion. Through prayer, you naturally remain conscious of dependence.

Fellowship keeps you aligned with the source of grace. Where fellowship is sustained, self-reliance is weakened. Prayer creates sensitivity to God's workings in your spirit and keeps you receptive.

Grace flourishes in an atmosphere of ongoing communion with God.

Yielding and Submission

Grace flourishes in yielded vessels. Grace does not force itself on the believer. It flows where there is **yielding**. Yielding refers to your willingness to let go of control and allow God to lead, energize, and direct your life from within.

"Submit to God."
— James 4:7

Submission is not passive resignation; it is active surrender. It is the deliberate choice to allow God to lead, supply, and govern.

Yielding involves:

- Trusting God's wisdom
- Letting go of control
- Allowing God to work within

Grace resists control but responds to surrender.

Faith and Humility

Faith and humility are closely linked as means of growing in grace. Faith acknowledges God as the source, while humility acknowledges man's dependence. Together, they create the perfect environment for grace to increase.

"Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace."
— Romans 4:16

Humility is not self-deprecation; it is **accurate self-assessment**. It is the recognition that without God, spiritual life cannot be sustained. Where humility is absent, grace is resisted.

Faith, on the other hand, receives what grace supplies. Grace may be abundant, but it must be received consciously. Faith does not strive to produce results; it rests in what God is doing.

This reflects a vital truth: **grace grows through alignment, not effort.**

Grace increases where:

- Faith trusts God's supply
- Humility refuses self-sufficiency
- Dependence becomes intentional

Continual Dependence

Grace grows where dependence is not occasional but continual. Dependence is not something you practice only in moments of weakness; it is the permanent posture of your Christian life.

Continual dependence keeps you aligned with the source of life. It prevents the subtle shift from grace to effort that often occurs as believers mature.

Maturity is not independence from God but deeper reliance on Him. The more you grow, the more evident dependence should become in your life.

Grace increases where dependence is maintained daily—not as a crisis response, but as a way of life.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace multiplies through knowledge of Christ
- Yielding creates space for divine work
- Faith aligns the heart with grace
- Humility sustains grace flow
- Dependence keeps grace active

Practical Application

1. Prioritize knowing Christ over self-improvement
2. Practice daily surrender in prayer
3. Reject pride-driven independence
4. Live consciously dependent on grace

Grace grows where alignment is maintained.

Summary

Grace increases through specific means: knowledge of Christ, yielding, faith, humility, and continual dependence. These are not efforts to earn grace but alignments that allow grace to flow freely.

Grace does not respond to striving—it responds to **submission and faith**.

Part Five

Living Daily By Grace

Chapter 10: Accessing and Walking in Grace

Grace is not meant to be admired from a distance; it is meant to be **accessed and walked in daily**. Many believers understand grace doctrinally but struggle practically because they do not know how to live from it consistently.

Grace is not accessed through striving but through **receiving**. The Christian life is sustained not by what is achieved for God, but by what is continually received from Him.

Receiving, Not Achieving

The first posture for walking in grace is receiving. Grace, by nature, can only be received. The moment achievement becomes the framework, grace is displaced.

*“What do you have that you did not receive?”
— 1 Corinthians 4:7*

Everything in the Christian life flows from reception. Achievement belongs to the old system; grace introduces a new way of living—one governed by divine supply.

Receiving requires humility. It requires the acknowledgment that what God demands cannot be produced by human strength. Grace is accessed when you abandon the mindset of earning and embraces the posture of receiving.

God does not give grace as a reward for effort but as a response to dependence. Where dependence is present, grace flows freely. Where achievement becomes the focus, grace is frustrated.

Receiving does not mean passivity. It means **alignment**. The believer aligns with God's supply instead of striving to generate spiritual results.

Receiving involves:

- Acknowledging insufficiency
- Trusting God's provision
- Abandoning self-effort
- Expecting divine supply
- Making a demand for it

Grace is not drawn by effort but by **faith-filled reception**.

Faith as the Channel of Grace

Faith is the channel through which grace flows. Grace is the supply; faith is the means of connection.

*"Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace."
— Romans 4:16*

Faith does not produce grace; it positions the believer to receive it. Faith agrees with God's provision and rests in His supply.

Faith is also not mental agreement or emotional confidence. Faith is trust in God as the source of life. It is the assurance that God is working even when personal effort is absent.

Walking in grace requires:

- Trusting God's Word
- Acting from assurance, not fear
- Expecting grace to sustain obedience

Grace flows where faith remains active.

Maintaining Conscious Dependence

Grace is sustained through **conscious dependence**. Dependence must move from being a concept to becoming a daily awareness. Why? Because unconscious living easily drifts back into self-effort.

“Abide in Me, and I in you.”
— John 15:4

To abide is to remain aware of dependence. Grace diminishes in experience when dependence becomes unconscious.

Conscious dependence involves intentionally acknowledging God’s role in every aspect of life—spiritual growth, obedience, service, and endurance. This awareness keeps grace active and prevents subtle independence.

Maintaining dependence involves:

- Daily prayer
- Continual acknowledgment of God
- Reliance in both success and weakness
- Continual awareness of God’s presence
- Refusal to rely on past experiences as present supply
- Consistent yielding to divine direction

Grace is not seasonal; it is **maintained daily**.

Grace as the Atmosphere of Daily Living

When grace is accessed and walked in consistently, it becomes the **atmosphere** of the believer’s life. Life is no longer lived under

pressure, fear, or performance. Instead, it is governed by rest, confidence, and divine supply.

Grace does not remove challenges, but it changes how challenges are handled. You no longer face life from limitation but from provision.

Grace becomes the governing environment in which:

- Obedience flows naturally
- Growth remains steady
- God is glorified through man

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace is accessed through receiving
- Faith is the channel of grace
- Achievement belongs to the old system
- Conscious dependence sustains grace
- Walking in grace is daily, not occasional

Practical Application

1. Begin each day by acknowledging dependence
2. Receive grace before responding to demands
3. Act from faith, not pressure
4. Return to dependence quickly when self-effort appears

Grace works best where it is trusted.

Summary

Walking in grace requires receiving rather than achieving, faith rather than effort, and dependence rather than self-reliance.

Grace is accessed daily and sustained through conscious reliance on God's supply.

The Christian life is not powered by determination but by **continual reception.**

Chapter 11: Grace Versus Religious Striving

One of the greatest threats to grace is not open sin, but **religious striving**. Religion can appear holy, disciplined, and sincere, yet still operate completely outside the supply of grace.

Religious striving replaces dependence with performance and turns your relationship with God into responsibility. Where grace governs, life flows. Where religion governs, pressure increases.

When Religion Replaces Grace

Religion focuses on what man does for God, while grace focuses on what God supplies to man.

*“Having a form of godliness but denying its power.”
— 2 Timothy 3:5*

Religion replaces grace when spiritual activities become ends in themselves rather than expressions of divine life. Prayer, fasting, study, and service can all be driven by self-energy rather than by grace.

When religion replaces grace:

- Rules replace relationship
- Pressure replaces peace
- Fear replaces confidence

When grace is absent, religion becomes a system of performance. You begin to measure spirituality by consistency of activity instead of alignment with God's life.

Grace restores the correct order. Activities flow from life, not toward life. Where grace reigns, spiritual disciplines become channels for the continuous flow of grace, not burdens.

Religious activity without grace may look impressive, but it lacks divine life.

Legalism and Spiritual Death

Legalism is the attempt to maintain righteousness through rules rather than relationship. It is identified as one of the most dangerous expressions of religious striving. It does not always appear as harsh rules; it often presents itself as **self-imposed standards** meant to maintain spirituality.

“The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
— 2 Corinthians 3:6

However, it produces spiritual death because it demands performance without supplying power. Grace, however, supplies life that fulfills righteousness naturally.

Where legalism thrives:

- Condemnation replaces assurance, so Guilt dominates
- Comparison replaces growth
- Joy diminishes
- Fear replaces freedom
- Growth stagnates

Grace, on the other hand, produces obedience from life, not fear. It transforms the heart before regulating behavior.

Discipline Without Self-Effort

Grace does not eliminate discipline; it **redefines its source**. Discipline under grace is not fueled by pressure or guilt but by desire and supply.

"I discipline my body and bring it into subjection..."
— 1 Corinthians 9:27

Discipline under grace:

- Flows from divine supply
- Is sustained by grace
- Produces freedom, not bondage

Grace allows discipline to function as alignment rather than striving. You practice discipline not to earn favor, but because divine life within you produces hunger for God.

Spiritual discipline becomes healthy when:

- God remains the source of strength
- Dependence replaces willpower
- Rest governs activity

Grace-powered discipline strengthens the believer without draining life. This distinction preserves discipline while removing condemnation.

The Cost of Striving Without Grace

Striving without grace leads inevitably to burnout, inconsistency, and spiritual decline. No amount of effort can substitute for divine supply.

Striving may produce temporary results, but it cannot sustain spiritual life. Over time, it drains joy, weakens faith, and hardens the heart.

Grace alone preserves vitality. Where grace governs, endurance is supplied, joy is maintained, and growth remains steady.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Religious striving competes with grace
- Religion emphasizes performance over relationship
- Legalism produces spiritual death
- Grace supplies life and power
- Discipline must flow from grace

Practical Application

1. Examine motives behind spiritual activities
2. Reject pressure-driven obedience
3. Embrace grace-powered discipline
4. Prioritize relationship over routine

Grace restores joy to obedience.

Summary

Grace and religious striving operate from opposing systems. Religion pressures man to perform, while grace empowers you to live. Legalism kills spiritual vitality, but grace restores life, joy, and freedom.

True discipline flows from grace, not from fear or pressure.

Chapter 12: Departing From Grace

Grace is freely given, but it can be **frustrated, neglected, or departed from** in experience. While grace remains God's chosen system, believers can step out of alignment with it through attitudes and postures that reintroduce self-reliance.

Departing from grace does not mean God withdraws grace; it means you have shifted away from dependence.

How Grace Is Frustrated

Departure from grace often begins with **self-confidence**. As you grow in knowledge, experience, or consistency, there is a temptation to trust in what has been learned or mastered rather than in God.

Scripture warns clearly:

"I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

— Galatians 2:21

This drift is subtle:

- Dependence becomes occasional rather than constant
- Prayer becomes routine rather than relational
- Obedience becomes mechanical rather than life-driven

Grace is frustrated when believers attempt to produce righteousness through effort rather than receiving it through Christ.

Grace is frustrated by:

- Self-effort
- Legalistic thinking
- Performance-based acceptance
- Reliance on spiritual routines instead of relationship

Grace cannot function where self is the source.

Pride, Independence, and Decline

Pride is often the root of departing from grace.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
— James 4:6

Independence may feel like strength, but spiritually it leads to decline. When you become confident in your ability, grace quietly loses its place.

The progression is subtle:

- Dependence decreases
- Effort increases
- Joy diminishes
- Strength weakens

Grace is not lost suddenly—it is **replaced gradually**.

The Role of Law and Performance

Another major pathway away from grace is the return to law-based thinking. This happens when you begin to relate to God primarily through rules, standards, and performance metrics.

The law was never designed to impart life. When you attempt to live by law, you inevitably move away from grace, even if your intentions are sincere.

Performance-based spirituality produces:

- Fear of failure
- Condemnation after mistakes
- Pressure to maintain image

Grace restores freedom by re-centering life in Christ.

Restoring Alignment with Grace

The good news is that alignment with grace can be restored, but it must first be recognized.

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
— James 4:10

Restoration begins with humility—returning to dependence, acknowledging weakness, and trusting God’s supply again.

Restoring alignment involves:

- Repentance from independence
- Renewed trust in grace
- Reestablished intimacy with Christ
- Conscious reliance on divine supply

Grace responds immediately to humility. When you recognize self-dependence, repentance becomes possible.

Key Truths from This Chapter

- Grace can be frustrated by self-effort
- Departing from grace is a posture shift, not loss of salvation
- Pride leads to independence and decline
- Humility restores grace alignment
- Grace flows freely where dependence returns

Practical Application

1. Watch for signs of independence
2. Respond quickly with humility
3. Return to grace as your source
4. Maintain ongoing dependence

Grace restores faster than effort ever could.

Summary

Departing from grace occurs when you drift into self-reliance and pride. Grace is not withdrawn by God, but it ceases to function when dependence is abandoned. Alignment is restored through humility, repentance, and renewed reliance on Christ.

Grace remains available—it only waits for **dependence to return**.

Conclusion: The Excellence of Living by Grace

A Life Governed by Divine Supply

The excellence of the Christian life is not found in human achievement, discipline, or determination. It is found in **divine supply**. Grace reveals that God never intended man to live the Christian life by personal strength. From salvation to maturity, from obedience to endurance, everything God requires, He also supplies.

Living by grace is living from a place where God remains the source of life, strength, and fruitfulness. It is the end of striving and the beginning of rest—not the rest of inactivity, but the rest of confident dependence.

Grace does not lower God's standard; it **meets God's standard through God's supply**.

In this life:

- Obedience is sustained by grace
- Growth is maintained by grace
- Endurance is supplied by grace

Living by grace removes pressure and restores confidence—not confidence in self, but confidence in God.

God Fully at Work in Man

At the heart of grace is this profound truth: **God Himself is at work in man**. Christianity is not man reaching toward God; it is God expressing His life through surrendered vessels.

Grace makes possible what human effort never could. It produces holiness without pressure, obedience without fear, and fruitfulness without exhaustion. When you yield to grace, God's life flows naturally, consistently, and powerfully.

This is the mystery and beauty of grace—Christ living His life through you.

Where grace reigns:

- God initiates
- God sustains
- God completes

You become a vessel through which divine life is revealed.

A Call to Lifelong Dependence

The call of grace is not a call to independence but to **lifelong dependence**. Dependence is not spiritual immaturity; it is spiritual wisdom. The more you grow, the more deeply you lean on God.

Living by grace requires daily alignment—choosing trust over effort, humility over pride, and reliance over self-confidence. It is a continual return to the truth that *without Him, we can do nothing*.

Grace invites believers into a life where God remains the source, the strength, and the satisfaction.

Final Exhortation

The excellence of living by grace is not reserved for a few—it is the inheritance of all who choose dependence. It is seen in a life that rests in God's supply, yields to His work, and depends on Him completely.

This is not weakness—it is the highest form of strength.

May this book serve as a reminder that grace is not merely a message to be believed, but a life to be lived.

Let your life be governed by divine supply.

Let God be fully at work in you.

And let grace define how you live—today and always.

Invitation

If this book has stirred your heart toward a deeper walk with God, I invite you to stay connected. Visit our ministry platform at <https://kingdombooksreview.com> for more teachings, resources, and updates on spiritual growth.

Let your life be a flame. Let your altar never go out. Let the Spirit of God set you apart for His glory and your eternal reward.