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Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all of us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Our gratefulness to God for His wonderful plan, drafted in eternity past to include us-the undeserving ones-continues undiminished. King David, who had profound understanding of the grace of God toward man, posed this question: "What is man that You [God] are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" (Psalms 8:4). Another way of putting David's question is, "does God owe man anything and can He function as God without man?" The answers are crystal clear: God owes man nothing. He has, and will function without him! Now, we can begin to understand why John wrote, "See how great [how immeasurable, how unfathomable] a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God" (I John 3:1). We are helpless in every sense of the word. When we, in our helplessness, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God in His matchless grace provides us with divine tools to help us function effectively in His plan. Ironically, apart from discovering these tools through daily study of Bible doctrine, and utilizing them to the glory of God, our production and services to God will be evaluated as wood, hay and straw ([I Corinthians 3:11-15](#)). They will feed a big fire when believers in Christ are evaluated. However, when we utilize God's provisions to bring glory and honor to Him, there is absolutely no reason for us to boast in any way or brag about our success. Truly, whatever Grace Evangelistic Ministries has achieved, and will achieve in the future, is totally a matter of God's matchless grace.

The year 1999 is nearly over. At Grace Evangelistic Ministries we have taken time to pause and count our many blessings. When we were finished, we were pleasantly surprised to see what the Lord, our Pioneer and our Provider, has done for and through Grace Evangelistic Ministries. God has been faithful to us. To Him alone, we stand in salute!

As we approach 2000, the number of believers affected by the Y2K syndrome amazes us. Sadly, these have forgotten that Jesus Christ is the Lord of history. They have forgotten that He holds this universe together by the word of His power ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). Consequently, they have hit the panic button because of this propaganda.

Also, many who know little or nothing about the Word of God are predicting the time of the coming of

the Lord. This is astonishing when you consider Jesus Christ in His humanity could not predict the future. Doctrinally, we must be clear that no biblical prophecy needs to be fulfilled prior to the rapture of the church. Therefore, believers are to live their lives as if the rapture will occur any moment, keeping in mind that Jesus Christ controls history. He upholds this world by the power of His mouth. We know that man can do nothing to destroy this planet until Jesus Christ has literally ruled the world for 1000 years. Therefore, all these things that people worry about, such as ozone layer depletion and the prediction of Y2K worldwide disaster have no effect on Heaven's timetable. One thing we do know with certainty is that "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). With this in mind, we can enter the year 2000 with confidence, knowing that Jesus Christ who created this universe is the One preserving it.

We thank all those who have allowed the Lord to use their God-given resources in meeting the financial needs of this ministry throughout the year. Many of you have been partners with us from the very beginning and most faithful in your support. Also, we are thankful for local churches that have supported our missionary endeavors throughout this year. We thank those who prayed for our success. Indeed, only God can measure what He has accomplished through this ministry. And to God, Who has done it all, belongs the glory for both now and throughout eternity.

We would like to challenge you, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you making any spiritual progress? Are you truly interested in finding out what God has for you? Does the eternal state to come concern you? Do you ever ponder the future condition of those who fail to fulfill the plan of God for their lives? When the Apostle Paul said that the salvation of those who failed the Lord in time would be like one passing through fire, does that concern you? Of course, your answers to these questions are a matter between you and the Lord. We can only encourage you to make learning and applying Bible doctrine your highest priority, for in this lays your happiness and blessing for time and eternity.

As a missionary-oriented organization, we want to assure those who are channeling their resources and are serving our Lord Jesus Christ through this ministry, that our objectives remain unchanged. Our goals are three-fold: First, we seek to evangelize unbelievers with the simple gospel message: "Faith alone in Christ alone." Second, we augment the spiritual growth of those who respond positively by providing them with sound Bible teaching in the form of tapes or literature. And third, we support believers who have spiritual communication gifts and are willing to learn sound Bible doctrine. We send them to seminaries to equip them with the tools necessary to accurately divide the Word of Truth and present it to others.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funds. We believe that it must be one's free choice to financially support this ministry as a partner in the dissemination of the Word of God. It is solely a matter between the individual believer and the Lord. We believe that God will provide; and in Him alone we have anchored our trust. Nonetheless, we ask that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ remember us in their prayers as we seek to bring glory and honor to the One who is worthy!

Forever in the hollow of His hand,
Moses C. Onwubiko, President
Grace Evangelistic Ministries

You shall know the
truth, and the truth
shall set you free.
JOHN 8:32

Doctrine of Salvation

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko
(continued from [volume 11](#))

SALVATION EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF:

Conversion ([Vol. 10](#))
Regeneration ([Vol. 10](#))
Justification ([Vol. 11](#))
Sanctification, and
Adoption

So far, we have examined the doctrines of conversion and regeneration (Vol. 10), and justification (Vol. 11). We have seen that man is responsible to accept what God has given to him in grace, namely the free gift of eternal life, which is received through personal faith in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Beyond this faith, all other things that occur at salvation are the work of the Trinity. We have examined how regeneration took place at the moment we believe in Christ. We have also seen how justification followed our regeneration. And we have seen how God the Father was free to justify the believer once and for all because of the imputation of His righteousness to him.

The next item from our outline is:

SANCTIFICATION

The word, sanctification, has suffered much in the hands of false teachers who know little or nothing about the Word of God. In addition, many believers practice what I call "false experiential sanctification." These believers walk slowly inside a church, and piously utter phrases like, "praise the Lord, brother," say "hallelujah sister," or "God bless you pastor." "If the Lord wills, we will all be in heaven one day," they would assert. These believers think nothing of interrupting the teaching of the Word with "Hallelujah!" or "pastor, preach on!" They draw attention to themselves and distract others. This practice is not only rude, but it is arrogance to interrupt God the Holy Spirit in the midst of a sermon. These people think that they are holy, but they are not. They are nothing but believers who swim in the pool of hypocrisy. As far as the Word of God is concerned, they are far from understanding the meaning of sanctification. You need to keep in mind as this study progresses that sanctification of a believer is the work of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit--the entire trinity.

What is sanctification? The word sanctification is a Greek noun *hagiasmos*. It means "a separation" or "setting apart." It originates from the Greek word *hagios*, which means "holy" or "saint." Therefore, sanctification may be defined as a process by which God, through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, has purchased all who believed in Christ Jesus, and has set them apart in both time and eternity. The Apostle Peter states it this way: "Knowing that you were not redeemed [or purchased] with corruptible things, like silver or gold from your aimless conduct, received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ [i.e., His substitutionary spiritual death] as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19).

Think of it this way: A successful rancher has new ranch under construction. During construction, the rancher goes out and buys a large number of cattle for his new ranch. He sets them apart from the rest of his stock by giving them a permanent mark of ownership. His job is to feed and care for these cattle until work on the new ranch is done and they can be transferred to the new facility. Similarly, God in His infinite mercy has purchased those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. He elects to leave these, His children, temporarily in the devil's world until their home in Heaven is completed. To this end, our Lord said, "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I

go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

When, because of their faith in His Son, God purchases believers from Satan's domain, He sets them apart, or sanctifies them. This sanctification is in three categories, namely, positional sanctification, experiential sanctification, and ultimate sanctification. We are going to examine each of these theological doctrines in detail.

#1 Positional sanctification: When a person believes in Christ, in less than a twinkle of an eye, God the Father, by the means of God the Holy Spirit enters him into union with Christ. The Apostle Paul put this way: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized [immersed] into one body..." (I Corinthians 12:13a). Keep in mind that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is neither water baptism, nor does it have anything to do with speaking in tongues as many false teachers have alleged. In positional sanctification, the believer in Christ is totally and forever detached from his old position in Adam, characterized by his spiritual death at birth. The condition of spiritual death has been replaced by a new position in Christ wherein he is made permanently and irrevocably alive. The Apostle Paul declares, "For as in Adam all die [positional], so also in Christ all shall be made alive [positional truth]" (I Corinthians 15:22). Concerning the new position, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old [his former position in Adam] has passed away; behold [pay attention, take notice that] the new [position in Christ] has come" (II Corinthians 5:17). Believers should never forget that union with the Lord Jesus Christ is totally God's doing. The Bible declares, "But by His [i.e., God's] doing you are in Christ Jesus [positional sanctification], who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30). Because Jesus Christ is sanctified, when we enter into union with Him, we share His sanctification. God the Father accepts us as equals in holiness or sanctification, not because of anything that we have done, but because of the sanctification possessed by His Son Jesus Christ. This is what grace is all about!

The believer's union with the Lord Jesus Christ is forever anchored and totally irrevocable. He has been sanctified in Christ once and for all. "For by one offering He has PERFECTED for all time [forever] those who are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Nothing will ever change that status. Any failures are nothing more than two drops in a bucket-drip, drip. All of our failures combined are not enough to alter the perfect work that was engineered and accomplished by God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. From the moment God the father declares a believer sanctified, His only option is to love that believer with unparalleled, immeasurable and unchanging love. The Apostle Paul joyfully wrote: "For I am convinced [I can bet my salvation on it] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present [including present failures] nor things to come [including the rapture], nor powers [all powers], nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing [including Satan himself] shall be able to separate [remove] us from the LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS [ANCHORED] IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD" (Romans 8:38-39). Why does God love the believer in Christ personally? He loves him because he possesses His very own righteousness; He loves him because he is in union with His Son. He loves him because he is His child ([Galatians 3:26](#)). Because he is in union with His Son, whom He loves dearly, he shares in His love for His Son Jesus Christ. The French people put it this way: "Les amis de mes amis sont mes amis" which means the friends of my friends are my friends. Similarly, all friends of our Lord Jesus Christ are the Father's friends. The Father has a priceless love for His Son, Jesus Christ, therefore, all those who belong to His Son share in the same love. How can a believer see this plain truth and water down the eternal security of the believer in Christ? In light of this doctrine, three important principles emerge:

Principle #1: God is perfect, and His work always reflects His perfection: "I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it [nothing to add to salvation] and there is nothing to take from it [there is no loss of salvation]" (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

Principle #2: A believer's entrance into union with Christ is totally God's Work: "But by His doing [whose doing? God's] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us righteousness and sanctification, and

redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30).

Principle #3: Therefore, once a believer is entered into union with Christ; he remains in Christ because of the integrity of God who placed him there. Jesus Christ Himself affirmed: "And I give eternal life to them, and they shall NEVER perish; and no one [I mean no one] shall snatch them out of My [Omnipotent--all powerful] hand. And no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:28-29). This is the beauty of the believer's eternal security. Held by two Omnipotent hands! How thoroughly secured can the believer get?

THE SEQUENCE OF POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION

1. God designed a plan that involves the spiritual death of His Son on the cross: "He [God] made Him who knew no sin to be [imputed] sin on our behalf" (II Corinthians 5:21).
2. In time Jesus Christ went to the cross and bore the sins of the whole world in His body: "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross..." (I Peter 2:24).
3. God the Holy Spirit reveals this unique plan of God to us: "And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world of sin [Greek: *elegchos* = to reprove with conviction upon the offender (i.e., helps one to understand the implication of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross)]" (John 16:8).
4. The gospel message with regard to the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross is presented to the unbeliever: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
5. The Truth of this gospel message is illuminated in the unbeliever's mind by the power of the Holy Spirit
6. Then the unbeliever has the option to make a decision to believe in Christ Jesus ALONE: "Jesus said, 'do you believe in the Son of man?' He [the unbeliever] answered and said, 'and who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?' Jesus said to him, 'you have both seen Him, and He is the One who is talking with you.' And he said, 'Lord, I believe'" (John 9:35-38). Three words-"Lord, I believe" -that's all it took for him to be saved.
7. God the father instantly imputes His divine righteousness to this individual: "Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction [there are no exceptions]" (Romans 3:22).
8. The imputation of God's righteousness becomes the basis for justification of the one who has believed in Jesus Christ: "Therefore having been justified by faith [alone], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).
9. In a split second, the Holy Spirit enters the believer into Christ: "For by one Spirit we were baptized [immersed] INTO one body [the body of Christ]" (I Corinthians 12:13).
10. Therefore, because we have been justified, because we have been acquitted in the courtroom of heaven, God is free to enter us into union with Christ and thereby sanctify us in His Son. "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us...righteousness, SANCTIFICATION, and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30). This brings us to the next subject, experiential sanctification.

EXPERIENTIAL SANCTIFICATION

Experiential sanctification is a process. Whenever a believer confesses his sins to God the Father, he is purified and his soul is prepared to learn and apply Bible doctrine under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. As noted earlier (Volume 11), experiential sanctification is what the book of James is all about. The believer must name his sins to the Father on a regular basis, whenever he detects sin in his life. This practice is the only way to maintain fellowship with God.

When God purchases a believer by the meritorious work of His Son on the cross, that believer remains on earth for a purpose. That purpose is to have the opportunity to learn His Word, grow in grace, and thereby glorify God in the devil's world. For this very reason, James reminded the believers about the importance of daily intake and application of the Word of God. He also warned believers about the danger of taking their experiential sanctification lightly:

"Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your [lives]. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude [deceive, trick, fool] themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law of liberty [i.e. one who consistently learns Bible doctrine], and abides by it [applies it], not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does" (James 1:21-25).

Before we examine these verses more closely, we must establish that the book of James was written to believers. James identified his audience as brethren in all five chapters ([1:2](#), [2:1](#), [3:1](#), [4:11](#), and [5:9](#)). In the Bible, the word "brethren" refers to the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ—those in union with Christ. The apostle Paul used the same word extensively in his epistles. To the Colossian church he wrote, "To the saints [*hagios* = all believers] and faithful brethren in Christ..." (Colossians 1:2). As he closed his epistle to the church at Ephesus, Paul joyfully concluded, "Peace be to the brethren..." (Ephesians 6:23). In fact, only brethren in Christ [i.e., union with Christ] have the potential to experience true peace.

Now, having established that believers were James' audience, we can examine the mechanics of experiential sanctification in James 1:21-25:

#1: The believer must be in fellowship with God: Before a believer begins to study Bible doctrine, he must be in fellowship. How? By ensuring that his soul is purified from all known and unknown sins: "Therefore putting aside all filthiness" (verse 21). The believer needs to examine his soul and acknowledge all known sins to God. "If we [believers] confess [acknowledge, cite] our [known] sins, He [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our [known] sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness [i.e., all unknown evil deeds or wrongdoing]" (I John 1:9). When a believer confesses his sins directly to the Father, God faithfully purifies his soul so that the Holy Spirit can fill it and help him understand the truth of the Word of God. Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit does not participate in the process of teaching or learning doctrine that is false. For this reason every believer must pray that God will lead him to a pastor who teaches the Word of God accurately, whether by means of literature, recordings, or face-to-face public teaching.

#2: The believer must approach the Word of God in humility: "In humility receive the implanted word" (James 1:21b). Humility is not self-abasement; it is not how a person dresses, walks, or talks. It is how a person thinks. Does he think in terms of grace or does he think in terms of arrogance? Humility is a relaxed mental attitude. It is a state of the mind in which the believer recognizes that apart from the grace of God, he is nothing. He recognizes that he cannot learn the Truth of the Word of God apart from the human communicator and the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. He approaches the Word of God in reverence, constantly submitting himself to the authority of his pastor.

#3: The believer receives Bible doctrine: The believer in fellowship begins to learn the truth. He examines every doctrine carefully, like the Berean believers in Paul's day—who always went back to the Scripture to examine the teachings of the Apostle Paul to see whether they were true ([Acts 17:11](#)). When he finds a doctrine to be true, he has a choice to accept it or to reject it. Doctrine believed is doctrine accepted. At that moment, the Holy Spirit takes that doctrine and stores it in his soul as a frame of reference for future applications. Belief might be expressed by saying, "I believe this teaching" or "Amen" in the privacy of his soul. But remember that these expressions to God must be inaudible to avoid drawing attention or distracting others.

#4: The believer builds up an inventory of Bible doctrine in his soul: Enabled by the Holy Spirit, when a believer consistently learns, understands, and believes Truth which has been taught, he erects an inventory of Bible doctrine in his soul.

#5: In the time of trouble, the Holy Spirit helps the believer to recall the doctrine: Again, keep in mind that the Holy Spirit does not infuse new doctrine in a believer's soul when he faces disaster. He only helps the believer to recall something that he has already learned. Therefore, a believer's ability to handle problems in life is directly proportional to the amount of Bible doctrine in his soul. If the believer has no doctrine in his soul, he has nothing to apply. If he has only a little doctrine, his application will be minimal. This is the reason why James urges the believers to make learning Bible doctrine the number one priority in their lives ([James 1:21b](#)).

6: Application of Bible doctrine: This is the most important area in the spiritual life. Application of Bible doctrine, as we all have experienced, is the most difficult thing in the Christian life. It is what separates the winner believer from the loser believer. It is what determines whether a believer will be rewarded in eternity or not. It is what separates those who will hear, "good and faithful servants," from those who will not. It is not how much doctrine a believer knows that registers in the scale of heaven, but how much he knows and applies. It may be easy for some to recite the principal points in the doctrine of the essence of God, namely, righteousness, justice, love, sovereignty, eternal life, veracity, immutability, omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. But the question is, which if any of these points can be applied when the believer faces problems or is under pressure? Today we have millions of believers, who continue to fail the Lord on a daily basis simply because they do not have Bible doctrine in their soul, or they do not apply the doctrine that they know. The BIG QUESTION then, is do you apply Bible doctrine so that God the Father may be glorified in your life?

APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE:

1. The sin of partiality:

"My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a [wealthy] man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in [at the same time] a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one wearing the fine clothes, and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' and you say to the poor man, 'you stand over there, or sit down on my foot stool [sit on the floor]'" (James 2:1-3). Do these verses apply to you as a believer? If so, you have the option to get out of that lifestyle quickly before the Supreme Court of Heaven visits you with divine punishment.

2. The sin of tongue:

". . . the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!" (James 3:5). The Bible equates the tongue to fire. Everyone knows what a fire can do to a bush, a home, or anything that is combustible. When the believer uses his tongue to judge, malign, or gossip about another, he destroys the object of his gossip. Worse, he draws others to join in as well. This is a wrong application of Bible doctrine. God warns that he will deal with such believers severely ([Matthew 7:1-3](#)). Do you take part in causing a fellow believer distress by your malicious gossip? That is not part of experiential sanctification. Such a lifestyle always backfires and inevitably draws heavy divine punishment with it. Therefore, every believer should be very careful about what he says about another person.

3. The sin of fear:

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear..." (II Timothy 1:7a). Fear is the inability to concentrate and apply Bible doctrine to the situation at hand. Take for instance, the believer who faces a catastrophe, panics, and becomes irrational in his thinking. He fears the outcome of the situation, and sometimes develops insomnia. He cannot sleep because he is afraid of one thing or another. He forgets that Jesus Christ is the Lord of history. He cannot think in terms of doctrine, because the sin of fear has entered his soul and disarms him from having any contact with the Holy Spirit in his soul. The pipeline of Bible doctrine is blocked and he cannot apply Bible doctrine. Do you live in constant fear? If you do, the

reason may be because you are not studying the Word of God, or if you are studying, you may not be applying it.

EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

1. The believer applies the doctrine of the essence of God:

When the believer faces a problem of any kind, he pauses under the control of the Holy Spirit (i.e., absence of sin in the soul), and applies the doctrine of God's essence in the following manner:

a. He takes Omniscience: The believer recognizes that his life history is something of eternity past. He knows that God was and is totally aware of his situation, not just in that very moment, but also in eternity past. The Psalmist puts it this way: "[Your] eyes have seen my unformed substance [unformed fetus]; and in [Your] book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them" (Psalm 139:16). Another way of saying this is: God knew every thing about me even before I was born. The Prophet Jeremiah puts his version this way: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." (Jeremiah 1:5).

b. The believer takes Omnipresence: The believer takes cognizance that God is there with Him. "... Where can I flee from [Your] presence?" (Psalm 139:7b). He knows that God is aware of the situation that he is in.

c. The believer takes Love: The believer understands that God loves him, and that love is one aspect of His essence. "God is love" (I John 4:8b).

d. Finally, the believer puts these three aspects of God's essence together: If God knows everything about me (and He does), He knows exactly why He has allowed the situation to take place. If God is here with me (and He is), He knows every detail about my problem. And most of all, if He is Love (and He certainly is), He will treat me in His justice, righteousness, and love, expressed through His grace. The believer then, leaves the situation in the hands of the One who knows, who understands, and who loves him. He can then relax with the infallible Word of God: "... We know that God causes all things [including my situation] to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). The believer may choose to have the confidence and the inner peace that Job had when he was under fire: "But He knows the way I take [He knows what is happening to me]; when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). The believer knows that in some way God is going to convert his situation into blessing. James encourages the believers to hold on: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1: 2-4).

2 The believer is the object of hatred: The believer enters his very own soul where his inventory of Bible doctrine is stored and pulls out "agape love"-a virtuous love. He is not bitter toward one who hates him. He is very careful not to bear grudges against him. Rather he is an eager to go to the Throne of God and lift him up in prayer (Luke 6:28). The believer is totally dependent on the power of the Word of God and on the power of the Holy Spirit who sustains him. He shows grace to this person who hates him whenever he is in contact with him. He leaves the entire matter in God's hands at all times: "Never take your own revenge, beloved . . . vengeance is Mine" (Romans 12:17,19).

3. The believer is able to live a lifestyle free of fear: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you [hold you tight] with My victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). The believer learns to take the Word of God at its face value.

The believer continues to learn more doctrines and applies them as circumstances arise. In so doing, he is growing in grace and fulfilling the principles of experiential sanctification, namely, learning, growing, and glorifying God. Therefore, may I pause to remind you why you are left here after your salvation: God's purpose for leaving you behind after salvation is that you may learn His Word ([I Peter 2:2](#)) and grow in grace ([II Peter 3:18](#)) and thereby glorify Him in this world ([I Corinthians 6:19,20](#)). Therefore, if your ultimate goal in life as a believer is not learning sound Bible doctrine and applying them on a consistence basis, regardless of any reason you may have, your life on earth is worthless.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF PERPETUAL FAILURE IN EXPERIENTIAL SANCTIFICATION

Every believer will occasionally fail in the spiritual life, or sin, owing to the presence of the sin nature in his body. That is why we should be careful on a daily basis. Consider the sin of Moses in the Old Testament when he disobeyed God. It is a reminder that even great believers fail ([Numbers 20:10-13](#)). Another example is the sin of King David when he committed adultery and murder (II Samuel 11-12). Truly, God is not interested in one's failures, rather He is interested in him getting up and moving forward ([I John 1:9](#)). Every believer has failed at one time or another. When a believer refuses to maintain fellowship with God, he can rapidly move to perpetual carnality. If the situation continues, he may die the sin unto death. That's why James warns believers: "My brethren, if any among you strays [wanders] from the truth [i.e., Bible doctrine], and one turns a sinner [a carnal believer] from the error of his way will save his [life] from death" (James 5:19-20). The apostle Paul also warned believers about the consequences of a lifestyle of perpetual carnality: "If you live according to the flesh [i.e., carnal life] you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body [i.e., you are regularly in fellowship with God] you will live" (Romans 8:13). The writer of the book of Proverbs put it this way: "He [a believer] who wanders [stirs] from the way of understanding [Bible doctrine and lives a carnal lifestyle] will rest in the assembly of the dead" (Proverbs 21:16). He added, "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death [sin unto death]" (Proverbs 14:27). Beautifully put: "The fear of the Lord [a believer who is fulfilling his purpose] prolongs life, but the years of the [carnal] believer will be cut short" (Proverbs 10:27). He will enter heaven with zero reward ([I Corinthians 3:15](#)). You may pause and meditate.

THE ULTIMATE SANCTIFICATION OF THE BELIEVER

The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is removed from this present world, either by death or through the rapture—depending on which comes first. As in the salvation of the believer, God once again is the Sovereign Executive in the decision regarding ultimate sanctification. He determines the time and by what means every believer will be removed from this world. When He does remove a believer, he will be transferred permanently to a place where "He will wipe away every tear from [his] eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Therefore, the death of any believer should never be regarded as tragedy. God is perfect, and His decision to remove a believer from this world, either by drowning, auto accident, plane crash, or by cancer is a perfect decision. When the believer finally checks out of this temporary body, the Psalmist echoes, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints [every believer]" (Psalm 116:15).

In ultimate sanctification, when the believer receives his resurrection body, a perfect body like that of His Son, Jesus Christ, God will be forever glorified, then the words of the Apostle Paul will be fulfilled to the maximum: "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep [some believers will still be alive at the rapture], but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:51-57).

According to this passage, who gives the believer the final victory over death? God, of course! Who started positional sanctification of the believer? Let the Bible answer that: "But by His doing [whose doing? God's] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . sanctification and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30). You see God began and God ends. This is the sweetness of the immeasurable, and the unchanging grace of our loving Father. This is the assurance of the eternal security of the believer! One may ask, where is man's effort in this equation? Man is left out completely. No wonder the Apostle Paul strongly affirmed: "... For I know [with certainty] whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard [keep, protect] what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (II Timothy 1:12). As you meditate on this doctrine of sanctification, I joyfully say to you who have believed in our Lord Jesus Christ, "Now to

Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to MAKE you STAND in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy [because he did the job alone] to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

Good News

FOR THE AFRICAN BELIEVERS

Bible doctrines on audiotapes taught by Col. R. B. Thieme, Jr. and Dr. C. Onwubiko can now be obtained from our African Headquarters located in Jos, Nigeria. All the doctrinal materials are free. To obtain a catalogue, write to the following address:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries
P.O. Box 583
Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, West Africa

Future Agenda

- A comprehensive presentation on the doctrine of salvation, by Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko, 2-14 December 1999, at the Alvan Ikoku College auditorium.
- A three-day Crusade, 16-18 December 1999, at Dan Anyim Township Stadium, Owerri the Imo State Capital.
- December 30 - January 28, 2000 (will join Mr. George H. Mueller in Cameroon)

Please join us as we pray for the success of the above programs.

Budget Sheet

1999 DECEMBER CRUSADE

The provision for the General crusade and the soul winning for Christ are both entirely up to the Lord. The crusade will take place at the soccer stadium in Owerri, capital of Imo State Nigeria, West Africa. The committee in Jos has forwarded the following budget to us, where the African Center is located. Our position regarding the financial aspect of the crusade remains the same: if it is the will of God for Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko to conduct this crusade, He will provide.

Here is the budget breakdown:

1. Training of crusade workers	\$300.00
2. Transportation	\$800.00
3. Publicity	\$1000.00
4. Music and equipment	\$900.00
5. Security	\$300.00
6. Venue fee	\$550.00
7. Hiring generator, platform construction, electrical lighting/wiring	\$1800.00
8. Technicians Cost	\$300.00
9. Room and board	\$800.00

10. Airfare from U.S. to Nigeria (possibly 3 people)

\$4800.00

\$11,550.00

God Will Provide

Genesis 22.8

"God will provide" is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, He will provide EVERYTHING necessary for its continuation. "God will provide" was Abraham's reassurance to his confused son, Isaac ([Genesis 22:8](#)). When God gives an assignment to us as His servants, He is under obligation to provide for the job. When God does not provide, it could mean one of three things. One, God may not want the job accomplished at that particular time. Two, it could mean that those who are to carry out the mission are not prepared to do so yet. Lastly, it could be a sign that God does not want to have any part of the ministry. Therefore, it is absolutely foolish and arrogant for us as believers to try to devise a way to accomplish a task in the name of God when He has already rejected it. For example, when we use gimmicks to manipulate people to contribute money, we are not glorifying God. It is blasphemy on our part to think that God does not know how to provide for the work which He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job which God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

These are some of the letters that have been sent to us. As you read, please join us in giving thanks to God who is doing the work through Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

Our purpose in sharing these letters is to demonstrate that your partnership in this ministry is indeed yielding fruit to the glory of God who called us.

Dear Sir,

We thank God, the Father who has blessed you with all spiritual gifts in the heavenly places in Christ.

We want to take this time to thank you for your booklet, "ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER." We have gone through it and we have even used it for our seminars and many youth have been coming to give us outstanding testimonies on how the literature has enlightened them on the subject of eternal security. As a pastor, I must also acknowledge that I have been enlightened by it too.

Thanks for writing the literature.

Yours in His service,

Pastor

Lagos Nigeria

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

Firstly, I would like to thank the almighty God who has given me the opportunity to write to you.

Secondly, I would like to thank you for sending to me the books I requested.

I want you to know that I am growing spiritually because of these books. "God's Plan after Salvation" and "Comfort in Suffering" have helped me tremendously. I have been able to share the word of God through those books.

May the Lord bless you through his grace; and may He continue to meet your financial needs and your objectives.

Yours faithfully,

Belo, Cameroon

Dear Rev. Moses,

I believe that God is helping Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

I wish to thank you for my request that was granted to me in August 1999. I received all the books that were sent to me, and have read them through. I was impressed with a particular book "Comfort in Suffering". The book gave me a lot of courage and has really strengthened my spiritual life. I thank you very much for your encouragement through your ministry.

I have also shared these books with others, and most of them have been blessed. They thank God for Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

May God Almighty richly bless you and your team as I pray for you people here in Cameroon.

Yours in Him,

Belo, Cameroon

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

I am very pleased to say hello to all of you. I am a native of Belo. I was blind -- I mean spiritual blindness. Thanks to God that my spiritual eyes have been opened. I thank God who made it possible for me to come in contact with Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

I am pleading with you to continue to send to me materials that will help me in my spiritual life.

Your brother in Christ,

Belo, Cameroon

Dear Rev. Onwubiko,

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, greetings.

I would like to inform you that the books sent to me together with your "Grace News today" have become our source as study guide for me as well as for our Bible teachers during our Sunday Bible classes and outreach programs. We therefore, thank God for leading us to Grace Evangelistic Ministries. You are included in our weekly prayer meetings.

May I request for more copies of your books, and newsletters; they will be distributed free to our Bible teachers.

Thank you. And may the Lord bless the ministry bountifully.

In His service,

Pastor-teacher,

Camarines, Philippines

REV. MOSES C. ONWUBIKO'S Evangelistic Meeting Schedule

October 4 - November 28, 1999: US

November 29 - December 28, Owerri, Imo State Nigeria

December 30 - January 28, 2000 (will join Mr. George H. Mueller in Cameroon)

Bible Doctrine for Thought

Doctrinally speaking, one does not have to be called "a friend of God" ([James 2:23b](#)) to go to Heaven. Heaven is wide open for anyone who wholeheartedly trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior ([John 3:16](#), [36](#); [John 14:6](#)). However, it is important to remember that a believer must be truly "a friend of

God" in order to receive the "crown of righteousness" (II Timothy 4:8a). Only believers who have faithfully "fought the good fight" (II Timothy 4:7a) can join the apostle Paul in celebrating a victory won by God's grace: "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing" (II Timothy 4:6-8).

If your spiritual race here on earth was to be brought to a screeching halt, would you anticipate hearing the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness?" (Matthew 25:21) As a believer, is this the goal of your life? You may want to take some time to meditate on this.

Here is the Truth

Can a person be saved by keeping the law? God has provided His answer to this question in His Word. The apostle Paul adamantly answers this question: "...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. There was never a sin committed that was not poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross ([I Peter 2:24](#)). He endured all afflictions so that He might pave a way for you to have life more abundantly through Him. Regardless of how sinful you have been in the past or are now, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you put your entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will automatically become a regenerate person before God forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is totally up to you.

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

As we pray . . .

- 1. That God would graciously provide for the December 1999 crusade at Nigeria and Cameroon.*
- 2. That God would make the Crusade a success.*
- 3. That God would continue to provide encouragement and spiritual nourishment for the believers in Europe and Africa.*
- 4. That God would continue to meet the needs of the supporters of this ministry.*
- 5. That there would be more open doors for this ministry worldwide.*
- 6. That America's believers will discover the importance of learning Bible doctrine.*

7. *That God would grant Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko and Mr. and Mrs. George H. Mueller good health for the upcoming meetings in Cameroon.*
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Financial Policy

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funding. We believe that God in His grace will continue to meet our financial needs as they arise.

We do not charge for books or audio tapes. No money is requested. Anyone desiring to receive our books, tapes or other spiritual materials can receive them at absolutely no cost.

When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach the unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.

To All Our Supporters

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a missionary organization only. It is nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under the 501(C)3 code of the US Internal Revenue Service. Therefore, all contributions to this ministry are 100% tax-deductible.

Our Grace Ministry Has No Limits

Therefore, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue, "Grace News Today", or other materials of spiritual value, please write to the following address:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries
P. O. Box 17246
Nashville, TN 37217-7246

or

call us at **(615) 365-0015**

or

you may visit our web site
on the Internet at:

<http://www.gracemissions.org/>

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