

GRACE NEWS TODAY

An Outreach of Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Inc.

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“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

Shukriya! That is our one Urdu word we mastered in Pakistan; it means Thank You! And we say THANK YOU for your prayers. They are being answered!

10 years ago God jump-started the formation of Grace Evangelistic Ministries; He overcame Moses hesitation through the anonymous donations of one person which were used to write a tract, *Riding the Death Train*. Since then RTDT has been translated into Telegu (India), Malayalam (India - South), Saraiki (Pakistan), Urdu (Pakistan), French (Central Africa), Swahili (Kenya), and Spanish. Hindi (India - North) is about ready to go to press. These paper missionaries sprout legs and go where no person can. Here is a sample of reports we receive.

Burundi, Africa: God is doing wonders through GEM here in Burundi. A new church is being established through the RTDT French tract. A man arrived from D.R. Congo—a 40 minutes drive—and spent all day searching for me. Upon finding me he said “ Pastor I have been looking for you for one month! I must talk with you, because I and my people were challenged by the words of this tract. The teaching we saw in it we have never heard before. We see that you can help us to leave the traditions that have bound us for so long. Allow me to introduce my people to this truth and start a Church in Uvira.” I sent him way with some additional tracts and promised that we will visit and help them start a church. This is the miracle of that tract!!!

Pakistan: Since you left Pakistan we have had many calls for *Riding the Death Train* in Urdu. This week we had calls from outlying areas from about 15 prominent church leaders asking for RTDT. These leaders were all Catholics! I will also be having 2 programs coming up where I will distribute another 5,000.

India: At the Pastors Conference in Vijayawada, India we distributed 32 thousand on the spot; to each participant and to leaders of seven big organizations. Now requests for them are pouring in. We see these

beautiful, handy, sized message of salvation in the pockets of many non Christians in and around Vijayawada. We are almost creating a revolution of Grace in the hearts of the recipients of this tract. I will soon run out of stock because daily tens of inquiries/ requests are poring into my office from pastors, evangelists and churches, from every nook and corner of this state. A pastor from Mumbai and another from Delhi who attended the conference and received this life giving booklet are asking me to translate it into Hindi and distribute in the heartland of Hindi speaking northern India. With a population of 400 million, the Christian population is less than 1%.

There is need for immediate distribution of *Riding The Death Train* throughout the width and breadth of the unsaved Andhrapradesh. The pastors that have attended this conference are fully charged with the message of GRACE and are bubbling with enthusiasm and energy to distribute these tracts to all the unsaved millions. Please ...Please... assist us with as many booklets as possible, so that the salvation message of the Grace of Jesus may be distributed among the non Christians to bring thousands to the Lord.

This is a wonderful testimony of positive volition but also a testimony to the faithfulness of God. You can have confidence that your prayers and actions will likewise reap long term rewards in the spiritual arena. Each prayer is precious and we are grateful to you for remembering us before the throne of Grace.

—G.E.M. Team

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Pure Gold! How we admire its value and beauty. But a great price in the refining furnace is needed for gold to reach this status! A price too dear for words!

Such is the price for any one who dares to become a “gold believer!” God, in His matchless grace and infinite wisdom, provides a furnace of suffering for our refinement. James admonished us to rejoice when we find ourselves facing the heat (James 1:2). “Count it all joy” for the Goldsmith of all ages is at work in your life! Paul the Apostle, from his furnace of suffering in the Roman prison, shouted “Rejoice!” Soothe your soul with the words of the Perfect Goldsmith:

“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver,
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction”
(Isaiah 48:10).

Human nature desires the best without paying the price. It abhors heat, it screams when calamity sparks. Comfort is its desire. It cries out when things fall apart. It laments when the heat of suffering comes. But without the furnace, pure gold is impossible.

God uses the furnace of suffering to allow us to grow as believers. His objective is to conform you to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. He wants the very best for you, to make you a ‘gold believer.’

“For I know the plans that I have for you,’
declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare [plans
for the best] and not for calamity to give you a
future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

That’s the promise of God. A plan for a future and a hope! What a hope to hang your weary soul on! What a hope to look forward to.

True—God does not promise us a suffering-free life. Suffering is an integral part of our Salvation, of our Christian life.

For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Philippians 1:29).

Suffering comes in different forms and shapes. We cannot avoid it. It’s essential to develop spiritual capacity. Without it, we forego capacity related blessings both in time and eternity! Let’s face it, if a new Mercedes was delivered to you today would you still be here reading this truth—or would you be racing around, here and there, showing your new car to all your friends? Only when suffering has helped us develop spiritual muscle and orientation to God and His plan can we receive blessings without them being a distraction to our spiritual life.

Satan uses suffering to cause us pain; God uses it to perfect us! Satan seeks to weaken us through suffering; God endeavors to mature us and make us stronger through it. God wants to glorify Himself through us. He wants to bless us beyond measure. God always wins—your situation included. The outcome will turn out for His glory!

The Lord in His Incarnation is our Role Model. He went through hell on earth to secure our so great salvation. God used an unprecedented furnace of suffering to teach Jesus Christ obedience.

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. (Hebrews 5:8).

His suffering was almost beyond comprehension! His promotion is the highest.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

Jesus Christ suffered immensely for us, and as His children we cannot be exempt from suffering. We would be remiss to attempt to jump over suffering in search of blessing. Great blessing requires capacity which comes from suffering. Christ has set us an example to follow.

The Psalmist admonishes us to be still as the Goldsmith of all ages, refines, bends and hammers us into a desired shape. Be still, for the Master Goldsmith knows what He is doing in your life (Psalm 46:10). Relax! Here is the hope. Be assured that no matter the nature of your suffering, God’s ultimate goal is to perfect you, “*to give you a future and a hope!*”

My friend, that’s comforting! When unpleasant circumstances take a toll on you, or suffering threatens

to rock your life—this does not diminish or terminate the plan God has for you— “to give you a future and a hope.”

So my dear friend, your suffering is an experience tailored for you alone. It’s an experience on which Bible Truth in your soul can be recalled and applied. Suffering prompts the application of God’s Word. It’s the application of truth—not the suffering itself—that makes the difference in your spiritual life. James couldn’t have said it better:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance [application of doctrine under pressure]. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4 NIV).

That’s right! God’s ultimate objective is for you to lack nothing. Maintain your composure; regard your suffering as a blessing, not a curse; for God will perfect that which concerns you (Psalm 138:8). His Word is infallible!

What solace to know that God will always be faithful to His Word! While grass may wither, flowers may fade, His Word will stand the test of time (Isaiah 40:8). So, my beloved, I want you to know that no matter the nature of your predicament, the God of the Bible is there with you. He is at both ends of your suffering! He will surely see you through! Do not believe Satan’s lie! As this agitated life tosses you to and fro, anchor your soul on these infallible promises:

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you;** And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God (Isaiah 43:2- 3a).

...Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (Numbers 23:19).

...WEEPING MAY LAST FOR THE NIGHT, BUT A SHOUT OF JOY COMES IN THE MORNING (Psalm 30:5).

And so my friend do not be discouraged, but keep on trusting the very God who never fails for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU” (Hebrews 13:5b). That’s a promise! That’s God’s Word!

DOCTRINE OF GRACE

The Filling Of The Holy Spirit Is A Prerequisite For Studying God’s Word: In preparation for our study, we must empty our souls of all filthiness by identifying, and confessing to God, any sin that could hinder the ministry of God the Holy Spirit from illuminating our minds as explained in the following verse:

Therefore putting aside all filthiness [1 John 1:9], and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls [life] (James 1:21).

KING DAVID, A SYMPHONY OF GOD’S GRACE
(Continued from Lesson 1 — volume 35)
(After some time away we return to our Study of David)

In the introduction of this study, we saw how God made a remarkable grace overture to Rahab a prostitute. We pointed out that she was David’s great-grandmother, the lineage of the King of kings, Lord of lords, namely, our Savior Jesus Christ. Of all the finest genealogies in the world, why did God send His Uniquely born Son through what man would consider to be a mediocre genealogy. A lineage that traced back to David, an adulterer and a murderer, to Bathsheba, David’s kidnapped wife and all the way to the former notorious prostitute—Rahab? Ironically, a self-righteous believer is likely to be angry with God’s choice, and may say, “David and Rahab do not deserve eternal life, much less be in the genealogy of our Messiah!” Such assertions collide with the statement of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself:

“...It is not those who are well [self righteous ones] who need a physician [i.e. grace applied], but those who are sick [like David, Rahab and others like them]. I have not come to call the [self] righteous but sinners to repentance [to change their mind about Me and anchor their faith alone in Me alone as their Savior]” (Luke 5:31-32).

Self-deception harbors the thought that we are better than David and Rahab. Do any of us really think that we are better than these graced-out believers? Oh no, we are not! Just because we've not been guilty of their brand of sins does not make us holier than them. On the other hand, if we maintain that we are more righteous, then we through our arrogance, disqualify ourselves to be the object of God's grace. It's that simple! When anyone operates in the mode of self-absorbed, egocentrism, thinking that they are better than anyone else, or sit on a pedestal looking down at others, they are committing the **WORST SIN** of all—**ARROGANCE**—the sin that cost Satan and his cohorts a permanent place with God in heaven—a sin that's guaranteed to have a head-on collision with God's justice!

Some of us are like the self-righteous, self-centered and egotistic Pharisee who prayed to God from his arrogant heart, saying,

...“**God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers [like King David], even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I get [I am so righteous—these are my reasons why you should answer my prayer right now!]” (18:11-12).

Consider the arrogant Pharisee in contrast to the humble tax collector:

But the tax collector standing some distance away was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven [which the pharisee was proud to do], but was beating his breast, saying, “God, be merciful [give grace] to me, the sinner!” (Luke 18:13).

What a blind and repugnant self-righteous man this Pharisee was! Of course, we know the Lord's stance on both prayers:

I tell you, this man [the unworthy one] went to his house justified rather than the other [self-absorbed Pharisee]; for everyone [without exception] who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:14).

That's the truth of Scripture! That's the Supreme Court verdict! When we think that we are better or superior to others, when we are puffed up with pride, God will deflate us in a hurry! We will bear the pain of judgment we have wrongly placed on another. God's justice guarantees it! As long as we are trapped in this earthly body with its sin nature, we will continue to be spiritually weary. We need to exercise humility and find refreshment in the fountain of His Grace everyday—today—tomorrow and into eternity!

When we look at what is happening in Christianity today, we would be compelled to say, that millions of believers will be surprised in the eternal state. That's right. Millions! When we get to heaven, some will be shocked to see people they have written off as unbelievers! Many will be stunned to see some believers—who, according to their standards were not living the spiritual life—receiving decorations! On the other hand, these self-declared spiritual winners will be taken aback to find out that they themselves are indeed without reward!

My friend, don't wait until the eternal state to find out whether you will be among the winners or losers. Take time right now and honestly examine your life with the light of God's Word. Re-examine your own life—and stop wasting time examining other people's lives. That's God's prerogative, that's His job! When you spend your time monitoring other people's lives, you lose your spiritual balance and inevitably place yourself on a pedestal of self-righteousness and arrogance. It's dangerous to place yourself in God's courtroom, but that's exactly where the majority of believers are sitting today—judging, side-by-side with God. What dubious boldness! We should ask ourselves: “Have I placed myself on a pedestal”? Only those on pedestals would react to God's choice of King David and his kidnapped wife, Bathsheba, and David's great grandmother Rahab, to partake in our Lord's genealogy.

God's ultimate promotion of King David, Bathsheba and Rahab was a reflection of His grace and His sense of humor. This was God's way of saying:

[Get your nose out of My business!] “For My thoughts are not your thoughts [of legalism], nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways [of abundant grace] higher than your ways [of human works], and My [compassionate] thoughts [full of mercy] than your thoughts [lack of grace-orientation]” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Believers busy counting up their self made righteousness will want to cry out: “David and Rahab are not worthy to partake in the genealogy of the Bright Morning Star!” These believers unknowingly operate in carnality—they are out of fellowship busily reporting to the Lord: “This believer or that believer has done this or that; and thus is unworthy of eternal life, let alone to serve in Your Kingdom. Ironically, such atrocious assertions will be firmly met with God’s stout response: “I have made him worthy!” And if that doesn’t quench the thirsty of their anger and bitterness toward God for promoting a down to earth person, God in his marvelous sense of humor can say: “Watch this: Not only have I made him worthy, I will also elevate him beyond measure!” That’s what grace is all about—elevating a sinner like King David to a place of honor! Therein is the manifesto of grace at its polished peak!

This Bible study will present a great challenge to everyone whose soul is still trapped in arrogance and legalism—roadblocks to the spiritual life and fellowship with God. Somehow we have the idea, that after salvation we are worthy to merit something of intrinsic good from God. We didn’t have any merit of our own before salvation and we don’t have any merit of our own after our salvation—that’s exactly what the Bible teaches. Christ’s merits are given to us because at salvation we are placed in union with Him! The apostle Paul’s comment shows his awareness of this truth:

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am **foremost** of all (1 Timothy 1:15).

Did Paul celebrate his sinless perfection, now that he was saved? No! Paul clearly states:

For that which I am doing [now that I am saved] I do not understand; for I am not prac-

ticating what I would like to do [as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ]... For I know that **nothing good** dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of good is not... Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free [Greek: *Rhuomai* - snatch out of danger with a force, or to liberate—set me free] from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord [who has set me free from the eternal consequence of sin!] (Romans 7:15a, 18, 24-25a).

With relief about his sense of destiny he proclaimed:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus [!] (Romans 8:1).

Daily deliverance from sins comes, not through legalistic effort, but through our Lord Jesus Christ. But admittedly it’s a tug of war (Galatians 5:16)! If Paul, the greatest Apostle, did not celebrate sinless perfection after salvation, we should be careful that we are not so tempted.

It has been debated whether the Apostle Paul is describing the experience of a believer or an unbeliever in Romans Chapter 7. Thorough examination of the text reveals that his description depicts a believer in Christ. What Paul wrote in regard to his struggles after his conversion should never be misconstrued as an attempt to escape moral responsibility. Rather it is a strong statement of the great control sin can have over a believer’s life.

If we are honest with ourselves, we can agree that the Apostle Paul’s description fits us all perfectly. To be sure: *God has never, cannot, and will not use anyone on the basis of the individual’s merits!* You and I will NEVER be successful in our spiritual lives until we completely renovate our minds and detach ourselves from the spirit of arrogance. We must consistently use the tools provided by God’s grace: the Filling of Holy Spirit and the “*Sword of the Spirit*”—the infallible Word of God. We must be vigilant to combat arrogance whenever it rears its ugly head, or it will rob us of our blessing in time and eternity, and expose us to the wrath of Eternal justice!

Arrogance is hard to recognize, for Satan, who invented it is the master of disguise. The Apostle Paul brought his disguise to light when he corrected the Corinthian believers for their arrogance:

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Arrogance comes in disguise, often fooling the believer who unknowingly functions under its influence. That's why the apostle Paul issued this somber warning:

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

You and I ought to take this warning to heart. Legalism always leaves believers open to the sin of arrogance. Let us take a closer look at legalism—the **Master** distorter of salvation and the spiritual life. This study will shed light on the dark side of our being and help us gain the right mental attitude. Once David recognized his inadequacies and shortfalls with God's righteous standard, he diligently pursued a mental attitude that brought him closer to God. We pray that this Truth opens the door for you to this same closeness with God that made David “a man after God's own heart.”

LEGALISM AT LARGE: Conservative Protestants and Evangelical denominations have used this word so extensively in pulpits, Christian magazines, literature, radio, television, or wherever they have an audience; that legalism is a familiar word to many. Generally it is used to contrast grace. Some denominations, or churches, have been tagged or classified as being legalistic because of their doctrines, or simply by the way their church operates. Legalism disguises itself so well, that it can hide in every denomination. Many believers worship God in total blindness—no understanding the pitfalls of legalism in the spiritual race.

Legalism is an enslavement of one's will to taboos or the Mosaic Law. It teaches that one's approval or acceptance by God, either for salvation or blessing is solely based on human works or the works of the Law. The Greek word, *katadouloo* - absolute enslavement, closely depicts it. Simply put, legalism is anti-grace—anti-God's plan in its entirety! Wherever you find it, in a local church, a Gospel proclamation, or even in Christian service, it is nothing but Satan's dubious and disguised handiwork at its best! Millions of believers ignorantly operate in the mode of legalism. Many flood the Church with a

false sense of salvation, based on their self-righteous struggles or commitment to doing their best, such as keeping the laws and being sweet to everyone. All these things, are merely morality, which in itself cannot save anyone. Man's relative righteousness can never have fellowship with God's perfect Righteousness.

No one has, or will ever be saved by his own works! The Bible is emphatic about that:

Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law [i.e. legalism] 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 no flesh will be justified** [!] (Galatians 2:16).

There you have it documented in God's Word. Many people, especially unsaved ministers, sponsor the idea of taboos for gaining salvation or blessing from God. To them, the Bible fires back: It can't work! We are saved by grace—faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9)—never by good works or any combinations thereof! The Scripture is so lucid and adamant about faith alone in Christ alone as the **ONLY** means of salvation. In light of this Truth, I urge you to stop whitewashing the tomb of your dead works for salvation! For our handiwork, no matter how impressive it's to others, cannot and will not impress God. No matter how hard we strive on our own effort, we will never be able to produce anything that will merit salvation. It is God's perfect gift for imperfect man, based solely on faith in Christ. It's the ultimate in human arrogance for man to substitute his own work, for the perfect efficacious sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, to gain salvation. Such a mindset is arrogant and dangerous, for any who die in this state will not spend eternity with God in Heaven!

What about sweating for the Lord's approval for blessing? I deliberately used the word, sweating, because it emphasizes human energy, rather than the Lord's finished work on the Cross.

What did you do to receive the Lord's perfect righteousness, which resulted in your eternal adoption into God's Family? Nothing! However, if you believe that you worked for it, you are probably not yet saved.

Which is greater, salvation or daily blessing? Salvation!

So if you did nothing to receive salvation, the GREATEST GIFT or “*Indescribable gift*” as Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians 9:15, why would you need to sweat to get the lesser gift of blessing? Scripture tells us:

He who did not spare His own Son, but [freely] delivered Him over for us all, [logic:] how will He not also with Him [or through Him] **FREELY** give us all things [including our blessing in time and eternity]? (Romans 8:32).

Our blessings in time and eternity flow through the channel of His everlasting grace, simply because of who and what Christ is and our relationship to Him—no more—no less. The conveyance of God’s awesome blessing to us in time and eternity are totally contingent on our spiritual growth through the use of God’s grace tools already delineated.

Some may wonder: “How can we identify legalistic teachings?”

- Pay attention to doctrinal teachings which emphasize taboos,³ human efforts, such as self-imposed sufferings, gratification of self-will, self-wisdom and self-righteousness.
- Remember, the Christian way of life does not run on the fuel of self-energy, rather on God’s power (Zechariah 4:6). The Apostle Paul instructed the believers in Ephesus, and his message is still vividly alive today,

...Be strong in the Lord, and in the **strength** of His **might** [not in our strength—not in our might—but in **His might** and in **His strength**—it’s that simple] (Ephesians 6:10).

He instructed them further to:

Put on the full armor of God [not self-made weapons], that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

Anything that does not teach, or stress your total reliance on God, for your spiritual lifestyle and execution of His plan for your life is legalistic. We are under grace and should reject such a yoke!

Satan concentrates on confusing believers who

know the dangers of legalism That’s right! He tricks these unwitting believers with what the Apostle Paul describes as the “doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1). Satan twists and tags every imperative command in Scripture with a tag of legalism. As a result, any presentation of Truth, which calls or challenges one’s responsibility to obey or apply, is instantly labeled legalism and therefore discarded. What a score for the master of disguise! And that shouldn’t be. Sadly, many believers have bought his lie straight from the Super Market of Hell.

This knowledge should challenge us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Truth will either bring change and humility or will cause arrogance to intensify. Let us be absolutely clear: Application of God’s word is NOT LEGALISM; however forcing it down anyone’s throat is legalism in its truest sense and the Bible prohibits this. (1 Peter 5:1-2).

LEGALISM VS. APPLICATION OF GOD’S

WORD: Satan is the master of deceit. He twists and tricks the unwitting believer to buy his lie by tagging legalism to any teaching that requires a believer to fulfill divine imperative commands. Satan is a genius. He takes something that we concretely know, such as the danger of legalism, and turns it as a weapon against us. What a slick and dubious act!

His evil work among believers needs to be shown for what it is, so that every believer can see it. He is acutely aware that many believers know of and abhor legalism—as the opposite of grace; so he works hard to camouflage and neutralize every imperative command in Scripture by tagging it legalism.

If obedience to the mandates of God’s Word is labeled legalism, what’s the value of the Bible? And what in the world are we doing here after our salvation? The reason some believers are not applying God’s Word is because of their misconception of grace. We are all familiar with the grace passage of Ephesians 2: 8-9, but we seldom quote verse 10 with it. We would be wise to consider verses 8-10 together.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).

MISINTERPRETATION OF GRACE: Quite a number of believers assume that grace means letting God do everything, with no responsibility falling on them. Of course that's a ridiculous supposition. But that's exactly how some teachers interpret imperative moods of command in Scripture—teaching their audience not to be mentally burdened with executing those commands in God's Word—doing so would be tantamount to legalism. Some believers mistakenly endeavor to fulfill the mandate of, “not forsaking our own assembling together” (Hebrews 10:25a); by attending church, taking good notes, filing them neatly, then forgetting everything about the teaching once they walk out of the doors of the church. On the contrary, James zeroed in to counteract falsehood:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does (James 1:22-25 NIV).

Proverbially, there are a thousand and one imperatives in Scripture; they are both passively and actively constructed. Some command us to do certain things, others instruct us to abstain from certain activities. Both are from God and demand obedience.

PARENTAL AUTHORITY: Parents have divine appointed authority to set the tone or regulations that govern their children. These rules do not fall under legalism, although, they could if taken to the extreme.

We will begin to tap into David's mindset when we resume our study in Volume 47.

I myself, for instance, am not especially gifted, and am shy by nature, but my gracious and merciful God and Father inclined Himself to me, and when I was weak in faith He strengthened me while I was still young. He taught me in my helplessness to rest on Him, and to pray even about little things in which another might have felt able to help himself.”- *James Hudson Taylor*

MISSION TRIPS

November 2006 - November 2007 in Review

Nigeria - November, 2006

Pastors training conferences were held in Aba and Jos with great attendance. There was a complication in planning in Aba which dampened our expectations but the Lord brought more people than ever before, just confirming that this is God's work! Children were taught in both locations - they greeted the lessons with enthusiasm.

We are looking forward to our 10th Anniversary celebration in Jos and Aba, November 2007

India and Pakistan - April, 2007

God swung the door wide for us in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan are very warm and friendly and hungry for the word. Rev. Azam Anthony hosted us in Lahore and we held outreach in Sum Real. We held pastors conferences, crusades and children's programs. We gave the Gospel (which received a unanimous response) to a factory of brick makers who worked in servitude—attempting to pay their way out of debt. The “pastor” was one of a few who could read and the only one who had a Bible.

Pastor Khalid Naz—who had been begging us for two years to please visit him—hosted us in Faisalabad. He declared our visit a historic occasion for his city. We held pastors conferences, crusades and children's programs. We were able to reach many hotel workers, both Muslim and Christian, though proselytizing is forbidden. They often sought us out asking for prayer. Though we traveled with armed guards we felt very safe in Pakistan. God surely had a hedge of protection around us to accomplish His work.

Bruce Bumgardner, Pastor of Pine Valley Bible Church, taught 700 pastors hosted by Dr. Rao in Vijayawada India. It was a conference intended for 400 but 700 just insisted they must attend. (Outdoor crusades are not allowed by law in this area). He then joined Moses and team in Lahore to team teach pastors there.

Dennis Ejilah attended the Pastors conference in India and continued followup in country for a few months. (One pastor asked him if this grace doctrine was top secret - since it was so wonderful - or was he permitted to speak of it!)

Zambia and Malawi - July 2007

Moses traveled with Russ Medley of Mustard Seed Ministries. These comments are from the report of Rev. Dixon Kasongo.

Moses evangelized more than 1,000 students in Lusaka, Zambia with a very encouraging response. Pastor John Gumbo was able to cross the border from Zimbabwe and join us.

Rev. Moses preached on “Experiential Justification” at the Baptist church on Sunday and people were edified so much. That afternoon we went to Mwembeshi open prison where there was a big response to the Gospel.

At the Pastors’ conference in Lusaka Moses taught on “Sanctification.” Some Pastors came as far as Kabwe and Livingstone. We held another Pastors conference in Lilongwe - Malawi, then went by bus to Blantyre where we also held a pastors conference.

Now the cry every where was that the days were too few. The people were very much uplifted and were sharpened more than what they expected because what was revealed to us all was very new and we liked it. It was an eye opener to everyone of us. The same subjects were taught throughout: Sanctification, Grace, and Salvation by faith in Jesus alone. People everywhere we went were asking me if Rev. Moses can come back as soon as possible. He is truly an anointed man of God who exposes the Scriptures to the heart.

Bujumbura Burundi - August 2007

Darlington Elekwa (Director of GEM Africa, Jos Nigeria Headquarters) visited Pastors in Burundi and was hosted by Pastor Philippe Selemani. This followed up the visit in 2006 when Moses and team visited Kenya where participants came from Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and D.R. Congo.

Pastor Philipe reported: The conference ended yesterday and people were very happy with the teachings. They didn’t want to stop and asked if it was possible for to Rev. Darlington to continue one more week, really the truth is moving!

The miracle is that pastor Jeremiah’s delegation walked 65 km by foot in order to reach Bukaku and then took a bus to Bujumbura 5 hours driving !!!! Another delegation from Rwanda was sent by pastor Enock because his wife and child were sick, we had also people from another province in Burundi (about 75 km from here) who also attended in fact we were

prepared to receive and feed 150 participants but we had 213 people! Rev. Darlington helped me in feeding them because of the increasing number daily.....we thank God! Many pastors and leaders decided to join us.

We thank GEM in helping us this year to hold this conference in Great Lakes Region!

Belize City, Belize:

Moses and team went to Belize for an initial visit. We held a pastors and church workers conference. As God would arrange it there was a citywide ecumenical celebration held in one church to celebrate Belize’s independence. We brought a box of books to Pastor Crawford the organizer. To our great surprise he held the books up and gave one his personal recommendation and announced that as people left they would receive books at the door as long as supplies lasted. God used this to put *Riding the Death Train* in the hands of every person in attendance from churches all over the city!

Kenya Update:

The crusade in Soweto (slum) of Nairobi produced such great results that a church has been opened there. (It was cold the day of the crusade which kept many inside--from a human perspective it did not seem hugely successful -- but God brought the positive.) Shem Aluoch is pastoring the 50 new members. Please pray for them as they struggling to meet the needs for the rent and the pastor.

Zimbabwe Update:

Our Brothers and sisters in the Lord desperately need prayer. Zimbabwe has the highest inflation rate in the world - 7, 982%, eroding the purchasing power of the currency — if there is anything on the shelves to purchase.

The church building is nearing completion and is now ready for the roof. Pastor John Gumbo, also an engineer is supervising the project.

Proposed Mission Trips 2008

March/April:	India, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Pakistan, Bangladesh
August:	Burundi, D.R. Congo, Rwanda
Sept/Oct:	New area as the Lord leads
November:	Nigeria

LETTERS TO G.E.M.

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries:

First I want to say thanks for sending me books on how to get my life right in Bible doctrine, especially “Focus on Christian Marriage.” I love everything about this book. I’m going to read and reread it again until I can quote it backward and forward, and then study it and apply it in my life. Yes I’m married, and once upon a time I counted my marriage as a failure, but after reading this book it gave me hope, as well as faith! I am enclosing the name and address of my wife so you could send her copies of everything you so kindly sent to me. What a blessing. I’m also sending six of my closest relatives names and addresses, hoping that you’d share more blessings by sending them God’s word. Thank you again and may God continue to bless you and yours

USA

.....

Hi GEM Staff!

I love the ‘07 calendar. Would you send me another because I gave it away to my dad. I also shared the newsletter with him because I have downloaded it to read for myself. I look forward to getting the calendar every year. Who designs it? It is so funny to me that I have searched high and low for just the right calendar in a Christian Bookstore and never really liked one completely. Always there is a picture of some verse that just does not seem quite right in combination. But I love all pictures and verses in your calendar, and it occurred to me that like all other provisions from The Lord, it was in grace and a free gift, and....I should have remembered that He knows what we really need and how to satisfy us even in a small detail like a calendar. I had the biggest grin when I shared it with Dad because I delight in giving him the newsletter, knowing that each page would reveal grace orientation and God’s provision and faithfulness. I know he will get the same refreshment I do upon reading it, and so thank you for sticking to the simple Truth of the Word of God in your ministry.

Sincerely,
USA

Good Day Rev. Moses,

This is the voice of your sheep who you met in Nigeria at the Terminus Hotel Aba. I work as a porter and you asked me to send my residential address to you. Please sir, I need an article that will inspire and boost my morale in Christ. Sir I would like to have a Christmas package that will keep me in close relationship with your ministry. Thanks and may God in His infinite mercy bless you as you carry the message to a greater height, bye till you surprise me.

Rev., I am very delighted, excited in fact, full of joy when I received the parcel on 26th January 2007 morning wishing me a very miraculous new dawn. Rev., your doctrinal articles are life changing books. I must commend you and your crew for a job well done. After reading them I extend them to my neighbors. Sir it is awesome. Rev., I would like to join the fellow youth in coming for any conference whenever it’s being held.

Aba Nigeria

.....

Dear Sir,

I stumbled on this book “Focus on Christian Marriage” and I read through it reluctantly, but it turned out to be “the present help in need” I was battling with the problem of getting the right woman/right spouse, until now but this book has showed me how to go about it. In fact, I lack words to express the impact of this book in my life. Just to say again, it is the present help in need.

Please I need one of “Focus on Christian Marriage” for myself and one for my partner, because the one I read has been returned to the owner. In addition, please send for me “Comfort in Suffering” and “The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation.” I am also interested in the Newsletter.

I thank God Almighty for this opportunity to receive from Him through Grace Evangelistic Ministries.

Yours faithfully,
Jos, Nigeria

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

THANKSGIVING:

For many open doors around the world.
For the knowledge that Jesus Christ controls history.
For the hunger of *Riding The Death Train* in Asia.

PETITIONS TO OUR FATHER:

- President Bush (for wisdom and guidance).
- Protection of Israel and the U.S. military.
- The U.S. (for a great revival, peace and freedom from terrorism).
- Protection of tape ministries, G.E.M. personnel and foreign translations.
- Doctrinal pastors and their tape ministries.
- Health of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will totally equip them).
- Open doors in 2008 and 2009.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God-assembled team.
- Protection and deliverance for those persecuted for their faith.
- Provision for thousands of *Riding The Death Train* to fill requests in Asia.

G.E.M. OVERVIEW SUMMARY

(Entire Overview is available at:
www.GraceEvangelisticMinistries.org)

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit organization. We are a Christian, non-denominational, missionary oriented ministry, dedicated to evangelism and sound Bible teaching. Our main focus is evangelism; all other activities support our main goal. Our mission, in obedience to the command of Our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ, is to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19). We embrace the following :

OBJECTIVE #1 - EVANGELISM

Evangelize unbelievers, adults and children, with the simple, grace Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

OBJECTIVE #2 - NEW CONVERT FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up with those who choose to believe in Christ.

OBJECTIVE #3 - PREPARATION OF INDIGENOUS PASTORS

Because those who have responded to the Gospel will become unfruitful if they are not exposed to sound Bible teaching, we will:

- a) Hold pastors conferences in conjunction with every crusade.
- b) Introduce pastors and prospective pastors to doctrinally sound resources.
- c) Provide opportunities for churches to send missionaries.

OBJECTIVE #4 - SATELLITE CENTERS

We will establish foreign satellite centers for duplication of recorded Bible lessons and reproduction and distribution of doctrinal literature as funds become available.

OBJECTIVE #5 - PUBLICATIONS

- a) Prepare periodic newsletters, which include Bible exposition, and missionary reports.
- b) Convert the missionary teachings of Moses C. Onwubiko into books.
- c) Reprint overseas when possible to save costs.

OBJECTIVE #6 - ASSIST THE NEEDY

Caring for the needy or the poor is a timeless, Biblical principle and it is incorporated directly or indirectly in God's mandates. In light of this, our mission will embrace providing spiritual food for all and sustenance for the needy as the Lord provides and directs.

OBJECTIVE #7 - THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN AFRICA

Plan to establish a doctrinal theological seminary in Africa.

CONTACT US

To be on our mailing list and receive a bi-monthly issue of *Grace News Today* without obligation, please contact:

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P.O. Box 17246, Nashville, TN 37217
Or call us at: 615-365-0015

To join our e-mail café and receive updates and prayer request, e-mail us at: debby@debbyhagar.com

Visit us on the web: www.GraceEvangelisticMinistries.org

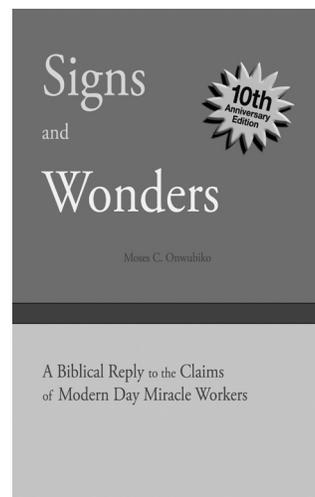
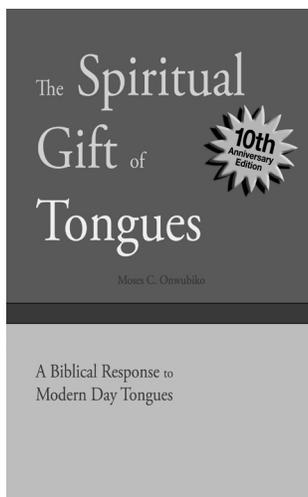
FINANCIAL POLICY: There is no charge for any material from Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Anyone who desires accurate Bible teaching, can receive our books without obligation, whatsoever, God provides Bible Truth. We wish to reflect His grace.

IRS DISCLOSURE: Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a non-profit, tax-exempt, missionary organization. And under the Internal Revenue code 501-C (3), all contributions to this ministry qualify for tax deductions.

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