

Heart to Heart

Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!

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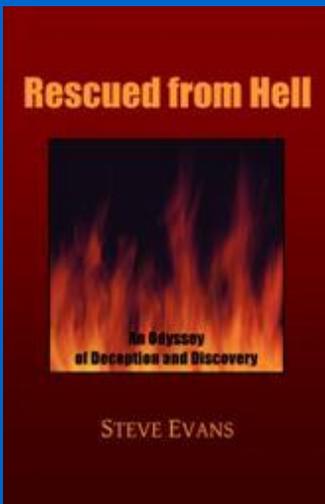
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Dear,

I have been reading lately about the error of the "pure grace" message that has been circulating around parts of the church. There are evidently some people teaching (and many believing) that because grace is so good, then it hardly matters how we live. Although this is indeed wrong, I have to say that the error I most frequently see, the error that seems to be "slaying" multitudes of Christians, is how very few live as if they truly believe in how good grace really is. This always produces torment, judgmental ways, and lies behind the devastating cycle of backsliding. So I have been very happy to see a message of pure grace going forth. Nevertheless **it has to be balanced** by an understanding of the accountability the Lord has put in place to "contain" it. We need both **total grace and perfect accountability** to live happily in Jesus!

Steve

A Different Approach

A way to avoid the old pitfalls...

To "live by faith" means that we will have to learn how to trust God for His grace in the same way that little children already live. Let's start with two key scriptures:

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 AMP

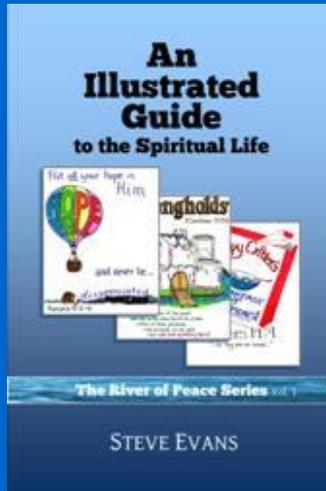
But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."
Galatians 3:11-12NKJV

The Reformers put it this way: "we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone." That says it perfectly! But they had the devil of a time trying to keep the

insanity and back.

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as paperback or Kindle editions.

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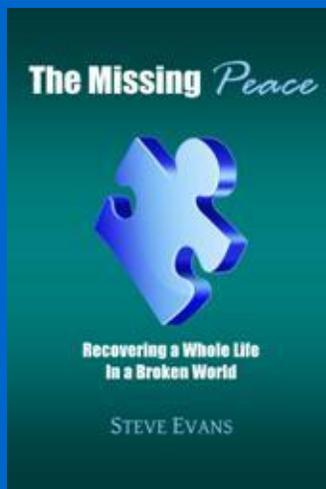


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works vs. grace and law vs. grace controversies sorted out-
without people thinking and believing "OK then! Anything
goes!" Part of the trouble is that the amount of reasoning
that it requires to process all the relevant texts is
prodigious. The greatest part of the problem is that, even if
you do get it sorted out, ***you're still trying to live the
new life out of head knowledge.*** That just doesn't carry
anyone far enough!

My approach has been different, probably because as a
young Christian I was crying out to God daily: *"I want a
path with a heart, I want to live in your Peace, I want to
experience the 'glorious liberty' of your Spirit! Show me the
way!"* **I studied but side-stepped all of the
Reformation controversies** and went straight for grace
because I needed it so badly in order to get His peace
established inside my heart. At the same time I was totally
devoted to accountability because I had been living by the
universal law of sowing and reaping long before becoming a
Christian.

It is my observation that people who try to address the
imbalance in the pure grace message, don't take advantage
of showing people what God is doing to still hold them
accountable to Him, despite having given them pure grace.
I was reading someone yesterday who was appealing to our
love for God to motivate us to live for Him. This is excellent!
It is what I call ***coming to Jesus "politely."***

The only problem is most of us don't come that way--
especially in the areas where our self-life or flesh has been
reigning through us for years. For that we need more
powerful motivations. God supplies them! They are called
"unwanted consequences"--His means of "disciplining"
every son (or daughter) that He loves.

Unlike the "higher motivation of our love for God, these
lower motivations are guaranteed to "get us where we live."
See the message below on Perfect Accountability and go to
our web site for the lesson: **Truth or Consequences.**

Total Grace

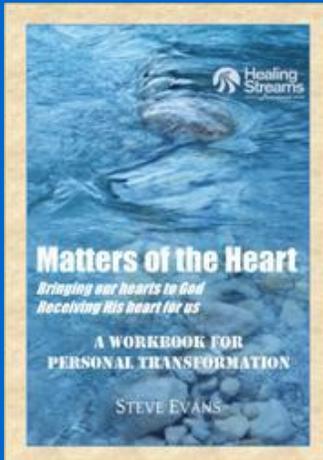
You are going to love this..

"New life" is a life that is in Him and with Him and by
Him and for Him and within Him. ***There are no strings
attached.*** It is a free gift that is always before us, always
available for us to enter into, always being extended to us.
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Joyce fought Lupus and and abuse and won.

Resources



making good plans for us and redeeming us (bringing good out of all that happens): **this is total grace.**

We have done nothing (and need do nothing) to earn or deserve it. Total grace always desires to save us, but (note the text above) it works *through* the faith connection. ***This is where our will comes into play:***

- 1) Some will reject it and never accept it (the forever lost).
- 2) Some will accept it and later reject it (the fallen away).
- 3) Some will accept it and live by it partially with much anxiety or despair (at present a majority).
- 4) Some will accept it and live by it fully to the joy and freedom of their soul (this could become you and me!).
- 5) We receive it and live by it *only by means of faith*-by trusting ourselves to it. the New Creation "comes to life" in you and me only on the basis of entire surrender to and submission to Jesus. Everything else still has Self in charge!
- 6) Any lack of peace is a sign that our faith connection is wavering--carry every feeling and thought captive to the grace-giving God!

New life comes to us on a grace basis in the first place and it can only be lived on a grace basis each and every day. Just as you cannot coerce the will of anyone to receive saving faith in Jesus (as important as that is for their well-being), you cannot coerce the will of anyone to live the new life of faith.

God will not coerce you into being saved or into living out of the freedom you are now meant to enjoy. Freedom means you are free to NOT live by grace. You remain free to choose death over life. ***But why would you want to?***

We are saved (eternally) by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Get it?

We live in this new life (daily) by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Get it?

1) It is grace alone-no grasping to get since it is God who is always giving us everything necessary for "life and godliness."

2) It is faith alone-no stressing or striving to receive, simply trusting and yielding all to Him.

3) It is Christ alone-no hope in or expectation of Self being the answer--we stay surrendered to, submitted to and dependent upon Him!

Matters of the Heart

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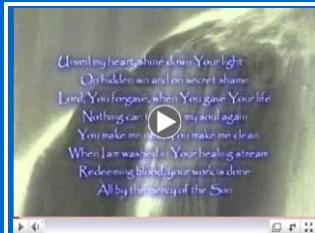
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Featured Video



Mercy of the Son with stream

New life begins and continues to flow on the basis of grace received by faith. I call this **the "divine formula"** for the new creation to emerge. **It "powers us up":**

- 1) 100% grace** that we see offered to us through Christ.
- 2) 100% surrender** to the One who offers us such grace (God the Father and Jesus).
- 3) 100% guidance** by the One who leads us into a life of great grace (the Holy Spirit).

This perfectly describes the new creation coming forth--and it makes life over into a river of peace! But every river has to stay within its banks. For that to happen God watches over us with **two crucial ways of providing governance.**

Perfect Accountability

Our Lord is a genius at dealing with us...

Total Grace and Perfect Accountability: We live under both at the same time! The grace is always being given to us. But so is the accountability.

The sovereign God keeps watch over us and holds us accountable in two primary ways that are also going on all of the time:

1) The Peace of Christ. Any departure in any moment from trusting our God and/or from obeying our Lord produces **a reduction in the Peace**. This is directly overseen by the Holy Spirit who acts as an umpire, throwing the flag on any "play" we make that departs from the new game plan of surrender to and submission to Jesus.

And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live].Colossians 3:15 AMP

This is perfect accountability (not total accountability) because neither our trust nor our obedience is ever perfect. However, if the Spirit sees that our yielding is "good enough" to satisfy what the Father is requiring of us, then the Peace is restored. The Father does not demand perfection (an impossibility for us), but what is "required" for peace to be restored is apparently based upon what He sees we are capable of with His help and the grace that has

already been working into us and revealed to us. Remember, to whom much has been given, much is required.

2) The law of sowing and reaping. We are not moral islands, cut off from the world around us. Everything we say and do (including attitudes) provokes a reaction in the finely tuned universe of people and events around us. All that is good is eventually returned to us as blessing; all that isn't may come back to us in curse form.

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:7-10 ESV

This , too, is perfect accountability because the Lord doesn't deal with us as we deserve (Ps 103:10), but only as He sees we are able to bear it and to learn by it (His definitions apply). The way of escape from any consequences we don't like is to run to Him for repentance, restoration and redemption ("Come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" Heb 4:16). Once there, the safe and sane path is to yield our trust and obedience to walk closely with Him once again. Until the next time...

This aspect of perfect accountability provides the balance for the total grace message, because it is the balanced way that the God of all Grace works with us!

Get the grace? Good, then stay in balance!

From We to Thee

Preparing for the Harvest...

Earlier this month I made an amazing discovery: ***over 15 million people a month are asking Google this question: "How can I get to heaven?"*** And not nearly enough sites are aimed directly to answering it!



I have been working like a "man on fire" (or a man possessed depending on your perspective) to get the Healing Streams site doubled in size AND preparing the way for a Forerunners4Him site to be created in order to provide a landing zone for those seekers. I want to have a site that not only helps seekers become born again, but also gives

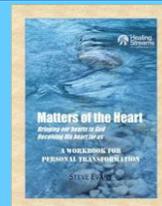
them a grace-based grounding in how to grow in all the main ways of being a close follower of Jesus.

Both sites will be seamlessly linked together, because so many of the people who come to Christ as new converts have tremendous emotional damage that needs to be mended--in order for them to become unhindered in the walk with the Lord. ***Please pray for grace*** for us to run powerfully into this area of the harvest!

Steve and Eunice

Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are ***"truths with traction,"*** guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with.



All it takes is a small investment your time and treasure to have so many secrets of the heart opened to your understanding. In our seminars it is a constant thrill to see ***"the lights go on"*** for the students. Now you can have the seminar experience in the comfort of your own home! How can you resist? This is the 176 page 8 1/2" x11" ring-bound booklet that we use in class.

Our Price: \$17.50

Available as a download: \$3.00

Healings Streams is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living--plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace.

Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

Healing Streams Ministry

A branch of Forerunner Ministries, Inc.