

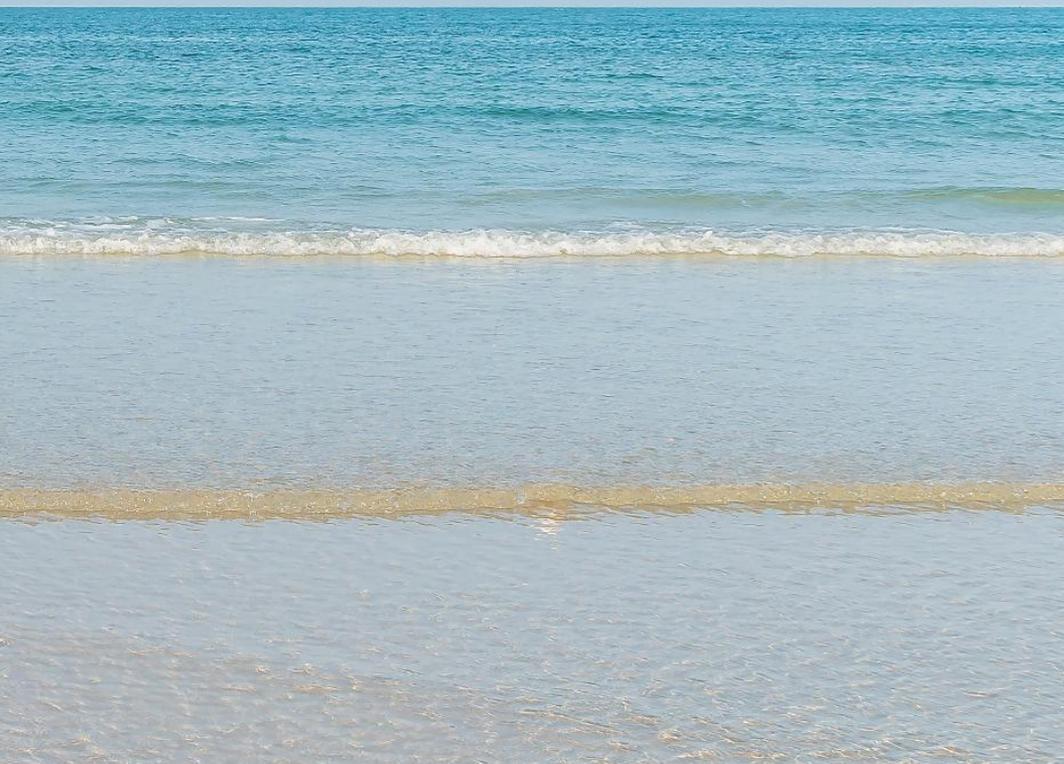
Grace

Changed from

I ***“Should”***

to

I ***“WANT”*** to



Style of writing!

I love bullet points!

Don't talk me to death.

Give me your bottom line first and then make your explanation brief.
That is why:

- My table of contents gives the main subjects!
- The Intro. briefly answers each question in the booklet.
- The chapters are brief studies, filling in each point.

Table of Contents

1. **Live your Life in Philippians 2:13**
2. **My Story**
3. Mercy is **Immediate** – We **Treasure Hunt** for Grace!
4. **Easy, Enjoyable & Effective – God's Compass**
5. When **CLOSE** to **Salvation!**



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Intro – Overview

1. **Live your Life in Philippians 2:13**

The Bible definition of Grace – so clear and so powerful!

(Expanded study in chap. 1 – pg. 1)

2. **The Story**

I am sure that I had experienced Grace many times before this but this was the first time I ASKED for Grace.

(Expanded study in chap. 2 – pg. 3)

3. **Mercy is Immediate – We Treasure Hunt for Grace!**

Heb. 4:16 is one of the most important verses in the Bible.

(Expanded study in chap. 3 – pg. 5)

4. **Easy, Enjoyable & Effective – God’s Compass**

You are never lost when you have a compass!

(Expanded study in chap. 4 – pg. 7)

5. **When CLOSE to Salvation!**

Many know that they SHOULD be a Christian.

(Expanded study in chap. 5 – pg. 9)

Live your Life in **Philippians 2:13**

The Bible definition of Grace – so clear and so powerful!

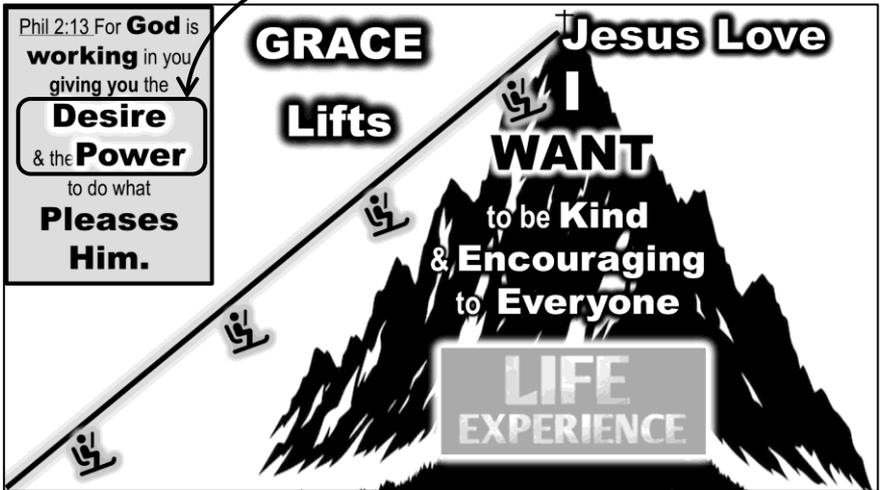
The picture below is the power point that I use whenever I teach on Grace. There are so many wonderful verses on Grace, but **Philippians 2:13** is the **Bible definition** of Grace.

I know what **I SHOULD** do.

I know what **my Attitude SHOULD** be.

But... I **CAN'T** do it! That is when I discover that

Jesus can give me the **Desire & Power** to do what Pleases Him!



The specific word Grace = Charis

The Bible word for Grace is “Charis” It comes from two Greek root words. “Char” = Joy! “Is” = Inside! When Jesus gives us the Desire and Power to do what pleases Him, it gives us GREAT JOY inside of us.

Life Experience

Lastly, please notice the big box titled “Life Experience” in the picture above. In the next chapter I will tell the story of the first time I understood that I was “Experiencing” Grace.

Once you have “Life Experience” of Jesus Changing you on the INSIDE **Because** you **ASKED** for Grace, you are forever free to let Jesus Grace CONTINUE to Change you on the inside.

My Story

October 1977 – Auburn University

I am sure that I had experienced Grace many times before this but this was the **First** time I **ASKED** for Grace.

I became a Christian in July of that same year. I was so excited to live only for Jesus. I read my Bible daily and went to every Bible study I could find.

That week I went to three different Bible studies led by three completely different groups. In ALL three Bible studies that week the teaching was on how “**God** wants to be in **Control** of our **Dating** Lives”.

After the first teaching, I was too stunned to think about it. It had never occurred to me that Jesus might want to be in control of my dating life.

After the second teaching, I was still overwhelmed.

After the third teaching in four days, by three different groups, I absolutely **KNEW** that Jesus was telling me that HE wanted to be in control of my dating life.

I was walking back to my apartment when I had this conversation with Jesus.

*“Jesus, you are the **BOSS!***

*I will do whatever you say, but this is **HARD!***

*Lord, I **REALLY LIKE** being in control of my dating life.*

There are so many pretty Christian girls here in Auburn that even a guy like me can easily get dates.

*I love the **scoping out** process.*

*I love the **flirting** process.*

*I love the **first connections** process.*

*I love **everything** about the **dating** process.”*

Then I said the words that forever changed my life. I don’t know why I said them. Honestly, I was in a verbal stream and this is what came out of my mouth.

*“Jesus, if you could please **change** my **desires**
I sure would appreciate it!”*

After my conversation with Jesus, I completely forgot about it. I had a lot of schoolwork that week and I was busy studying. The subject of “Dating” did not enter my mind for the next few days.

I had also forgotten my final prayer.

Later that week, I was walking back to my apartment after a class and for the first time in a week, and my thoughts drifted to the subject of “Dating”.

Immediately my mind was flooded with thoughts of every PAINFUL dating situation I had ever experienced. It felt like tidal wave of Sickness!

- I remembered so many times of tension, misunderstanding, irritation, assumed expectations, & frustration.
- I felt the hurt and hopelessness of every breakup of a dating relationship.
- It all felt so ugly. Two people seeking to find someone to fill the empty places inside them. Two people looking for someone to make them happy.
- It felt like there was a beautiful blanket covering a sewage dump of filth and suffering and the Lord had pulled back the blanket.

It made me so tired and sad and I told the Lord that I really NEEDED Him to take charge of my dating life.

In that instant, I remembered the conversation I had with Jesus almost a week earlier. I literally laughed out loud. I said to Jesus:

“Wow!

Is this how being a Christian works?

What a GREAT Deal!”

I had ASKED for Grace and Jesus gave me both the DESIRE and the POWER to do what Pleases Him! (Phil. 2:13)

From that day until today, I have **passionately chased** the Grace of God and Jesus has filled me with so much daily Joy Inside Me!

Chap. 3

Mercy is Immediate We Treasure Hunt for Grace!

A thousand years ago, when I was a little child, it was popular to have “Treasure Hunts” as a fun game at parties.

Today, Treasure Hunts are more popular than ever. Children, Teens and Adults will often attend fun gatherings that include a “Treasure Hunt”. With adults sometimes these Treasure Hunts involve driving all over the city following clues.

Heb. 4:16 is one of the greatest verses in the Bible.

*Heb. 4:16 Let us then **Approach God’s Throne of GRACE**
with **Confidence**, so that we may
1) RECEIVE Mercy
2) & FIND Grace
to help us in our **Time of Need**.*

Hundreds of excellent books have been written on this singular powerful verse. In some ways it sums up both the Old and New Testament.

Please notice that two separate things happen when we approach God’s Throne of Grace through the precious Blood of Jesus.

First, we **RECEIVE** Mercy!

- Mercy is **IMMEDIATE!**
- Mercy deals with our **PAST!**

Second, we **FIND** Grace!

- Grace gives us the Desire and Power to do what Pleases God.
- Grace deals with the **Present** and **Future**.
- Grace is a **TREASURE HUNT!**

The Greek word for “*Find*” in Heb. 4:16 literally means “*To SEARCH out!*”

Jesus loves to walk with us. Jesus doesn’t want to just solve our problems; He wants to teach us how to know Him better through each situation.

Knowing that Grace is a Treasure Hunt makes two points clear.

Grace Starts with Obedience!

We do NOT wait until we FEEL it to obey Jesus. We are NOT slaves to our emotions.

If you remember my story, my first commitment was to Obedience.

After that commitment I asked Jesus to CHANGE my DESIRES.

This Treasure Hunt helps us LOVE God's Weapons.

When we are Committed to Obedience and Searching for Grace, we find so much POWER in God's Weapons.

Here are just a few of God's Weapons.

1. Eating of God's **Word**
2. **Worshipping**
3. **Prayer**
4. **Serving** others in our **Local Church**
5. **Humility**
6. **Confession** and **Repentance**
7. The **Armor** of **God**
8. Understanding the **Gifts** of God
9. Seeking to **Encourage Everyone** I meet this day
10. Seeking **Counsel**

Ps. 19:10 talks about how God's precepts are sweeter than honey.

In EVERY situation where I am Committed to Obedience but also on a Treasure Hunt for Grace, God's Weapons are extra sweet.

I search out each of them and listen to how Jesus changes my heart after each one.

I see so many who do **NOT understand** the **POWER** of God's **Weapons**. Sadly, they see them as **Obligations** and Not as Weapons.

The instant you understand the Grace of God, these very sweet, precious weapons are all tools to allow Jesus to give us the Desire & Power to do what Pleases Him!

I am **Committed** to **Obedience** and
on a Daily **Treasure Hunt** for **Grace**.

Easy, Enjoyable & Effective – God’s Compass

The Bible is very clear that whatever Jesus asks us to do, if we will live in His Grace, it will **Always Eventually**, get Easier more Enjoyable and more Effective.

*Mt. 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For **My Yoke is Easy** and my burden is light."*

Easy is a Comparison Word!

Many Christians have given their lives for Jesus over the centuries. Knowing that they were about to be welcomed in heaven made it easier to die for Jesus.

Thousands have testified that at that time of facing death their level of peace was supernatural. Even more, they felt Jesus’ love for their persecutors.

This path was a lot EASIER than Renouncing Jesus, being a miserable selfish person and facing eternity in Hell.

That is the most extreme example. It simply proves that Jesus’ words are always true. His ways are always Easier, the longer you walk with Him.

Grace is a Growing JOY!

The word “Grace” / appears in the New Testament 156 times.

*2 Tim. 2:1 You then, my son, be **Strong** in the **GRACE** that is in Christ Jesus.*

*Heb. 13:9 It is **Good** for our **Hearts** to be **Strengthened** by **GRACE***

*Jn 1:16 For of **His fullness** we have all received, **GRACE** upon **GRACE**.*

If an action is Biblical and gets Easier and more Enjoyable, that does **NOT** confirm that Jesus is guiding us.

The ultimate test is whether it bears **FRUIT** for Jesus. Is it **Effective**?

*Mt. 3:8,10 Produce **Fruit** in keeping with repentance.
The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that
does **not produce good Fruit**
will be cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*Mt. 7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad **Fruit** ,
and a bad tree cannot bear good **Fruit** .*

*Jn. 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain
in me and I in you, you will **bear much Fruit**;
apart from me you can do nothing.*

*Jn. 15:16 You did not choose me, but I **chose** you and **appointed**
you so that you might go and **bear Fruit** — **Fruit** that will **last**—
and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

50 years of using the Compass of E, E, & E!

For approx. 50 years, I have used this three-fold Biblical compass. It has guided me and enabled me to help others find God's Heart and God's Direction in tens of thousands of situations.

I look back every 3-12 months at every ministry direction, every family decision, every schedule change and ask myself if it has gotten Easier, more Enjoyable and more Effective.

If not, I seek the Lord and the counsel of wise friends to continue to adjust. This long term compass has guided me to find the best of God's will in my life thousands of times.

I REPEAT this one point. Easy, Enjoyable and Effective does not work unless we are **FIRST Committed to Obedience**.

When CLOSE to Salvation!

Get Un-Stuck!

Many know that they **SHOULD** be a Christian.

They know that Jesus is true. However, they are **STUCK** in a place of **NOT KNOWING** what to **DO NEXT!**

This booklets gives some direction.

First, you commit to Obedience to God's Weapons.

1. You read God's Word regularly.
2. You faithfully attend a good Bible Believing Church.
3. You keep Researching.

MOST of all though, **WHILE** you are doing these things you **Continually ASK** Jesus to **CHANGE** your **HEART!**

When it happens, you will know that Ephesians 2:8-9 is so true.

*Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by **Grace** you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the **Gift of God**—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

You will be eager and hungry to live only for Jesus and to let Him live through you.

Even better, you will understand how God's Grace allows Jesus to live through you.

Conclusion

May Jesus **JOY** shine **through** you to everyone around you as you **Treasure Hunt** God's Grace.

We also have 100+ booklet studies coming out.

Here is a sample list of 10 of our booklets.

1. Bible Reading:

The Secrets to Sweetness in God's Word!

This study shows how a One Year Bible enables you to cover the entire Bible in one year. In addition, it shows how hunger-based reading is so different from performance-based reading.

2. The Blood of Jesus:

The Most Powerful Words Ever Spoken

This study teaches us to daily live with a clean heart and to keep short accounts when we stumble.

3. Bosses - What They Wish You Knew

This study gives us a bigger picture of the pressures and responsibilities that are carried by every boss.

4. Christianity – the ONLY Logical Religion

This study compares Christianity to all other religions and shows why only Christianity answers the hard questions.

5. Conflicts – How to Remove All Strife from My Life!

The Bible teaches that truth is a belt, and our perspective is a belt loop.

6. The Cross – The Story of the Last 24 Hours

This study combines all four gospels to examine the last 24 hours and what happened on the cross.

7. Grace – the Power to WANT to do Right!

This study teaches us to release God's Grace constantly so that God can change our hearts and give us HIS desires.

8. Marriage – 3 Bottom Lines!

Six times the Bible says that the purpose of Marriage is for the two to become one.

9. Science & the Bible – How They Agree

Many modern scientific breakthroughs were predicted and practiced in the Bible thousands of years ago.

10. Test Yourself:

Do your Life Goals bring you LIFE?

Finish the sentence “*I Want ...*” and see what you get.

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