

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

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*Grace*

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God's Power  
To Overcome Sin

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# Grace:

## God's Power to Overcome Sin

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*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not 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, that we should walk in them.”*

***Ephesians 2:4-10, ESV***

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# Grace

## God's Power to Overcome Sin A Teacher's Manual

### Introduction

If I were to ask you, “Are you saved?” how would you respond? If you were to die right now, what would happen to you? Do you know? Are you sure? Or are you in doubt because you are not sure you’ve been good enough? That is what this class is all about. We want you to be sure and have a good reason for your assurance.

More importantly, for you as a teacher of this class, we want you to be able to pass that assurance on to others. That is what this teacher’s manual is all about. We made some very purposeful decisions about how to approach this subject. Knowing these decisions will help guide you as you facilitate the discussions in the class book for which this is a companion.

Before you actually present the material, you need to understand four very important decisions we made about how we put the material together.

*Decision #1: This book does not contain material to be taught but discussions to be facilitated.*

This study of grace has been a journey for us. Philip Yancey’s statement at the end of the introduction to his book, What’s So Amazing About Grace, applies to us as well.

I have barely tasted grace myself, have rendered less than I have received, and am in no wise an “expert” on grace. These are, in fact, the very reasons that impel me to write. I want to know more, to understand more, to experience more grace. I dare not—and the danger is very real—write an ungracious book about grace. Accept then, here at the beginning, that I write as a pilgrim qualified only by my craving for grace.

As we are mere travellers on this path of grace, how could we present material to teach as if we were experts and the others were mere students who should passively accept our supposed wisdom? Rather, the class material represents the questions and discussions that have helped us on our journey and we believe will help you and your fellow learners.

As such, we encourage you not to teach this material. Rather, we encourage you to facilitate the discussions it provokes. Your job is not to make sure a certain answer is given to a certain question. Rather, it is to make sure the questions are understood and that good biblical discussion ensues highlighting the selected focus for each session.

We encourage you to listen as much as you speak, to learn more than you teach, and to break free from thinking that every question raised in the discussion has to be answered by the end of the class period. Instead, recognize each lesson as a jumping off place to inspire the class to study more on their own because the discussions have raised more questions.

Facilitate. Don’t teach.

*Decision #2: We will not discuss everything there is to know about grace.*

Grace is a huge subject. Discussions of it can lead in many directions. If we are not careful, each class will simply become a general discussion trying to encompass every possible thing about grace and no real headway will be made at all.

Further, since grace is a complex subject, if we try to jam every possible topic connected to grace into

one 13-week class, we fear there will be information overload and no one will actually discover anything. Therefore, we determined one major goal for this material and 12 discussions that support that overall goal. We spent many hours praying, discussing, even debating about the goal and what should make the list of 12 to help start someone's journey within God's grace. No doubt, someone else would have chosen a different dozen. We believe these are the most helpful. We believe they build off each other to provide a good big-picture look at God's grace and how it works in our lives and salvation.

*Decision #3: We would only cover one point in each lesson.*

While this material is not a class to be taught but discussions to be facilitated, we certainly determined things we want the participants to discover and learn. However, we limited each lesson to only highlight one point about God's grace.

We know this is unusual. But again, we want to avoid information overload. At the end of each class session, we want the participants to walk away with one point about grace that can be built upon with subsequent class discussions.

Therefore, we encourage you as the facilitator to help the class stay on the one main point of the lesson. Resist the temptation to get ahead or go beyond the scope of the lesson. This will be difficult because we seem to be hardwired with some fears about the subject of grace. We are so afraid that someone will take the discussion of grace to mean permission to sin that we often lose the benefit of the fundamental lessons of grace that can come in more foundational discussions. If you jump ahead to make sure everyone feels comfortable with what you are teaching in the first few lessons, you and the other participants may miss the great blessings to be gained in the first lessons. Don't fear; there is nothing in this book that teaches God's grace as permission to discard God's will. To bely these fears, we encourage you to work through the entire class book before teaching even one lesson so that you will have a good grasp on what the entire quarter will provide.

In addition to resisting the temptation to get ahead yourself, as the discussion facilitator, you must be prepared for the other participants to feel the same discomfort and want to step outside the main discussion of the particular lesson. Your job as facili-

tator is to help the discussion stay on task. You must gently let the other participants know when they have taken the discussion away from the main point and call them back to the focus of that lesson, letting them know that their concerns or questions will be covered in a later discussion.

This decision is the reason for this manual. This manual will not contain answers to the lessons' questions. There is no way you can facilitate good discussion if we left you with the idea that your goal is to get the class to agree on a set answer for each question. Rather, it contains the process by which we arranged the material. With each lesson we asked five questions.

- 1) What do we want the participants to know?
- 2) Why do we want them to know it?
- 3) What do we want the participants to do?
- 4) Why do they need to do it?
- 5) What is the "win" for this class session?

This manual will provide our answers to these questions so you will be aware of the main point about grace highlighted in each class session. We are hopeful that this understanding will give you the direction you need to successfully facilitate the class discussions.

*Decision #4: We would start every class session with a Case Study.*

The first page of each lesson in your class book contains a Case Study. That is, they contain a fictional scenario based in real life.

The purpose for each Case Study is not to teach the lesson before getting into the lesson. Rather, the purpose is to highlight the relevance of that session's biblical discussions. We are hopeful that the case studies will awaken a desire in the participants to delve deeper into the Bible passages and application questions in the lesson itself.

The case studies are used to demonstrate why we need to have the discussions in the lesson. They should point out the real-life reasons we need to answer the questions found in the lessons.

Resist the temptation to answer all the questions that come up in the case studies. That is the very reason for them. They are intended to raise questions that will be discussed further in the Bible discussion and applications sections. Resist the urge to teach the entire lesson during the Case

Study discussion simply to turn around and teach it again during the other sections of the material.

Further, resist the urge to correct anyone during this part of the class. Let folks get out what they are thinking here. If two participants disagree on a point, let that disagreement exist. It is that very disagreement that shows the need to discuss these issues further and demonstrates the need for the lesson at hand. Letting the discussion be completely open will allow you to mold the Bible and application discussions in a helpful way. If you squelch disagreements or quickly correct mistaken notions during the Case Study discussion, you may simply train the other participants to keep their mouths shut. If you do that, you will not learn the real questions they have and you will not be able to offer them the help they really need in the class.

#### *Clarifying the Win*

As we did with each lesson, we answered five questions about this class as a whole. We share the answers to those questions here.

- 1) What do we want the participants to know?  
Grace is God's power to overcome sin.
- 2) Why do we want them to know it?  
To remove any fear surrounding the discussion of God's grace. To provide assurance in our walk with God. To promote confident living for those in Christ.
- 3) What do we want the participants to do?  
Rely on God's grace for their salvation instead of their own efforts to be good enough.
- 4) Why do they need to do it?  
To be saved. To be assured of their salvation. To live confidently as saved children of God instead of living in the fear of trying to attain salvation.

- 5) What is the "win" for this class?

At the end of this quarter, if those in Christ are asked if they are saved and how they know it and they can say, "Yes, because of God's grace," then this class will have accomplished its goal. The class will have won.

#### *Wrapping Up*

As we said in the introduction of the class material, our prayer is that God uses this class to help each of us understand the true purpose of His grace. Grace is not God's way of overlooking our sin. Instead, God perfectly deals with our sin through the embodiment of grace, Jesus Christ. This is the only source of power that will give us the abundant life God wants for all those who believe. God promises that the Christian who trusts in God's power to save him by grace will have a life marked with the fruit of the Spirit.

In this class, you will learn to quit hoping God will overlook your sins and instead discover the power to overcome your sins. You will learn to quit living like a person who is trying to get to heaven, and instead start living like a person who has been promised heaven. You will learn to quit trying your best, and instead live by faith in Jesus who gave His best. You will learn to quit hoping you are good enough, and instead trust that God is good enough. You will learn to quit fearing grace, and instead to stand firm in it.

God's grace is truly amazing. We're convinced we don't even know the half of it. But this is a good time to learn more.

# Grace

## The 12 Lessons

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As we said in the introduction, each class session is intended to teach only one lesson. In other words, you will only learn 12 things about grace in this class. To give you a bird's-eye view of the quarter, here are the 12 things you will learn about God's grace.

- Lesson #1: We want to overcome sin but we can't.
- Lesson #2: God has promised we will overcome sin.
- Lesson #3: God's grace is the sufficient means by which we get from lesson #1 to lesson #2.
- Lesson #4: The cost of our sins is our death; the price of God's grace is Jesus' death.
- Lesson #5: Jesus is God's grace in our life right now, not off in the future.
- Lesson #6: Being saved by grace means being saved by God's righteousness, not mine.
- Lesson #7: Grace through faith, not law-keeping, is the victory.
- Lesson #8: We are saved by Christ's goodness not ours.
- Lesson #9: We've got to give up to go up.
- Lesson #10: We must embrace grace despite others abuse of it.
- Lesson #11: To grow in Christ, we must deepen our dependence on God's grace.
- Lesson #12: God has given us grace so we might be gracious.

# Grace

## Lesson 1 Our Bad News

### Clarifying the Win

#### The Five Questions

- 1) *What do we want the participants to know?*

As **Romans 7** teaches, by our sinning, we have become slaves to sin. Left to ourselves, we are going to sin. Like Paul, we want to quit sinning, but won't.

- 2) *Why do we want them to know this?*

So they can recognize their true poverty of spirit in relation to God and salvation. **Matthew 5:3** says only the poor in spirit will have the kingdom of heaven.

- 3) *What do we want the participants to do?*

Admit that they don't want to sin anymore, but no matter how hard they try, left to themselves that is exactly what they will do just like Paul.

- 4) *Why do they need to do it?*

So they can be prepared to accept the good news God offers as demonstrated in the next lesson.

- 5) *What is the "win" for this lesson?*

If at the end of this lesson the class participants admit that they don't want to sin, but they will anyway and that they want to serve God but will fall short on their own, the class will have won. If they understand that on their own they will be lost and they have no hope in themselves and their efforts because they will always end in more sin, then we will have won with this lesson.

#### Understanding the Lesson

We know you are probably shocked by this lesson. How can we start a class on grace with a lesson that doesn't talk about grace? However, this lesson is fundamental to the understanding that God's grace is not the permission to sin, but the power to overcome sin. It is fundamental to recognizing why we need grace.

As we studied grace together, the two authors discovered a turning point in our view of grace. We recognized that our great fear about teaching grace was tied up in the misperception that our job was to convince people to do something they didn't want to do—obey God. With that paradigm, we feared to mention grace because we feared our hearers would have permission not to do the very thing we wanted to persuade them. But then Paul's teaching in **Romans 7:7-25** became abundantly clear. Here was a man that desperately needed God's grace. Why? So he could go on sinning? No. He wanted and needed God's grace so he could overcome sinning. He wanted to obey God. He wanted to avoid sin (see **Romans 7:21-22**). However, because he had allowed sin into his life, he had lost control over himself. Sin had taken control (see **Romans 7:17, 20**).

No matter how much he wanted to obey and avoid sin, he eventually always went back to sin. But the key in the passage was Paul didn't want to sin. He wasn't looking for permission to sin. He wanted to obey God. The problem was he claimed he didn't have the ability to quit sinning (see **Romans 7:18**).

Then we understood the crux of the matter. God's grace contains nothing for those who want to sin. It contains nothing for those who wish to dispense with His will. God's grace is a glorious message for those who want to overcome their sinning and serve the Lord. God's grace is the power to do that. But that power is only bestowed on those who recognize they need it. It is bestowed only on those who see their own poverty of spirit. As long as someone believes they can somehow make themselves perfect by trying harder and doing more, they will always find themselves in the shoes of Paul, falling short and into despair. As long as someone thinks their job as a Christian is to prove their own ability to obey God, they will always fall short. It is only when we are able, as Paul did, to declare that we can't quit sinning, even though we want to, that we will be prepared for the grace God wants to give us.

## Danger Zones

We want to warn you of some potential places where this lesson can go off track and offer you some help to stay on course.

#1 In the Case Study, students who are not used to Case Studies may get sidetracked with the specific illustration about Peter's marriage and miss that this is actually just an illustration about our often inadequate way of dealing with sin in our lives as we advise people to simply try harder. If someone starts talking about how to help Peter's marriage, acknowledge the comment but then bring the discussion back to dealing with trying to overcome any sin in general. While some in your class will not understand struggles with temper or money, everyone has some sin they are still committing. Work to get folks to realize that while this particular example may not be about their sin, an equally pointed story could have been written about their sin as well.

#2 While talking about Paul, the apostle, in **Romans 7**, someone may want to argue that Paul is talking about his time before he was a Christian. Or they may suggest that he wasn't talking about himself but simply putting himself in the shoes of a carnally-minded person. If you spend too much time arguing about whether Paul was really talking about himself or if he was talking about himself before he was a Christian, the class may miss the point of application to themselves.

The above arguments, while perhaps necessary in some contexts, are not necessary in this discussion. First, whether Paul was talking about a real-life struggle he faced or not, whether he was talking about his time before becoming a Christian or not is really moot for this discussion. **I Corinthians 3:1-3** demonstrates that someone can be a baptized believer and in Christ, but still struggle with being carnally-minded. By the way, before we dismiss the Corinthians as bad Christians who were outside of Christ, remember what Paul said to them at the start of the letter: "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and knowledge..." (**I Corinthians 1:4-5**, ESV).

If we understand that Christians can still struggle with a carnal mind, then it doesn't matter when Paul had that struggle. The point is that whenever we are having the same struggle Paul described in **Romans 7**, we are acting just like whoever Paul was describing did whenever they acted like he described in **Romans 7**.

#3 Someone may express the concern that if we actually state that Paul said he couldn't quit sinning at some time and therefore we can't quit sinning, then they will just give up and quit trying to serve the Lord. Our response to that is simply that Paul did, in fact, say that he did not have the ability to overcome sin no matter how much he wanted to. We do want people to say that exact same thing. We don't know how they will respond after they make that admission. However, it is not our job to make people respond in the right way. It is our job to simply present honestly what the text says. We do hope and pray that they will respond to this truth in the same way Paul did as demonstrated by **Romans 7:24-25**. Paul admitted he couldn't quit sinning, so he turned to Jesus and expected deliverance to come through Him. That is exactly what we need to do if we wish to overcome sin. However, we can only truly have the joy and peace offered by **Romans 7:25** if we embrace the despair of **Romans 7:24**.

Again, some may throw their hands up in the air and give up. While that saddens us, we must recognize that our job is not to change what Paul said in order to try to manipulate out of someone the kind of response we want from them. Our job is to simply teach what the Bible says and let each hearer decide for themselves how they will respond. The truly poor in spirit will turn to Jesus as Paul did.

## **Final Encouragements**

It would be best if this class period could end without throwing out the solution of, "I'm only saying we can't do this on our own, we need Jesus." It would be good to simply leave the class at the end of **Romans 7:24** for a while. Let them stew in their sins. Let them feel the helplessness and hopelessness for a while.

However, because of the fears of the class participants, you will likely need to at least let them know the next lesson is entitled "God's Good News" for a reason. We have to embrace the bad news so we can be open to God's grace. However, there is good news coming. Be back for the next class session to learn what that good news is.

# Grace

## Lesson 2 God's Good News

### Clarifying the Win

#### The Five Questions:

- 1) *What do we want the participants to know?*

While we are unable to quit sinning, God will deliver us from our sins.

- 2) *Why do we want them to know this?*

To give them the confidence necessary to draw near to God every day.

- 3) *What do we want the participants to do?*

Confess that God can and will be victorious over sin through them.

- 4) *Why do they need to do it?*

This confession lays the foundation for confidence in, surrender to, and dependence upon God.

- 5) *What is the "win" for this lesson?*

If at the end of this lesson the class participants claim that they will be holy and go to heaven because God is working in their lives, even if they are still wondering how that will actually work, then the class will have won with this lesson.

#### Understanding the Lesson

The first step to grasping and participating in God's grace was to recognize our absolute need for it. Lesson 1 established that as it pummeled us with the bad news. We can't quit sinning. The second step to grasping and participating in God's grace is to recognize what He is offering us in His grace. That is what this lesson is all about.

Like Paul, we want to quit sinning. However, we have recognized that we can't. Where does that leave us? Wretched, miserable, despairing, mourning. Yet, Jesus said those who mourn are blessed because they will be comforted (**Matthew 5:4**). Paul demonstrates how in **Romans 7:24-25**. In **Romans 7:24**, Paul is in despair over his wretchedness. Since he could not deliver himself from the law of sin and death that had developed in his members, who would? That is where we ended in lesson 1. Gratefully, Paul had an answer. God would deliver him, through Jesus Christ, Paul's Lord.

Sadly, many Christians continue to put their confidence in themselves. They think if they try harder, they will overcome sin. The problem is that every time they sin with that mindset, their confidence is shaken. If our salvation rests on our shoulders to be good enough, every time we fail, we can't help but lose confidence. One of two things will happen: we either give up and quit serving God or we start to lie to ourselves about our

sins and obedience, which leads us to lie to others, which further leads us to the arrogance the Pharisees displayed in their own self-deceptions (cf. **Luke 18:9-14**).

The passages we study in this lesson are intended to place our confidence squarely in God. As **Psalm 18:1-3** says, He is our strength, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our refuge, our shield, our salvation, our stronghold. He has promised to conform those who are in Christ to Christ's image. He has promised to justify those who are in Christ. He has promised to glorify those who are in Christ.

The only point of this lesson is to hear and accept this promise. We can have confidence, not because of our strength, but because of what God has promised to do for us in Christ. That is the confidence that will cause us to work in Christ (cf. **Philippians 2:12-13**). This confidence will cause us to continue serving God even after we have failed.

## Danger Zones

We want to warn you of some potential places where this lesson can go off track and offer you some help to stay on course.

#1 Because we are striving to make one point and one point only in each lesson, the struggle will be to stay on this point. If we were studying with non-Christians, we probably wouldn't have a problem here. However, because we are studying with Christians, we will have to deal with the fears that have been developed about studying God's grace. Because Christians have heard folks abuse and misuse God's grace so much, they may begin to express their fears during this lesson.

In the first lesson, we said that we cannot overcome sin. This lesson says God will overcome sin in us. Some Christians will fear that you are saying God will do this apart from our cooperation. You will need to let the class know that the purpose of this lesson is not to teach the mechanics of how God will cause us to overcome sin. That is coming later in the quarter. The purpose of this particular lesson is singular. God has made us a promise of victory and we need to hold on to that promise. He will conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. He will give us victory over sin. Keep coming back for other lessons to learn about how that is going to happen.

#2 The discussion of **Romans 8:37-39** is a danger zone because of the fears many Christians have developed whenever grace is taught. The passage actually says that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Sadly, instead of accepting the comfort Paul intended this passage to give us, many Christians have to bring up what this passage isn't talking about. They want to make sure that we know that if we leave Christ, we'll be separated from the love of Christ and lose our salvation. I certainly agree with them. However, that is not what this passage says.

Jumping to this point that we make out of fear that people will abuse what Paul said often causes us to miss the very point that Paul is making. There are plenty of passages that warn us against abandoning Christ. Let's allow the warning passages to be warning passages and allow this comforting passage to be a comforting passage. What it says is if we are in Christ, nothing can separate us from the love of God. He will give us the victory. Hang on to that promise. Make that point well.

## Final Encouragement

God's grace is powerful and wonderful. God's grace is the foundation of our confidence. Let your fellow learners grasp that promise in this lesson and worry about the mechanics later. We can continue walking God's path because God is working on us and in us. Let's praise God for that.

# Grace

## Lesson 3 God's Grace Is Sufficient

### Clarifying the Win

#### The Five Questions:

- 1) *What do we want the participants to know?*

God's grace is the sufficient means He uses to give us victory over sin.

- 2) *Why do we want them to know this?*

So they will focus on God and not themselves, looking to the work He does for our salvation and not the work we do.

- 3) *What do we want the participants to do?*

Accept and appreciate God's grace, understanding that if they will be saved, it will be by God's grace.

- 4) *Why do they need to do it?*

Because this is the source of the Christian's confidence; it is the truth that will truly set them free from their sins.

- 5) *What is the "win" for this lesson?*

If at the end of the lesson the class participants are able to admit that God's grace and not our strength is sufficient for our salvation and victory over sin, then the class will have won with this lesson.

#### Understanding the Lesson

In our first lesson, we learned that we want to overcome sin but can't (**Romans 7:15-24**). In our second lesson, we learned that God has promised us we would overcome sin (**Roman 8:26-39**). That has to leave us in a quandary. How can both of these things be true at the same time? That is the point of this lesson. We can't overcome sin, but God can. God's grace is the sufficient means by which He moves those who want to overcome sin to actually do so. God's grace is His doing for us what we can't do for ourselves. We can't overcome sin for ourselves, but God's grace will give us the strength to do it.

The problem we have, especially as American Christians, is we believe our job is to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and independently stand on our own two feet. However, if we think we can stand on our own two feet, we need to take heed because we are about to fall (**cf. I Corinthians 10:12**).

**II Corinthians 12:7-10** says that God's grace is sufficient for us. That is, God's grace is sufficient to carry us through whatever we face so that we may be conformed to the image of His Son (**cf. Romans 8:28-30**). But if God's grace is sufficient, what does that mean about our effort? It means our effort is not what is sufficient to save us. Consider Paul's thorn. He saw it has a hindrance to his effort. He wanted it removed because of what he believed he could accomplish without it. God knew that what Paul could accomplish was not de-

pendent upon Paul, but upon God's own grace. God used the thorn in the flesh to teach Paul that very lesson. How many thorns have we faced that should teach us the same lesson.

If we are going to be saved, it will be because of God's grace and not because of our efforts. Our best efforts got us irrevocably mired in sin. Why do we think that would change now? We don't need our best efforts to overcome sin. We need God's grace.

## Danger Zones

We want to warn you of some potential places where this lesson can go off track and offer you some help to stay on course.

#1 While the names and details have been changed, the Case Study in this lesson is actually based on a very real scenario that one of the authors witnessed in a hospital conference room. It was a turning point in the author's understanding of our own strength and how we Christians generally try to encourage each other when we face hardship. Without even realizing it, we often give advice that is the exact opposite of what is needed. We try to encourage Christians to believe they are strong enough, to just buck up, just try harder. All the while, what God is wanting us to see is we aren't strong enough. We need to lean on Him.

The danger here is this American ideal is so engrained in us that some will not even be able to see a problem with Tim's advice and prayer. Some will. Make sure to give them time to get that point out as the discussion gets going in this lesson.

#2 Additionally, regarding the Case Study, some of your fellow participants will get caught up in some of the specific psychology of the moment and start talking about all kinds of needs for those who are bereaved. This Case Study is not meant to get into a discussion of how to comfort the bereaved. The point is to recognize we are not strong enough, but God's grace is sufficient. This is intended to highlight the point about our strength versus God's strength. While some discussion about the kind of advice and comfort to give the bereaved will shed some light on this, make sure the class session doesn't get derailed into a class on handling grief and comforting the grieving. Make sure it stays on the track of Tim's advice and prayer about Connie's strength versus her weakness.

#3 There is another danger regarding the Case Study. Some will miss the point about strength and instead be so shocked by Connie's outburst that they want to fix Connie and give her the advice that she shouldn't blame God or say things about God like that. We encourage you to read **Psalm 88** to learn that these kinds of emotions are natural. They are not wrong. The person should simply be encouraged to do exactly what Heman the Ezrahite did and take those feelings to God. The problem in this story is not that Connie feels overwhelmed or that she even is laying that at God's feet. The problem is she is being told she is strong enough to deal with it instead of being told she isn't strong enough but God's grace is sufficient to get her through.

#4 As we will have to warn several times, some of our brethren are scared to speak of the sufficiency of God's grace. They equate teaching the insufficiency of man's efforts with teaching that man does nothing. Remember our foundation. Grace is not God's power to overlook our sin; it is God's ability to overcome our sin. Grace is not for those seeking permission to sin, but for those seeking the power to overcome it. We are talking to people who want to quit sinning. We are talking to people who are exerting effort but keep failing. If this objection arises, just bring the class back to that foundation.

#5 The final danger zone is in the discussion of **Ephesians 5:22-33**. Don't let this section of the class drift into a discussion of all the aspects of the husband/wife relationship in marriage. We don't need to get into a debate about submission and love. This question is intended to highlight one thing. In a marriage, when the husband loves his wife properly, she is set free to submit to him because she knows where he is leading is best for the family. In the same way, God's grace sets us free to submit to Him because we know that His grace is sufficient to save us. Whatever He lets happen to us and whatever guidance He gives we know is for our ultimate good and therefore we will surrender to it.

## **Final Encouragement**

God's grace really is sufficient. We can rest in Him and place our confidence in Him. That is such a blessing because if our confidence had to be in ourselves, we would all be in trouble. God will use our weakness to drive us to the throne of His grace, giving us strength beyond what we thought possible. Therefore, we must boast in our weaknesses and His grace.