From Scarcity to

SUPER NATURAL SUPPLY

Living in the Overflow of God's Grace and Favor



Ashley Evans

Copyright © 2025 Ashley Evans

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the publisher, except as provided by United States copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Contents

Acknowledgements 1

1. The Grace and Favor Revolution: Escaping the Performance Trap 5
2. The Original Design: Created for Supply, Not Stress 12
3. Breaking Free From the Curse of Toil: Why People Burn Out 24
4. Righteousness: The Identity That Changes Everything 30
5. The Power of the Cross: Why the Gospel Still Shocks People 40
6. No More Consciousness of Sin: From Guilt to Grace 45
7. Grace Initiates Faith Responds: Why We've Had It Backwards 52
8. The Supply Chain of Grace: How Heaven's Resources Reach You 73
9. From Fear to Faith: The Shift That Unlocks Everything 78
10. The Overflow Life: Living Beyond Survival Mode 88
11. The Grace and Work Paradox: Working Hard Without the Burden 95
12. Grace vs. Law: Why Mixing the Two Will Destroy You 105

13. The Reign of Rest: When Rest Becomes Your Ruling Mindset 112
14. The Battle Is the Lord's: From Striving to Surrender 119
15. Worship with the Words of David: From Pressure to Presence 126
16. The Reconnection Revolution: How Disconnection Destroys and Grace Restores 133
17. Standing in Grace: From Shifting Sand to Solid Ground 147
18. Living Under the Unforced Rhythms of Grace–From Burnout to Balance 154
19. When the Enemy Attacks Your Rest: The Amalek Principle 161
20. Abundance in Every Season: From Dry Spells to Divine Supply 168
21. The Power of Right Believing: From Mental Strongholds to Renewed Minds 176
22. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus: From Distraction to Focus 184
23. Living the Overflow: From Scarcity to Supply 191
24. The Overflow Revolution: This isn't the end, it's the beginning 200

About the Author 204

Acknowledgements

This book exists because of the grace of God and the faithfulness of people who believed in this message long before it became a manuscript.

To Jane, my wife of 39 years—you are my life partner, my ministry partner, and my greatest gift from God. Without you, I could have never overcome the difficulties I've experienced, nor could I have achieved anything we've built together. You've walked every season with me—from burnout to breakthrough, from scarcity to supply. You believed in grace when I was still learning to live it. This book, this ministry, this life—it's all ours together. I love you beyond words.

To our 3 sons and their families—Mark and Lauren, and your children Judah, Asher, Zara, and Mia; Nate and Chloe, and your sons Jed and Zeke; and Benjamin—you never had to follow God's call into ministry, yet each of you has chosen this path not because we pushed, but because you witnessed grace lived out in our home. Watching you lead, serve, and pour out your lives for the Kingdom is the greatest joy of my life. You are living proof that grace produces fruit across generations.

To our Global Board—Philip, Rick, Nancy, Dimy and Hastings—your wisdom, oversight, and spiritual covering have protected this movement and kept us anchored in truth. You've provided accountability, strategic guidance, and godly counsel as we've navigated expansion across nations and cultures. Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your willingness to speak truth even when it's hard. You are the foundation upon which Futures Church stands globally.

To our Australian Board—Josh, Philip, Nancy, Hastings, Deepa and Rick, you carry the unique responsibility of overseeing our home base while championing the global vision. Your local wisdom combined with your kingdom mindset has positioned us to plant churches worldwide while maintaining excellence at home. Thank you for your sacrificial leadership and your commitment to building something that outlasts all of us.

To Philip Farlam, my General Counsel—your strategic mind, legal wisdom, and unwavering commitment have navigated us through complexity and positioned us for exponential growth. You've been more than counsel; you've been a trusted friend and a fierce advocate for the vision. Thank you for protecting what God is building and for serving on both our Global and Australian Boards with excellence.

To Josh and Sjhana Greenwood—you are modern-day Josephs. As lead Pastors of Australia, members of the global team, and USA and Australian boards, your leadership excellence, systems ability, and sacrificial service have helped take us from 3 campuses to 21. You've built systems, raised leaders, and stewarded growth with humility and grace. This movement wouldn't be what it is without you. Thank you for saying yes when the vision was still forming.

To our Global Team—Alexis and Susanna, Mark and Lauren, Josh and Sjhana, and Philip and Glenda—you carry the weight of a worldwide vision with excellence, unity, and joy. You've sacrificed time, comfort, and convenience to see the Kingdom advance. You coordinate across time zones, languages, and cultures to ensure that every campus reflects the same DNA of grace. Thank you for leading with integrity, serving with humility, and believing that 2,000 churches isn't a dream—it's a promise.

To our Campus Pastors and their spouses—you are the frontline warriors of this movement: Doran and Mel • David and Jess • Simon and Lauren • Alice and Rob • Tony and Aste • Nick and Danielle • Ryan and Lindsay • Andy and Lesley • Janine and Steve • Gatut and Esther • Jimmy and Deisy • Steven and Mel • Shannon and Courtney

• Stu and Kellie • Adi and Lala • Samuel and Grace • Yohan and Malika • Alejandro and Laura • Julio and Maria. You've embraced this message of grace and made it the heartbeat of your campuses. You've led with courage, loved with authenticity, and built communities where people encounter Jesus and experience overflow. Every baptism, every salvation, every transformed life—these are your victories. Thank you for your faithfulness, your resilience, and your unwavering commitment to the vision. You inspire me more than you know.

To all our leaders across the world—from small group leaders to worship teams, from children's ministry volunteers to administrative staff, from campus leadership teams to emerging pioneers—you are the backbone of this movement. You serve without spotlight, lead without recognition, and give without counting the cost. You translate this message of grace into a thousand different contexts, languages, and cultures. You make the vision real on the ground level. Thank you for your faithfulness in the hidden places. Heaven sees what earth overlooks, and your reward will be great.

To the Futures Church family across 21 campuses and 4 countries—some of you have been there since the beginning and others have just started. Thank you for embracing the culture of grace, generosity, and overflow that this book describes. You've sacrificed, served, and given beyond measure to see the Kingdom advance. I'm honored to be your pastor. This book is for you first—so you can understand the DNA of who we are and why we do what we do.

To every new believer and every new person who will read this book—welcome to the family. This isn't just a book; it's the blueprint for how we live, lead, and love at Futures Church. Grace isn't a doctrine we debate; it's the culture we breathe. As you read, you'll discover why we rest without guilt, give without fear, and lead without burnout. You'll understand that you're not joining a church—you're joining a revolution. Welcome to the overflow life.

Finally, to Jesus—Thank You for meeting me in my darkest season, teaching me to rest in Your finished work, and showing me that

Your yoke truly is easy and Your burden is light. Every word in this book points back to You. Every campus we plant glorifies You. Every leader we raise magnifies You. May this book bring You honor and draw thousands into the overflow life You died to give us.

All glory to God.

—Ashley Evans
Futures Church, October 2025

1

The Grace and Favor Revolution: Escaping the Performance Trap

Why are so many people successful on paper yet feel exhausted inside?

Let me tell you why in one word: performance.

Here's a question that's going to mess with your mind: Why do families fracture while careers accelerate? Why do marriages crumble under the weight of achievement? Why do people who have everything feel like they have nothing?

We live in an age of exhaustion. And we've been conned into believing that's normal.

The world applauds the hustler. The overachiever. The one who pushes past limits. "No pain, no gain" isn't just a gym motto—it's etched into our culture like commandments on stone tablets. Leadership—whether you're leading at church, in your home, at work, or in your business—is measured by the number of hours logged, the sacrifices made, the stress endured. We've turned burnout into a badge of honor. We brag about all-nighters like they're purple hearts from some corporate war.

Your identity is in your achievements. Your security is in your effort. And when you stumble? You're out.

That's the world's system.

But let me introduce you to a different system. One that flips everything upside down.

It's called GRACE.

And it's not what you think.

Grace doesn't reward performance—it replaces it.

The Two Systems

Picture two operating systems running on two different computers.

System 1: Performance. You earn everything. You prove your worth. You work harder to get ahead. You're only as valuable as your last achievement. One failure and the system crashes.

System 2: Grace. You receive everything. Your worth is established. You work from rest, not for approval. Your value is locked in. Failure doesn't define you—it refines you.

Most people—including most Christians—are running System 1. And they're exhausted.

They got SAVED by grace. But they're LIVING by performance.

They know they can't earn salvation. But somewhere along the line, they started thinking they have to earn everything else. God's blessing. God's favor. God's provision. God's approval.

That thinking is killing them.

Here's the revolutionary truth: Grace isn't just how you GET saved. Grace is how you LIVE saved.

Grace isn't the entry point to Christianity—it's the entire operating system.

You were saved by grace. Now live IN grace. Not just FROM it—IN it.

The Antivenom Revelation

Let me give you a picture that will change how you see grace forever.

You know how antivenom works?

When someone gets bitten by a venomous snake, you don't just clean the wound. You don't just bandage it up. You don't try to suck the poison out. You inject antivenom. And the antivenom NEUTRALIZES the poison at a cellular level.

Here's the critical detail most people miss: The antivenom is made FROM the venom itself. Scientists extract venom from the snake, inject it into a host animal—usually a horse or sheep—and the animal's immune system creates antibodies. Those antibodies become the antivenom.

So the very thing that could kill you becomes the source of your healing.

Now watch this: When antivenom enters your bloodstream, it doesn't just stop the poison—it REVERSES it. The poison is still there, but the antivenom neutralizes it. Your body's immune system—specifically your BLOOD—carries the antivenom to every cell, cleansing and healing as it goes.

Without blood flow, the antivenom can't reach the affected areas. The blood is the delivery system. The blood is the healing agent.

That's exactly what Jesus did on the cross.

Sin is the venom. It's poisonous. It's deadly. And humanity was bitten in the Garden.

For centuries, we tried to fix it. Religion said, *Work harder. Be better. Follow more rules.* But you can't neutralize poison with effort. You can't clean a snakebite with willpower.

You need antivenom.

So God sent Jesus. And on the cross, Jesus became sin. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Jesus took the venom. He absorbed the full force of sin's poison. The very thing that was killing us became the source of our healing.

And here's the detail that will blow your mind:

Good Friday: It looked like the poison won. Jesus died. The serpent struck. Darkness fell.

Three days: The tomb was sealed. It seemed like the venom killed the Lamb.

Easter Sunday: Jesus rose. The antivenom was complete. The poison was neutralized. Death was defeated.

And when Jesus said, "It is finished," He wasn't saying, "I am finished." He was saying, "The antidote is complete. The poison is neutralized. The cure has been created. Salvation is DONE."

The very weapon the enemy used to try to destroy Jesus became the tool God used to save us all.

That's grace.

Not a cover-up. Not a temporary fix. Not a bandage. A complete, permanent, cellular-level transformation.

Grace isn't damage control—it's total reversal.

Why Religion Hates Grace

Here's why this is so threatening to religious systems:

If grace is a FREE GIFT, then your effort doesn't earn it.

If Jesus FINISHED the work, then your striving doesn't add to it.

If righteousness is RECEIVED, then your performance doesn't produce it.

And if ALL of that is true, then religion has no power over you.

Religion NEEDS you to believe you have to earn it. That's how it controls you.

But grace strips religion of its power. Because grace says: It's DONE. You're IN. You're ACCEPTED. Now live from that position, not for it.

That's why the Pharisees hated Jesus. He was dismantling their entire system.

And that's why religious people today still resist grace. Because grace threatens the performance-based structures they've built their identity on.

But here's what I need you to understand: FAVOR changes everything.

You can work hard for years and get nowhere. Or you can have favor and doors open that effort could never unlock.

Favor isn't earned. It's RECEIVED. And when you understand that you're living under God's unmerited favor, you stop striving and start flowing.

The Favor Story (Part 1)

Let me give you a preview of what favor looks like in real life. I'll tell you the full story in the next chapter, but here's the headline:

We were searching for land in Gwinnett County, Georgia, for what would become our Sugarloaf campus. I'd looked at over a hundred properties. Six times—six times—I found the perfect piece of land. And six times, just days before we could make an offer, someone bought it.

Same buyer every time. A regional powerhouse company.

After the sixth time, I prayed. And God dropped this thought into my spirit: *Go see one of the richest developers in Atlanta. Ask him to help you.*

I didn't even know who he was. Just knew his company kept buying all our land.

Fear said: *Give up. You're outgunned.*

Faith said: *Go.*

So I called. Got an appointment within the hour. Went to see him at his fifty-story office in Atlanta. Shared the vision.

And he said, "I'll help you."

That's favor.

Not because I was impressive. Not because I had connections. Not because I worked harder than everyone else.

Because GRACE opens doors that performance can't.

Performance gets you in the room. Favor gets you the keys.

What This Book Will Do

Here's what I'm going to show you in the pages ahead:

- How to escape the performance trap and live from supply instead of scarcity.
- How to recognize when you've drifted back into striving and how to return to grace.
- How to access the favor of God that unlocks doors, multiplies resources, and accelerates breakthrough.
- How to sustain long-term effectiveness without burning out—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.
- How to build a life, a family, a business, and a ministry on the foundation of grace instead of grinding.

This isn't theory. This is how I've lived for decades now. And it works.

Not perfectly. Not without challenges. But sustainably. Joyfully. Powerfully.

And if it works for me, it'll work for you.

So let's dive in. Let's dismantle the lies you've believed. Let's expose the performance trap. And let's step into the overflow life you were always meant to live.

Welcome to the revolution.

2

The Original Design: Created for Supply, Not Stress

Before the fall, there was Eden.

And Eden wasn't just a garden. It was a system. A way of life. A blueprint for how humanity was designed to operate.

No stress. No scarcity. No grinding for survival.

Just supply. Abundance. Overflow.

And here's what most people miss: Jesus didn't come to offer you a different system. He came to RESTORE the original one.

Eden wasn't the exception—it was the design. And grace brings you back to it.

The Atmosphere of Eden

Genesis 2:8-9 says, "Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food."

Notice what God provided: EVERYTHING. Not just survival—satisfaction. Beauty and provision. Delight and sustenance.

Adam didn't wake up wondering where his next meal would come from. He didn't strategize. He didn't hustle. He didn't grind.

He worked, yes. Genesis 2:15 says God put him in the garden to work it and take care of it. But work in Eden wasn't toil. It was worship.

It was partnership with God. It was creativity and cultivation, not stress and survival.

Work was part of the design. But SUPPLY was the atmosphere.

Think about it: Adam never experienced a drought. He never worried about running out. He never felt the pressure to hoard or protect or control.

Why? Because he was connected to the SOURCE.

God provided. Continuously. Abundantly. Generously. And Adam RECEIVED.

That's the original design. Not working FOR provision. Working FROM provision.

Eden's system: God supplies, you receive. The fall's system: You strive, and maybe you survive.

What Changed?

Genesis 3 records the moment everything shifted.

The serpent deceived Eve. Eve ate the fruit. Adam followed. And in that instant, humanity disconnected from the SOURCE.

Not because God rejected them. But because THEY chose independence.

And with that independence came a new system: scarcity.

Genesis 3:17-19 captures the curse:

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground."

Painful toil. Thorns. Thistles. Sweat. Grinding.

Supply became scarcity. Ease became effort. Overflow became survival.

And that system has dominated humanity ever since.

The fall didn't just introduce sin—it introduced stress.

The 200-Year Disconnect

Here's something most people miss: After the fall, humanity didn't worship God again for TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

Genesis 4:26 says, "When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. It was during his lifetime that people first began to worship the Lord."

Think about that. TWO CENTURIES without worship. Without calling on God's name. Without connection.

Why?

Commentators suggest life was so brutally difficult that it consumed every waking moment. Survival took everything they had. The grind was relentless. There was no margin. No rest. No breakthrough.

The curse of toil was so heavy that humanity FORGOT the Source.

And here's the terrifying part: Most Christians today are living the same way.

They KNOW God. They're saved. They go to church.

But they're living under the curse of toil, not the blessing of supply.

They're grinding. Surviving. Hustling. Stressed. Exhausted.

And worship? Rest? Connection with God? Those are LUXURIES they don't have time for.

They've drifted into the same trap Adam's descendants fell into: Working so hard to survive that they disconnect from the very Source who could sustain them.

When you're grinding to survive, worship feels impossible. When you're resting in supply, worship becomes natural.

Jesus Restores Eden's Flow

But here's the revolutionary truth: Christ came to restore Eden's supply.

John 10:10 isn't just a nice verse to put on a coffee mug:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Not survival life. Not barely-getting-by life. Not I-hope-I-make-it-through life.

Full life. Abundant life. Overflow life.

The Greek word Jesus uses here is perissos—superabundant, excessive, over and above, more than enough. It's the picture of a cup so full that it's spilling over the sides.

Jesus is saying: I didn't come just to get you to heaven eventually. I came to restore the abundant life that Adam lost. I came to plug you back into Eden's supply. I came to reconnect you to the Father's provision.

Second Corinthians 9:8 confirms it:

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Read that again. Slowly. Let every word sink in.

All things. Not some things. All things.

All times. Not sometimes. All times.

Having all that you need. Not barely enough. All that you need.

You will abound. Not survive. Abound.

That's Eden-level supply in a post-fall world. That's what grace restores. That's what Christ died to give you.

Grace doesn't drag you back to scarcity—it drives you back to Eden.

The Favor Story: When God Taught Me to Walk in Grace

Let me tell you about the day God opened my eyes to how grace and favor actually work.

It was the year 2000. I was thirty-six years old, serving as Vision Pastor at Paradise Community Church in Adelaide, Australia. Just three months away from becoming Senior Pastor.

For close to twenty years—two full decades—our church had been praying for a specific piece of land right next door to our property. Thousands of prayers had ascended to heaven for that land. But the owner had made it clear: he would not sell it to a church. Ever.

Then, suddenly, everything changed. The land went on the market. Auction. Highest bidder wins.

And we weren't alone in wanting it. Eight retirement consortiums had their eyes on that property. These weren't small players—these were massive organizations with unlimited capital and experienced negotiation teams. They wanted to build retirement villages, and this location was prime real estate.

I remember standing in the church office, looking at that land through the window, and feeling the weight of impossibility pressing down on me. Twenty years of prayer. Thousands of people who had believed God for this moment. And now eight giants stood between us and the answer.

I had never done a major real estate deal in my life. I had no connections in that world. No track record. No leverage. Nothing.

But I had something those retirement consortiums didn't have: a Word from God.

The Holy Spirit had spoken to me from Joshua 3. The story where Israel stood at the edge of the Jordan River, and God said, "Step into the water." The moment their feet touched the river, it parted. They walked through on dry ground.

And the instruction was clear: "Go and stand at the brink." I told our Board that this was God´s message to us. I´m grateful they all agreed and followed my leadership.

That morning during prayer, the Holy Spirit spoke so clearly it felt audible: "Go see one of the richest men in Adelaide. Ask him to help you."

I knew exactly who He meant. A businessman whose business name was on buildings all over South Australia. A multimillionaire developer. Not a Christian. Not someone who cared about churches. Not someone I had any relationship with whatsoever.

It was insane. It was impossible. It was a Hail Mary pass with everything on the line.

But I felt that it was God.

So I picked up the phone. Called his office. Asked for an appointment.

And within the hour—within the hour—I had a meeting scheduled.

That's not normal. You don't just call one of the wealthiest men in the city and get an appointment within sixty minutes. But that was my first taste of what happens when the Holy Spirit goes before you.

Grace opens doors that human effort can't even find.

I showed up at his office with my heart pounding. Sat in the lobby. Waited.

He was running thirty minutes late. But his General Manager was there, and he started giving me a tour of their portfolio. Office

after office. Development after development. Multimillion-dollar projects sprawled across the walls.

This man's world was so far beyond anything I'd ever operated in. I'm a pastor. I drive people to church and preach sermons. And I was about to ask this giant of industry to help a church buy a piece of land against eight retirement consortiums.

Every rational thought in my head screamed, "What are you doing here?"

But then the GM stopped mid-sentence. Turned to me. Looked at my face like he was trying to place a memory.

"I think I know you," he said.

My heart skipped.

"Did you used to run a small group in a big house with a basement? I remember playing table tennis there. Ping pong."

I stared at him. "Yes. That was me. That was my father's house."

He smiled. "I thought so. You used to drive me and my two brothers every week. Long drive to the other side of town. You'd pick us up and drop us off for the group. Every single week."

The memories flooded back. This man had been just a boy then. Coming to youth group with his older brothers. I'd spent months—maybe years—driving across Adelaide to make sure those boys got to church. It had seemed like such a small thing at the time. Just faithful service. Just loving kids. Just doing what pastors do.

But God had been setting up this moment for decades.

Suddenly, the entire atmosphere shifted. We weren't strangers anymore. We were reconnected. A bridge had been built on the foundation of faithfulness I'd laid years before, never knowing it would matter.

His face lit up. "You were so good to us. I remember everything you did for me and my brothers."

And just like that, favor walked into the room.

Then the owner arrived. We sat down. I shared the vision. The twenty years of prayer. The need for expansion. The mission of the church.

About thirty minutes into the conversation, he leaned back in his chair, looked me in the eye, and said 3 words that changed everything:

"I'll help you."

No hesitation. No negotiation. No conditions.

"I'll help you."

This man didn't know me. Didn't attend church. Had no religious motivation. But something in him responded to the grace that was on me. Something God placed on me made him want to help.

That's favor. That's what happens when you walk in grace. God causes people to see something in you that attracts them to your cause. You don't manipulate it. You don't manufacture it. You simply carry the presence of God, and doors open.

Over the next month—just one month—God walked me through that deal step by step.

Every morning, I'd pray. And every morning, the Holy Spirit would give me clear direction.

"Call this person."

I'd call.

"Meet with that person."

I'd meet.

"Say this in the negotiation."

I'd say it.

"Offer this amount."

I'd offer it.

It was like having the Creator of the universe as my personal real estate consultant. And He never gave bad advice.

I remember thinking, "I have never heard God's voice this clearly in my entire life." Decision after decision, day after day, the Holy Spirit was so present, so clear, so specific.

There were battles. Moments of intense pressure. Times when it looked like the deal would fall apart.

But every time, God would speak. "Do this." I'd do it. The obstacle would dissolve.

"Say that." I'd say it. Favor would shift the room.

We ended up buying that land for two million dollars.

Against eight massive competitors with far more resources. Against all logic and probability. Against every natural advantage they had.

We won.

Not because I was a skilled negotiator. Not because I had the best strategy. Not because I out-hustled everyone else.

We won because God fought the battle. And when God fights for you, the outcome is never in question.

But here's where the story gets even better.

Years later, we sold that land for sixteen million dollars. Eight times what we paid for it. An 800 percent return and we were able to pay off our debts in Australia and sow a large seed to buy the Alpharetta building in Atlanta.

And the whole process was easy. Not effortless—there was work involved. But it was easy in the same way breathing is easy when your lungs are healthy. It flowed. It worked. Grace multiplied everything we touched.

Looking back now, I understand what God was doing.

He wasn't just helping us buy one piece of land. He was teaching me how to walk in grace and favor. He was training me for a lifetime of stewarding real estate for the Kingdom. He had massive plans for me—for our church—and He needed me to understand that provision doesn't come from human effort. It comes from divine supply.

Since that day in 2000, I've negotiated property deal after property deal for Futures Church. And every single one has been marked by the same grace and favor.

Not just incredible prices—though the prices have been remarkable. But the terms. The timing. The connections. The open doors.

Every deal has been so favorable, so impossible by natural standards, so obviously marked by the hand of God that there's no other explanation except grace.

I'm not a real estate genius. I'm a pastor who learned to listen to the Holy Spirit and obey what He says.

And that's the lesson I need you to get: If God can do that for me, He can do it for you.

You don't need to be the smartest person in the room. You don't need the most experience. You don't need the best connections.

You need to be connected to the Source.

You need to learn to hear His voice and obey it.

You need to walk in the favor that grace provides.

And when you do, doors will open that you never could have unlocked on your own. Resources will flow that you never could have generated through human effort. Multiplication will happen that defies all natural explanation.

That's Eden-level supply showing up in your life.

From Scarcity to Supply

So here's the shift you need to make:

Stop living like an orphan scrambling for scraps.

Start receiving like a child confident in your Father's care.

Stop grinding like Adam under the curse.

Start flowing like Adam before the fall.

Stop operating from demand and duress.

Start living from supply.

Jesus didn't just forgive your sin. He restored your ACCESS to Eden's system.

The ground might still have thorns. The work might still require effort. But the SUPPLY is back. The connection is restored. The SOURCE is available.

And when you live from that supply, everything changes.

Your stress decreases. Your effectiveness increases. Your joy returns. Your impact multiplies.

Not because you're working harder. But because you're CONNECTED to the Source.

You were never meant to survive—you were designed to thrive.

Application: Reconnect to Supply

Personal: Are you grinding or flowing? Are you striving or trusting? Reconnect to the Source today. Pray. Worship. Receive.

Family: Is your family living from scarcity or supply? Create rhythms that reconnect everyone to God's provision. Pray together. Thank God together. Trust together.

Business: Are you leading from stress or from supply—whether in your workplace, your business, or your team? Your people will mirror your energy. If you're stressed, they'll be stressed. If you're trusting God, they'll follow.

Marriage: Are you trying to MAKE your marriage work through effort alone? Or are you inviting God's supply into your covenant? Pray together. Receive together. Let grace sustain you.

Declarations to Live From Supply

Say these until they sink deep:

I was designed for supply, not scarcity.

Eden's system is my inheritance through Christ.

I stop grinding and start flowing.

God provides, and I receive.

I live from overflow, not survival.

Grace restores what the fall stole.

The Invitation

Jesus is inviting you back to Eden. Not geographically. Spiritually.

Back to the system of supply. Back to the flow of provision. Back to the life you were always meant to live.

Stop grinding under the curse. Start living under grace.

Eden's supply is yours. Now receive it.

3

Breaking Free From the Curse of Toil: Why People Burn Out

Why do so many people burn out?

It's not because they're lazy. It's not because they lack passion. It's not even because they work too many hours—though that's a symptom.

They burn out because they are operating under the curse of toil, not the blessing of supply.

They are trying to achieve Eden's results with post-fall effort. And that system is designed to fail.

The Genesis of Toil

We talked about the curse in Chapter 2. Let's look closer at the language God used in Genesis 3:17-19:

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground."

The Hebrew word for "toil" here is *itzzavon*. It means pain, sorrow, labor, and grievous effort. It's not just hard work; it's frustrating, soul-crushing, unfulfilling effort that drains you without satisfying you.

Before the fall, Adam worked. But his work was worship. It was effortless cultivation. It was a partnership with God where the ground yielded easily.

After the fall, the ground was cursed. Now, work is a battle. It produces thorns and thistles. You have to fight the ground for every result.

That's the curse of toil. And it's the root cause of burnout.

Burnout is the physical, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion that comes from trying to overcome a spiritual curse with human effort.

The Performance Trap Revisited

The curse of toil is the engine of the performance trap.

When you're under the curse, you believe:

- Results depend on my effort. If I fail, it's because I didn't work hard enough.
- My worth depends on my results. If I succeed, I'm valuable. If I fail, I'm worthless.

This creates a vicious cycle:

Pressure (from the curse) → **Performance** (my striving) → **Exhaustion** (burnout) → **Failure** (the ground produces thorns) → **Guilt/Shame** (my worth is attacked) → **More Pressure** (I must work harder next time).

This cycle is a spiritual prison. And most people—whether they're leading in the home, the workplace, the church, or their business—are serving a life sentence in it.

They are running System 1 (Performance) when they should be running System 2 (Grace).

You can't out-work the curse. You have to out-trust it.

The Jesus Solution: The Curse Reversed

Jesus didn't just die to forgive your sin. He died to reverse the curse of toil.

When Jesus was on the cross, He wore a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29).

Think about that. The thorns—the symbol of the curse on the ground, the symbol of painful toil—were placed on His head.

He took the curse of toil upon Himself.

When He cried out, "It is finished," He wasn't just saying the sin debt was paid. He was saying the curse was broken.

The curse of toil is broken by the crown of thorns.

Now, when you work, you are not working under the curse. You are working under the blessing of grace.

The ground is still hard, but the curse is broken. You are no longer fighting the ground; you are working from a position of victory.

The Shift from Toil to Flow

How do you know if you've broken free from the curse of toil and are working under the blessing of supply?

TOIL:

- Motive: Fear of failure or need for approval.
- Experience: Grinding, heavy, stressful, unfulfilling.
- Result: Burnout, anxiety, and thorns (results that cost too much).
- Mindset: "I have to do this."

FLOW (Grace):

- Motive: Love for God and joy in the assignment.

- Experience: Hard work, but light, sustainable, and energizing.
- Result: Fruitfulness, peace, and multiplication.
- Mindset: "I get to do this."

The work itself might look the same externally. You still put in hours. You still face challenges. But the internal experience is radically different.

Toil drains you. Flow sustains you.

My Own Toil Season

I know this cycle intimately. My 1994 burnout was a direct result of trying to out-work the curse.

I was working 100-hour weeks. I was leading a growing ministry. I was successful on paper. But internally, I was dying.

I thought I was being faithful. I thought I was being dedicated. But I was actually being prideful. I was trying to carry the weight of the entire ministry on my own shoulders.

I was trying to be the Savior instead of trusting the Savior.

And the result? Physical, emotional, and spiritual collapse.

It wasn't until I surrendered the burden—until I confessed that I couldn't do it in my own strength—that the curse of toil was broken in my life.

Surrender is the moment you stop fighting the curse and start trusting the cross.

Three Keys to Breaking the Curse of Toil

KEY ONE: RECOGNIZE THE BURDEN IS NOT YOURS

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

If your burden is heavy, it's not His. You picked up a burden He never asked you to carry.

Release the burden of outcomes. Release the burden of approval. Release the burden of proving your worth.

KEY TWO: WORK FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT FOR IT

Toil is rooted in insecurity. You work hard because you feel you have to earn your position.

Flow is rooted in identity. You work hard because your position is secure.

You are righteous in Christ. You are accepted. You are loved. Now work FROM that position.

KEY THREE: PRIORITIZE REST AS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Rest is not a reward for hard work. It is a declaration of faith.

When you rest, you are declaring: "God, I trust You to sustain what I cannot sustain. I trust You to multiply what I cannot multiply."

Rest is your weapon against the curse of toil.

Application: Break the Cycle

Personal: Where are you grinding right now? What burden are you carrying that feels heavy? Surrender it to Jesus. Declare His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Family: Is your family filled with toil or flow? Create margin. Prioritize connection over achievement.

Business/Work/Church: Are you leading your team—whether at the office, in your business, or in your ministry—through fear and pressure? Shift to grace-empowered leadership. Trust them. Empower them. Release the burden of control.

Declarations to Break the Curse of Toil

Say these daily:

- The curse of toil is broken over my life by the crown of thorns.
- I work from rest, not for rest.
- My worth is established in Christ, not in my performance.
- I release the burden of outcomes and trust God with the results.
- My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- I am sustained by grace, not by grinding.

The Invitation

Stop fighting the ground. Stop fighting the curse.

Surrender the burden. Trust the cross.

Step out of the prison of performance and into the flow of grace.

The overflow life is waiting.

4

Righteousness: The Identity That Changes Everything

Stop calling yourself a sinner.

I know that sounds controversial. I know it goes against what you've been taught. But hear me out.

You're not a sinner saved by grace. You're a SAINT. A holy one. Righteous in Christ. The Apostle Paul referred to many people as Saints.

And until you get that identity shift locked in, you'll keep living from the wrong position.

Your identity determines your reality. Get your identity wrong, and everything else will be wrong too.

You know what the enemy hates most about you? Your righteousness.

Not your talent. Not your anointing. Not your ministry. Not your success.

Your righteousness.

Because when you understand that you ARE righteous—not becoming, not working toward, but already ARE—you become unstoppable.

Everything the enemy throws at you bounces off. Accusation? Doesn't stick. Condemnation? Can't touch you. Shame? No access.

But if he can keep you insecure about your righteousness, he can keep you ineffective in your calling—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

You can't walk in power if you're questioning your position.

The Shock of Righteousness

I'll never forget the first time someone said to me, "You're not a sinner saved by grace. You're a saint."

I was sitting in a small group. Mid-twenties. On fire for God but constantly battling guilt and condemnation.

And this older leader looked at me and said, "Ashley, stop calling yourself a sinner. That's not who you are anymore."

I almost walked out. My religious wiring couldn't handle it.

What do you mean I'm not a sinner? Of course I'm a sinner! I sin! How can I NOT be a sinner?

He smiled. Not condescending. Just patient. Like he knew I'd get it eventually.

"You sin sometimes, sure. But that's not your IDENTITY anymore. In Adam, you became sin. In Christ, you became righteousness. It's not what you do, it's who you ARE."

That conversation wrecked me. In the best way.

I went home and started reading Romans 5, Second Corinthians 5, Ephesians 2. And I realized: This isn't just theology. This is identity.

The Restaurant Revelation

Let me give you a picture that will change how you see righteousness.

Imagine you're at a high-end restaurant. You walk in, and the host seats you at a table that has your name on it. That's your POSITION. You have a seat. You're in.

Then the waiter brings you a menu. That's your PROVISION. Everything you need is available. You just have to order.

Now here's the critical distinction: Your SEATING doesn't depend on your ordering. You don't earn the chair by picking the right food. The chair was given when you walked in.

But your EATING does depend on your ordering. You have access to the menu, but if you don't order, you don't eat.

Most Christians understand they have the SEATING. They know they're saved. They're in. They have a position at God's table.

But they're starving because they don't understand how to access the PROVISION.

They're seated but not eating. Positioned but not receiving. Secured but not supplied.

Why? Because they don't understand the difference between righteousness and provision.

Righteousness is your SEATING. It's your position. It's locked in. It's permanent. It's a GIFT.

Provision is what's on the MENU. It's available. It's abundant. But you have to ORDER it. You have to receive it by faith.

Righteousness is your position. Grace is your provision. Faith is how you access it.

The Wardrobe Change

When you got saved, you didn't just get your dirty clothes cleaned. You got a complete wardrobe change.

Isaiah 61:10 says, "He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness."

You're not wearing cleaned-up sin clothes. You're wearing RIGHTEOUSNESS.

And here's the key: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

Do you see the old clothes you used to wear? Or do you see the new robe God gave you?

Most Christians look in the mirror and still see the old. They see their failures. Their past. Their sin.

But God sees the robe. He sees righteousness. He sees Christ in you.

The question is: Whose perspective are you going to believe?

You can look in the mirror and see what you WERE. Or you can look in the mirror and see what you ARE.

The enemy wants you focused on the old wardrobe. God wants you seeing the new one.

And here's the key: What you SEE determines how you LIVE.

If you see yourself as a sinner, you'll live like one. Constantly failing. Constantly guilty. Constantly striving.

If you see yourself as righteous, you'll live like one. Confident. Secure. Fruitful.

The mirror doesn't lie, but your interpretation of it might. See what God sees.

The 130 Percent Revelation

Let me tell you about a moment that exposed something in me I didn't even know was there.

I was in my office one day, feeling the weight of leadership—whether in the church, the home, or the business. The pressure to perform. The need to prove. The drive to succeed.

And the Holy Spirit whispered, "You're working at 130 percent."

I stopped. What do You mean?

"You're working at 130 percent capacity to prove wrong everyone who ever said you'd never make it."

That hit me like a freight train.

He was right. Deep down, I was still trying to prove my worth. Still trying to silence the voices that doubted me. Still operating from a place of insecurity masked as ambition.

I thought I was serving God. But I was serving my need for validation.

And here's the revelation that changed everything: I was working at 130 percent because I didn't believe my SEATING was secure.

I knew theologically that I was righteous. But practically, I was still trying to EARN what had already been GIVEN.

I had the chair. But I was afraid someone would take it away if I didn't keep proving I deserved it.

That's when the Holy Spirit said, "Your seating is secure. Stop trying to earn it. Now sit down and ORDER from the menu."

And I wept. Because for the first time, I understood: I don't have to work FOR my position. I work FROM my position.

When your seating is secure, you stop proving and start receiving.

The Identity Crisis That Changed Me

For years in my twenties and early thirties, I wrestled with recurring patterns of behavior.

I'd confess, feel better for a day or two, then fall right back into the same cycles.

I thought I was weak. I thought I lacked willpower. I thought something was fundamentally wrong with me.

But the real problem? I saw myself as a sinner trying to be good instead of a righteous person learning to live out my identity.

I'd built my entire life around trying to EARN what had already been freely GIVEN.

Then one day, after yet another confession session, the Holy Spirit whispered, "You keep asking Me to make you righteous. I already did. Now LIVE like it."

That's when it clicked.

I wasn't trying to BECOME righteous. I was learning to LIVE from righteousness.

I stopped asking God to change me and started asking Him to help me see who I already was.

And everything shifted.

The guilt lifted. The shame dissolved. The cycles broke. Not instantly, but progressively.

Because when you operate from the right identity, the right behavior follows.

Right identity produces right behavior. Wrong identity produces constant striving.

The Two Adams

Romans 5:17-19 breaks down the identity shift:

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abun-

dant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

Let me unpack this:

In Adam: You didn't choose to become a sinner. You were MADE a sinner by Adam's disobedience. It wasn't your decision. It was your inheritance.

In Christ: You didn't earn righteousness. You were MADE righteous by Jesus' obedience. It wasn't your performance. It was His gift.

You became sin through one man's failure. You became righteousness through one man's faithfulness.

Both by INHERITANCE, not by EFFORT.

You didn't wake up one day and decide to be a sinner. You were born into Adam's family, and sin was your default nature.

The same is true in reverse. When you were born again, you were MADE righteous. Not becoming righteous. Not working toward righteousness. MADE righteous.

It's done. It's finished. It's permanent.

In Adam you became sin. In Christ you became righteousness. Both by inheritance, not by effort.

The Two Operating Systems

Here's the fundamental shift you need to make:

WRONG IDENTITY OPERATING SYSTEM: I'm a sinner trying to be good. I need to prove my worth. God accepts me BECAUSE I perform. My value fluctuates based on my behavior. Failure defines me.

RIGHT IDENTITY OPERATING SYSTEM: I'm righteous learning to live from my identity. My worth is established in Christ. God accepts me SO I can perform. My value is locked in regardless of behavior. Failure refines me but doesn't define me.

Which system are you running?

Because the system you're operating from determines everything about how you live.

Three Identity Shifts That Changed Everything

Let me give you three identity shifts that revolutionized my life:

SHIFT ONE: FROM "I'M A SINNER" TO "I'M A SAINT"

Stop identifying with what Jesus removed. You're not a sinner anymore. You're a saint who sometimes sins.

Your identity isn't based on your worst moment. It's based on Jesus' finished work.

SHIFT TWO: FROM "I HAVE TO EARN IT" TO "I RECEIVE IT"

Righteousness is a gift, not a goal. Romans 5:17 says you RECEIVE the gift of righteousness.

Gifts aren't earned. They're received. Stop trying to work for what's already been given.

SHIFT THREE: FROM "I'M WORKING FOR ACCEPTANCE" TO "I'M WORKING FROM ACCEPTANCE"

God doesn't accept you BECAUSE you perform. He accepts you SO you can perform.

You don't work FOR your position. You work FROM your position.

That shift alone will change everything about how you lead, how you love, how you live—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business.

The Vine and the Branch

Jesus gave us another picture in John 15:4-5:

"Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. 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."

Your IDENTITY is the branch. That's your position. You're connected to the vine. That's not something you achieve—it's something you ARE.

But your PROVISION flows through the connection. The sap from the vine flows into the branch and produces fruit.

Here's what most people miss: The branch doesn't CREATE the fruit. It RECEIVES the sap that produces the fruit.

The branch's job isn't to manufacture. It's to REMAIN. To stay connected. To receive what flows from the vine.

When you're connected, fruit is automatic. Not forced. Not manufactured. Not strained. It just HAPPENS.

When you're disconnected, no amount of effort will produce fruit. You can try. You can strain. You can fake it. But real fruit only comes from real connection.

Your identity is the branch. Your provision is the sap. Stay connected and fruit is inevitable.

Application: Live From Your Identity

Personal: What identity are you operating from? Sinner or saint? Write it down. Declare your righteousness daily.

Family: How are you teaching identity to your kids? Stop labeling them by behavior. Start affirming their identity in Christ.

Business/Work/Church: Are you leading from insecurity or identity—whether you're leading at home, managing at work, pastoring at church, or running your business? Your team will follow your confidence. Lead from righteousness.

Marriage: How do you see your spouse? Through the lens of their failures or their identity in Christ? See them as God sees them.

Declarations to Establish Identity

Say these out loud every day:

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am not a sinner, I am a saint. My identity is not based on my behavior but on Jesus' sacrifice. I am fully accepted, completely loved, and totally secure. I walk in authority because I know who I am. I live FROM righteousness, not FOR righteousness. My seating is secure; now I receive from the menu. I see myself as God sees me—clothed in righteousness.

The Invitation

Stop calling yourself what God no longer calls you. Stop identifying with what Jesus removed.

You're not a sinner trying to be good. You're righteous learning to live from your identity.

The old is gone. The new has come. You are a new creation.

You have a seat at the table. Your name is on it. It's permanent. It's secure. It's a gift.

Now stop trying to earn what's already been given. Sit down. Look at the menu. And start ordering.

Because provision flows to those who know their position.

Now live like it.

5

The Power of the Cross: Why the Gospel Still Shocks People

Let me tell you why the cross still shocks people.

Not because it's violent. Not because it's bloody. Not because it's brutal.

The cross shocks people because it's COMPLETE.

Most people, including most Christians, still think they have to ADD something to what Jesus did.

A little more effort. A little more obedience. A little more sacrifice.

But that's not the gospel. That's religion. And religion will kill you.

The gospel doesn't need your additions, it needs your acceptance.

It Is Finished

John 19:30 records Jesus' final words from the cross:

"When He had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

It is finished.

Not "I am finished." Not "I'm done." Not "I quit."

IT is finished.

The WORK is finished. The payment is complete. The debt is paid. The sacrifice is sufficient.

Nothing left to do. Nothing left to add. Nothing left to prove.

FINISHED.

But here's what most Christians do: They read "It is finished," nod their heads in agreement, then spend the rest of their lives trying to FINISH what Jesus already completed.

They believe the cross saved them. But they think their obedience sustains them. Their effort maintains them. Their performance keeps them in God's good graces.

That's not faith in the finished work. That's faith in YOUR unfinished work.

And it's exhausting.

Jesus didn't say "It is started," He said "It is FINISHED." Stop trying to complete what's already done.

What the Cross Purchased

Let me list what the cross accomplished. Not partially. Not potentially. COMPLETELY.

Forgiveness: All your sins, past, present, future, forgiven. Not covered. FORGIVEN.

Righteousness: You were MADE righteous. Not becoming. MADE.

Reconciliation: The barrier between you and God? Removed. You have ACCESS.

Redemption: You were bought back from slavery to sin. You're FREE.

Justification: You're declared NOT GUILTY. The case is closed.

Sanctification: You were SET APART as holy. Not trying to be holy. Already ARE holy.

Adoption: You were brought into the family. You're a SON or DAUGHTER, not a servant.

Healing: By His wounds, you were healed. Not just physically, emotionally, spiritually, completely.

Victory: Sin, death, hell, the devil, all defeated. You're on the WINNING side.

All of that happened at the cross. Not when you perform. Not when you obey. Not when you prove yourself worthy.

At. The. Cross.

It's done. Finished. Purchased. Accomplished.

Now your job isn't to EARN it. Your job is to RECEIVE it.

The cross purchased everything you need. Now stop earning and start receiving.

The Thief on the Cross

Want proof that the cross is enough?

Look at the thief.

Luke 23:39-43 tells the story. Two criminals are crucified next to Jesus. One mocks Him. The other defends Him.

And the second thief says, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

And Jesus replies, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Stop right there. Let's analyze what just happened.

The thief didn't:

- Get baptized.

- Join a church.
- Tithe.
- Serve.
- Obey a single command.
- Prove his faithfulness.
- Demonstrate his commitment.
- Change his behavior.

He simply BELIEVED. And Jesus said, "You're in. Today. Paradise. With Me."

That's the power of the cross. That's the scandal of grace. That's what offends religious people.

Because if the thief can get in with NOTHING but faith in Jesus, then your performance doesn't add anything. Your effort doesn't increase your acceptance. Your obedience doesn't earn more favor.

It's ALL grace. From start to finish.

Now let me be clear: This doesn't mean baptism doesn't matter. It doesn't mean church membership is unimportant. It doesn't mean obedience is optional. These things matter deeply for the Christian life. But they don't SAVE you. Only faith in Christ saves. Everything else flows FROM salvation, not FOR salvation.

If the thief on the cross got in with nothing but faith, so can you.

Application: Rest in the Finished Work

Personal: Are you trying to ADD to the cross? Confess it. Stop. Rest in what's already done.

Family: Are you teaching your kids to EARN God's approval? Stop. Teach them to RECEIVE it.

Business/Work/Church: Are you operating from "I have to prove myself" or "I'm already accepted"—whether at home, work, church, or in your business? Shift. Lead from acceptance.

Marriage: Are you performing FOR love or living FROM love? Your spouse isn't God. Stop trying to earn what should be freely given.

Declarations of the Finished Work

Say these daily:

- It is finished, and I rest in that truth.
- I don't add to the cross, I receive from it.
- Jesus' sacrifice is complete, sufficient, and eternal.
- I am forgiven, righteous, and accepted, not because of what I do, but because of what Jesus did.
- I stop striving and start resting.

The Invitation

The cross is either enough or it's not. There's no middle ground.

If it's enough, then stop trying to complete it. Stop trying to add to it. Stop trying to prove you're worthy of it.

Just receive it. Rest in it. Live from it.

Jesus did the work. It's finished. Now live like it.

6

No More Consciousness of Sin: From Guilt to Grace

Here's a question that's going to make you uncomfortable:

How often do you think about your sin?

I'm not talking about occasional conviction when the Holy Spirit corrects you. I'm talking about constant awareness. Daily guilt. Persistent shame. A running commentary in your head about all the ways you're failing.

Most Christians live under a consciousness of sin. And they think that's normal. Spiritual even.

They think staying hyper-aware of their sin keeps them humble. Keeps them dependent on grace. Keeps them from becoming prideful.

But that's not what the Bible teaches. That's religion. And religion will destroy you.

Old Covenant made you conscious of sin. New Covenant makes you conscious of righteousness.

The Hebrews 10 Revelation

Hebrews 10:1-4 explains the problem with the Old Covenant sacrificial system:

"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those

who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins."

Did you catch that? An annual reminder of sins.

Every year, the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place with the blood of animals. Every year, sins were covered, temporarily. Every year, the people were reminded: You're not clean yet. You're not forgiven yet. You need another sacrifice.

It was a system designed to keep you CONSCIOUS of sin.

But then verse 10-14:

"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

One sacrifice. Once for all. Forever.

Not an annual reminder. A permanent solution.

Jesus' blood doesn't cover sin annually, it removes it eternally.

The Difference Between Conviction and Condemnation

Let me clarify something important: I'm not saying sin doesn't matter. I'm not saying you should ignore the Holy Spirit's conviction.

There's a massive difference between conviction and condemnation.

CONVICTION: The Holy Spirit points out specific sin SO you can repent, receive forgiveness, and move forward. Conviction is directional—it leads you TO God. Conviction is good. Necessary. A gift. It's how the Holy Spirit keeps us aligned with God's will and protects us from destructive paths.

CONDEMNATION: The enemy keeps you in a loop of shame, replaying your failures, making you feel unworthy. Condemnation is cyclical—it keeps you FROM God.

Romans 8:1 says, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

NO condemnation. None. Zero.

When you mess up, the Holy Spirit convicts, you confess, God forgives, and you move on. That's it. That's the cycle. Don't run from conviction—embrace it. It's God's kindness leading you to repentance (Romans 2:4). Welcome the Holy Spirit's correction.

But condemnation? That's not from God. That's the enemy trying to keep you locked in guilt so you never walk in the power of your righteousness.

The key is this: Conviction brings specific direction and hope. "You did this specific thing. Confess it. Receive forgiveness. Here's the right path." Condemnation brings vague shame and hopelessness. "You're a failure. You'll never change. God's disappointed in you."

Learn to recognize the difference. Welcome conviction. Reject condemnation.

Conviction leads to repentance. Condemnation leads to shame.

My Guilt Struggle

For years after my burnout, I wrestled with guilt.

I knew theologically that I was forgiven. I preached grace. I taught righteousness.

But internally? I still carried shame.

How could I have let it get that bad? How could I have ignored God's warnings? How could I have been so foolish?

I'd confessed. God had forgiven. But I hadn't forgiven myself.

And that guilt became a weight I carried everywhere. It colored how I led—whether at home, at work, or at church. How I preached. How I related to people.

Then one day during prayer, the Holy Spirit whispered, "Why are you still holding onto what I've already let go of?"

That hit me. Hard.

I was clinging to guilt that God had released. I was conscious of sin that God had removed.

And that consciousness of sin was blocking my effectiveness. Because you can't minister freedom if you're living in bondage.

I had to make a decision: Was I going to believe what I felt, or was I going to believe what God said?

I chose to believe God. And I declared: I am forgiven. I am righteous. I am clean. Not because I earned it, but because Jesus paid for it.

And the guilt lifted. Not instantly, but progressively. As I renewed my mind daily, the consciousness of sin was replaced by consciousness of righteousness.

What Consciousness of Righteousness Looks Like

When you shift from consciousness of sin to consciousness of righteousness, everything changes.

ONE: YOU STOP EXPECTING PUNISHMENT

When you're sin-conscious, you expect God to punish you. Every hardship feels like judgment.

When you're righteousness-conscious, you trust God's goodness. Challenges are growth opportunities, not punishments.

TWO: YOU STOP DISQUALIFYING YOURSELF

When you're sin-conscious, you think, "God can't use me. I'm too messed up."

When you're righteousness-conscious, you think, "God uses imperfect people. I'm qualified by His grace."

THREE: YOU STOP COMPARING

When you're sin-conscious, you rank yourself spiritually. "Am I better or worse than them?"

When you're righteousness-conscious, you rest in identity. You're ALL righteous by the same blood.

FOUR: YOU STOP PERFORMING

When you're sin-conscious, you're trying to earn favor through good behavior.

When you're righteousness-conscious, you already HAVE favor. Now you live from it.

Sin-consciousness produces guilt. Righteousness-consciousness produces confidence.

How to Shift from Sin to Righteousness Consciousness

ONE: STOP REHEARSING YOUR FAILURES

Every time you replay past sin in your mind, you're agreeing with condemnation.

Confess once. Receive forgiveness. Move on. Don't keep digging up what God has buried.

TWO: DECLARE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS DAILY

Say it out loud: "I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am forgiven. I am clean. I am accepted."

Repeat it until it becomes louder than the guilt.

THREE: READ RIGHTEOUSNESS SCRIPTURES

Saturate your mind with truth:

Second Corinthians 5:21: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Romans 5:17: "Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 10:14: "By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

FOUR: REJECT THE LIE OF "NOT ENOUGH"

The enemy whispers: "You're not holy enough. Not pure enough. Not good enough."

That's a lie. Jesus' blood is enough. And His blood covers you completely.

FIVE: PRACTICE IMMEDIATE CONFESSION

When the Holy Spirit convicts, confess immediately. Don't let sin linger. Don't let guilt build.

First John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confess. Receive. Move on.

Application: Live Righteousness-Conscious

Personal: What guilt are you still carrying that God has already forgiven? Release it today. Declare your righteousness.

Family: Are you leading your family from guilt or grace? Stop shaming. Start affirming identity in Christ.

Business/Work/Church: Are you operating from fear of failure or confidence in grace—whether leading at home, managing at work,

pastoring at church, or running your business? Lead boldly. Your righteousness isn't based on outcomes.

Marriage: Are you keeping score of your spouse's failures? Stop. Extend the same grace God extends to you.

Declarations for Righteousness Consciousness

Say these daily:

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am forgiven, clean, and accepted. I do not live under guilt, I live under grace. Jesus' blood removed my sin completely and permanently. I am conscious of my righteousness, not my sin. I walk in confidence because of what Jesus did, not what I've done. I welcome conviction but reject condemnation. I confess quickly and move forward immediately.

The Invitation

Stop living under the weight of guilt. Stop carrying shame for sin that Jesus already paid for.

You're not just a sinner saved by grace. You're a SAINT who sometimes sins.

Your identity is righteousness. Your position is secure. Your standing is perfect.

Live conscious of THAT. And watch how everything changes.

7

Grace Initiates Faith Responds: Why We've Had It Backwards

You've just learned that you're no longer conscious of sin—you're conscious of righteousness. That's a massive identity shift.

But now I need to show you something even more foundational: How grace and faith actually work together.

Because if you get THIS wrong, you'll spend the rest of your life exhausted, trying to generate something that should flow naturally.

For the last fifty years, the church has been obsessed with faith.

Faith movements. Faith teaching. Faith confessions. Faith declarations.

"Just believe!" "Have more faith!" "Claim it in faith!" "Speak it into existence!"

Entire ministries were built on teaching people how to increase their faith. Conferences filled stadiums with messages about faith. Books flooded Christian bookstores promising to unlock the power of faith.

And here's the thing: Faith IS powerful. Faith IS essential. Faith DOES move mountains.

But somewhere along the way, we got the order wrong.

We started focusing on faith as the SOURCE instead of recognizing grace as the SOURCE and faith as the RESPONSE.

And that one mistake has created enormous confusion, frustration, and even destruction in the body of Christ.

Grace initiates. Faith responds. Get that order wrong, and you'll exhaust yourself trying to generate what should flow naturally.

The Faith-in-Faith Problem

Let me show you what happened.

When you focus on faith as the primary thing, you start developing what I call "faith in faith." You're no longer trusting God—you're trusting your ability to believe hard enough.

It becomes humanistic self-help dressed in Christian language.

"If I just believe harder..." "If I just confess louder..." "If I just claim it more consistently..."

You pull your favorite scriptures out of the Bible. You personalize them. You declare them over your life. You "claim" them as yours.

And when nothing happens? You assume you didn't have enough faith.

So you try harder. Believe stronger. Confess louder. Work up more emotion. Manufacture more certainty.

And you're exhausted. Because you're trying to generate something that can only be RECEIVED.

In its most extreme form, this became the prosperity gospel. "Name it and claim it. Blab it and grab it." God becomes a cosmic vending machine, and faith becomes the currency you insert to get what you want.

But even in its softer forms, this faith-focused approach creates a problem: It shifts the burden from God to you.

If faith is the key, then YOU have to generate enough faith to unlock the door. And if the door doesn't open, it's YOUR fault for not having enough faith.

That's not the gospel. That's pressure. That's performance. That's the law wearing a grace mask.

Human faith without grace is just hope. And hope is powerful, but it's not supernatural. Hope says, "I wish this would happen." Faith says, "I'm confident this will happen because of who God is and what He's already done."

But here's the critical distinction: Faith doesn't create the confidence. Grace does. Faith is simply the response to grace revealed.

The Order That Changes Everything

Now look at what Ephesians 2:8-9 actually says:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Read that again. Slowly. Notice the order.

BY GRACE. THROUGH FAITH.

Grace comes first. Faith comes second.

Grace is the initiator. Faith is the responder.

Grace is the foundation. Faith is what's built on that foundation.

Grace is the vehicle. Faith is the route the vehicle takes.

Grace is the river. Faith is the channel the river flows through.

Grace is the electricity. Faith is the wire that conducts it.

You don't start with faith and hope grace shows up. You start with grace, and faith is your response to it.

Paul makes this even clearer in Romans 10:17: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Faith COMES FROM hearing. It's a response to revelation. You hear about God's grace, God's love, God's character, God's promises—and faith rises in response.

You're not manufacturing faith. You're receiving revelation that produces faith.

That's why grace must come first.

When you understand God's grace—His unmerited favor, His unconditional love, His unlimited supply—faith grows automatically. Not because you're working it up, but because you're responding to what you've received.

Grace precedes faith. Grace produces faith. Grace empowers faith.

Faith isn't the leader. Grace is the leader, and faith is the responder.

And when you get this order right, everything changes.

Peter vs. John: Two Approaches to Love

Let me give you a picture that will lock this in forever.

Think about Peter and John. Two of Jesus' closest disciples. Both loved Jesus. Both followed Him. Both were committed.

But they had fundamentally different approaches to that relationship.

Peter was famous for his declarations of love FOR Jesus.

"Lord, I will follow you wherever you go!" (Luke 9:57) "Even if all fall away, I will not!" (Mark 14:29) "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!" (Luke 22:33)

Bold declarations. Public commitments. Confident promises.

Peter's focus was on HIS love for Jesus. HIS commitment. HIS faithfulness. HIS ability to follow through.

And when the pressure came? His love failed.

Three times he denied Jesus. The moment the fire got hot, his human love crumbled. The woman at the gate asked if he knew Jesus, and Peter said, "I don't know the man!"

Why? Because human love is frail. Human commitment wavers. Human faith falters.

Peter was operating from his capacity, not from Christ's. He was trusting his faith, not resting in God's grace.

Now look at John.

John didn't boast about how much he loved Jesus. Instead, John wrote about himself in the most unusual way. He called himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

Not "the disciple who loved Jesus the most." Not "the disciple most committed to Jesus." Not "the disciple with the strongest faith."

"The disciple whom Jesus loved."

Five times in his gospel, John identifies himself this way (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20). It was his identity. His security. His foundation.

He didn't define himself by what he gave to Jesus. He defined himself by what he received FROM Jesus.

And when the conflict came? When Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified?

Peter was gone. Hiding. Denying. Collapsed under pressure.

But John? John was at the foot of the cross.

The only disciple who stayed.

Why? Because John wasn't relying on his love for Jesus. He was relying on Jesus' love for him.

Peter focused on what he could give. John focused on what he had received.

Peter trusted his faith. John trusted God's grace.

And grace held John steady when Peter's faith collapsed.

That's the difference between faith-focused living and grace-focused living.

When you focus on YOUR faith, you're building on a shaky foundation. Your confidence rises and falls based on how strong you feel, how consistent you've been, how much you've done.

When you focus on GOD'S grace, you're building on solid ground. Your confidence is anchored in His character, His love, His finished work—not in your performance.

Peter had to learn this lesson. After the resurrection, Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love Me?" (John 21:15-17). Three denials, three restorations. But notice the question wasn't about Peter's faith. It was about love. And ultimately, Peter had to learn what John already knew: It's not about how much we love Jesus. It's about how much Jesus loves us.

First John 4:19 captures it perfectly: "We love because He first loved us."

HE FIRST. That's grace initiating. We respond. That's faith following.

Grace doesn't just precede faith in salvation. Grace precedes faith in every area of life.

It's Not Your Love for God—It's God's Love for You

Here's the paradigm shift you need to make:

Stop focusing on how much YOU love God. Start focusing on how much GOD loves YOU.

Stop trying to work up more faith IN God. Start receiving more grace FROM God.

Because the secret to great faith is receiving great grace.

When you truly understand how much God loves you—not because you're good, not because you performed well, not because you earned it, but simply because He CHOSE to love you—faith becomes automatic.

You stop trying to generate faith. You start responding in faith.

You stop working up belief. You start resting in what's already true.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS. Before you believed. Before you had faith. Before you did anything right.

God initiated. That's grace.

Your belief in that grace? That's faith responding.

How Grace Logically Produces Faith

Let me walk you through the logical progression of how grace produces faith.

STEP ONE: YOU RECEIVE REVELATION OF GOD'S CHARACTER

God reveals Himself to you. His love. His faithfulness. His power. His goodness.

This happens through Scripture, through teaching, through testimony, through personal experience.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Notice: You must believe that God EXISTS (His character) and that He REWARDS (His grace toward you).

Faith starts with knowing WHO God is. That's revelation. That's grace being revealed.

STEP TWO: YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT GRACE MEANS

Grace isn't just "unmerited favor" as a theological concept. Grace is God's active, present, powerful love toward you RIGHT NOW.

Titus 2:11 says, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."

Grace APPEARED. It showed up. It's not abstract. It's concrete. It's Jesus. It's the cross. It's the resurrection. It's the Holy Spirit. It's provision. It's favor. It's supply.

When you see grace—really see it—your heart responds.

STEP THREE: YOU RECEIVE WHAT GRACE OFFERS

Grace offers you: Forgiveness. Righteousness. Acceptance. Adoption. Supply. Strength. Peace. Joy. Authority.

You don't work for these. You RECEIVE them.

Romans 5:17 says, "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"

RECEIVE. That's the operative word. Grace offers. You receive.

And here's what happens when you receive: Confidence rises.

STEP FOUR: CONFIDENCE BECOMES FAITH

When you know who God is (revelation), understand what grace offers (provision), and receive what's available (supply), confidence naturally grows.

That confidence is faith.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Notice: It's a throne of GRACE. And you approach with CONFIDENCE.

Confidence comes from understanding grace. And that confidence IS faith.

You're not working up faith. You're responding to grace revealed.

STEP FIVE: FAITH ACTS ON WHAT GRACE HAS PROVIDED

Now that faith is present—not manufactured, but grown through receiving grace—faith acts.

James 2:17 says, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Faith acts. But faith doesn't act to EARN something. Faith acts to RECEIVE something already offered.

When Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water, he wasn't earning the miracle. He was acting on Jesus' invitation: "Come." Grace invited. Faith responded.

That's the progression.

Grace reveals → You receive → Confidence rises → Faith acts → Breakthrough happens.

Not: Work up faith → Try harder → Hope it works.

The difference is night and day.

My Own Journey from Faith-Focus to Grace-Focus

I lived most of my early Christian life trying to have more faith.

I'd read books about faith. Listen to sermons about faith. Try to "claim" promises. Work up belief. Confess scriptures.

And I'd have moments where faith felt strong. But then circumstances would shift, and faith would waver. And I'd feel guilty. "Why don't I have more faith? What's wrong with me?"

I was exhausting myself trying to generate something I thought I lacked.

Then I had a breakthrough moment. I was reading Ephesians 2:8-9 for probably the thousandth time in my life. And suddenly, the order hit me.

BY GRACE. THROUGH FAITH.

Grace first. Faith second.

I'd been trying to build faith so I could access grace. But God's design is the opposite: Grace is already there. Faith is my response to receiving it.

So I made a shift. Instead of asking, "Do I have enough faith for this?" I started asking, "What has grace already provided for this?"

Instead of trying to work up belief, I started meditating on God's character, His love, His promises, His finished work.

And a funny thing happened: Faith grew. Naturally. Without striving.

The more I focused on grace—on what God had already done, on who He already was, on what He'd already promised—the more confident I became. And that confidence was faith.

I stopped trying to manufacture faith and started receiving grace. And faith followed.

That shift changed everything.

Now when I face impossible situations—whether it's buying land, leading through crisis, making major decisions, or trusting God for breakthrough—I don't start by trying to have more faith.

I start by receiving more grace.

I ask: God, what have You already said about this? What does Your character guarantee? What has Your Word promised? What has Your grace already provided?

And as I receive those truths, faith rises. Not manufactured. Not forced. Natural. Organic. Strong.

Grace initiates. Faith responds.

And when you get that order right, you stop exhausting yourself and start flowing in power.

What Grace Actually Produces

When you focus on receiving grace instead of generating faith, here's what naturally flows:

ONE: PEACE REPLACES ANXIETY

Romans 5:1-2 says, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand."

Faith gives us ACCESS to grace. But it's the GRACE we stand in that produces peace.

When you're standing in grace—fully secure in God's love and provision—anxiety has no foothold. You're not worried about whether you have enough faith. You're resting in God's sufficient grace.

TWO: CONFIDENCE REPLACES INSECURITY

Hebrews 10:19-22 says, "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jes

us... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings."

Where does confidence come from? The BLOOD OF JESUS. That's grace.

The full assurance that faith brings is a RESPONSE to the confidence grace provides.

You're not insecure about your standing. You're confident because of His sacrifice.

THREE: BOLDNESS REPLACES HESITATION

Ephesians 3:12 says, "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

You approach God freely—not because your faith is strong enough, but because His grace has opened the door.

Grace removes the barrier. Faith walks through the open door.

FOUR: REST REPLACES STRIVING

Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus doesn't say, "Have more faith and you'll find rest." He says, "COME TO ME and I'll GIVE you rest."

That's grace initiating. You come (that's faith responding). He gives rest (that's grace supplying).

When you focus on grace, rest is the result. When you focus on faith, striving is the result.

FIVE: GENEROSITY REPLACES SCARCITY

Second Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

God's ability (His grace) produces abundance. That abundance produces generosity.

You're not clutching resources wondering if there will be enough. You're giving freely because you know the Source.

SIX: ENDURANCE REPLACES BURNOUT

Second Corinthians 12:9 says, "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Paul didn't need more faith to endure. He needed to receive more grace.

"My GRACE is sufficient." Not "Your faith needs to be stronger."

Grace sustains what faith-focus exhausts.

SEVEN: SUPERNATURAL FAITH REPLACES HUMAN EFFORT

And yes, grace produces the very thing we've been trying to manufacture: FAITH.

Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Notice the foundation: WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.

That's grace. God's love. God's sacrifice. God's initiative.

Paul's faith is a response to that grace. "The Son of God loved me." That revelation produced faith.

The more you focus on God's grace—His unmerited favor, His unconditional love, His unlimited supply—the more faith grows in you. Not because you're working it up. But because you're receiving what He's pouring out.

The Secret to Great Faith

Here it is. The secret to great faith that the faith movement missed:

You don't focus on faith. You focus on grace.

You don't work up belief. You receive revelation.

You don't manufacture confidence. You rest in God's character.

You don't claim promises as if they're not already yours. You RECEIVE promises that grace has already secured.

Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

HE BEGAN. That's grace initiating. YOU'RE CONFIDENT. That's faith responding. HE WILL COMPLETE. That's grace sustaining.

From start to finish, it's grace. Faith is simply your response to what grace has already set in motion.

Romans 4:16 says, "Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace."

Did you catch that? The promise comes by faith SO THAT it may be by GRACE.

Faith is the channel. Grace is the source. The promise flows through faith, but it originates from grace.

You're not generating the promise with your faith. You're receiving the promise that grace has already provided, and faith is how you access it.

That's why focusing on grace produces greater faith than focusing on faith ever could.

When you meditate on God's grace—His love for you, His sacrifice for you, His favor toward you, His supply available to you—faith grows exponentially.

When you meditate on your need to have more faith, you just feel inadequate and exhausted.

One approach builds. The other drains.

How to Shift from Faith-Focus to Grace-Focus

So how do you make this shift practically? How do you move from trying to generate faith to receiving grace that produces faith?

ONE: STOP TRYING TO GENERATE FAITH

You can't manufacture faith through effort. Faith is a response to revelation.

When you see who God is and what He's done, faith rises naturally.

Stop trying to work it up. Start asking God to reveal His grace to you.

Prayer: "God, show me Your grace. Help me see Your love. Reveal Your character. Open my eyes to what You've already provided."

TWO: MEDITATE ON GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU

Not your love for Him. HIS love for you.

Romans 8:38-39 says, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Read that slowly. Out loud. Daily.

Nothing can separate you from God's love. Not your failure. Not your weakness. Not your inconsistent faith. Nothing.

Let that truth sink deep. That's grace. And when you receive it, faith grows.

THREE: RECEIVE BEFORE YOU BELIEVE

Most people try to believe in order to receive.

"If I have enough faith, God will give me what I need."

Flip it. Receive God's grace first. Then watch faith grow as a result.

John 1:16 says, "Out of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace."

RECEIVED. Past tense. It's already available.

Your job isn't to generate faith to unlock it. Your job is to RECEIVE what's already offered.

FOUR: IDENTIFY AS "THE ONE JESUS LOVES"

Like John, make God's love for you your primary identity.

Not your achievements. Not your track record. Not your consistency.

You are loved. Completely. Unconditionally. Permanently.

Say it out loud: "I am the one Jesus loves."

When that becomes your identity, everything else flows from it. Including faith.

FIVE: DECLARE GRACE, NOT JUST FAITH

Instead of "I have faith for breakthrough," try "I receive God's grace for breakthrough."

Instead of "I believe God will provide," try "I rest in God's grace that provides."

Instead of "I'm standing in faith," try "I'm standing in grace."

It's subtle, but it shifts the focus from your capacity to His supply.

And that shift changes everything.

The Result

When you make this shift—when you start with grace instead of faith—here's what happens:

You stop exhausting yourself trying to believe hard enough. You stop feeling guilty when faith feels weak. You stop comparing your faith to others. You stop collapsing under pressure when circumstances look impossible.

Why? Because you're not standing on your faith anymore. You're standing in His grace.

And grace is unshakable. Unlimited. Unfailing.

Second Corinthians 1:20 says, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."

God's promises are already YES. That's grace. Your faith simply says AMEN—agreement with what's already true.

You're not creating reality with your faith. You're agreeing with the reality grace has already established.

Hebrews 4:16 invites us to "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

It's a throne of GRACE. Not a throne of faith measurement. Not a throne of performance evaluation. Not a throne of "let's see if you believed hard enough."

Grace.

And you approach it with confidence—not because your faith is strong, but because His grace is sufficient.

That's the revolution.

Grace initiates. Faith responds. And when you get that order right, everything flows.

Application: Shift to Grace-First Living

Let me make this intensely practical for you.

Personal: What are you trying to generate through faith that you should be receiving through grace? Stop striving. Start receiving. Instead of asking "Do I have enough faith?" ask "What has grace already provided?" Meditate on scriptures about God's love, God's character, God's promises. Let faith grow as a natural response.

Family: Are you teaching your kids to work up faith, or to receive grace? Stop putting pressure on them to "have more faith" or "believe harder." Teach them about God's love for them first. Show them grace in action. Let them see you resting in God's provision rather than striving for it. Faith will follow naturally when grace is the foundation.

Business: Are you operating from faith in your strategy, or from grace that empowers your efforts? Stop making decisions based on "I just have to believe this will work." Start making decisions based on "What is God's grace providing? What is He saying? Where is He leading?" Trust grace. Work from supply, not for it. Let the Holy Spirit guide your steps. And watch how much more effective you become when you're flowing in grace rather than grinding in faith-effort.

Marriage: Are you trying to love your spouse in your own strength, trying to "have faith" that your marriage will improve? Or are you receiving God's grace daily to love them? Grace produces the capacity to love. Grace gives you patience you don't naturally have. Grace supplies the forgiveness you struggle to extend. Stop trying

harder. Start receiving more. Let grace fill you so you can pour out from overflow.

Church: If you're leading in ministry, are you putting pressure on people to "have more faith" or are you pointing them to God's grace? The faith message of the last fifty years has left countless believers exhausted, guilty, and feeling like failures. Point them to grace. Teach them about God's love. Show them the finished work of Christ. And watch faith rise naturally as they receive grace deeply.

Declarations for Grace-First Living

Say these every day until they become your reality:

Grace initiates, faith responds. I receive God's love before I generate belief. I am the one Jesus loves, and that is my identity. Faith grows naturally when I focus on grace. I stop trying to work up faith and start receiving grace. God's grace is sufficient, and His love never fails. I don't stand on my faith; I stand in His grace. Grace produces peace, confidence, boldness, rest, and supernatural faith. I am not defined by the strength of my faith but by the sufficiency of His grace. I receive grace upon grace, and faith follows.

The Invitation

Stop exhausting yourself trying to have more faith.

Stop feeling guilty when belief feels weak.

Stop comparing your faith journey to someone else's.

Stop beating yourself up for not "believing hard enough."

The problem was never your faith. The problem was your focus.

You were focusing on the responder instead of the initiator. You were trying to generate what should flow naturally. You were building on sand instead of standing on rock.

Grace is the rock. Faith is what you build on that rock.

Start with grace. Meditate on God's love for you. Receive His unmerited favor. Rest in His finished work. Let revelation of His character sink deep into your heart.

And watch what happens.

Faith will rise. Not manufactured. Not forced. Not worked up through emotional conferences and desperate confessions.

Natural. Organic. Strong. Unshakable.

Because faith built on grace doesn't collapse when circumstances get hard. Faith built on grace endures.

Romans 5:2 says we "stand in grace." Not sway. Not stumble. Not barely hang on.

STAND.

That's stability. That's security. That's confidence.

And all of it flows from grace, not faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 will never be the same for you after this:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

BY GRACE. That's the source. THROUGH FAITH. That's the channel. A GIFT. You receive it, you don't generate it. NOT BY WORKS. Your effort doesn't create it.

Grace initiates. Faith responds.

Get that order right, and everything changes.

Now stop trying to have great faith. Start receiving great grace.

And watch your faith become greater than you ever imagined possible.

In the next chapter, we'll explore HOW this grace actually reaches you—the supply chain of heaven's resources flowing into your life. Because understanding the order is one thing. Understanding the mechanism is another. Let's keep going.

8

The Supply Chain of Grace: How Heaven's Resources Reach You

Now you understand that grace initiates and faith responds. You're not trying to work up faith—you're receiving grace that naturally produces faith.

But here's the question: How does that grace actually REACH you?

You want to know why most Christians stay stuck?

Because they don't understand the supply chain.

They think grace is automatic. Like spiritual Wi-Fi. Just turn on your device and connect. But it doesn't work that way.

Grace is available to everyone. But not everyone accesses it. And the difference between those who thrive under grace and those who grind under performance? They understand how the supply chain works.

Let me show you what I mean.

Grace doesn't stop flowing from God, it stops flowing TO you when the pipeline clogs.

The Pipeline Problem

Picture a garden hose connected to a water source. On one end, you've got unlimited water. Infinite supply. On the other end? Your garden that desperately needs watering.

But here's the problem: If the hose is kinked, twisted, or clogged, water doesn't flow. The source hasn't changed. The supply is still there. But you're not getting any.

That's what happens when your grace pipeline gets blocked.

There was a season, several years after my 1995 burnout, actually, when I thought I'd figured out this grace thing. I'd learned about rest. I understood righteousness. I was preaching it.

But something still felt off.

I was doing all the right things externally, but internally I was running dry. Not burned out like before. Just disconnected. Like I was going through the motions without the power.

One morning during prayer, this image dropped into my spirit: a pipeline. Clean on one end, clogged on the other. And the Holy Spirit whispered, "Your pipeline is blocked."

I didn't want to hear that. I thought I'd dealt with all this. But God wasn't done teaching me.

See, it's not enough to know ABOUT grace. You have to keep the supply line open. And that requires daily maintenance.

Knowing about grace doesn't produce flow. Maintaining the pipeline does.

What Clogs the Pipeline?

Let me give you five things that block the flow of grace in your life:

ONE: UNCONFESSED SIN

Not because God withdraws His grace when you sin—He doesn't. But because sin creates internal static. It messes with your receiver.

First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Notice it says cleanse. That's pipeline language. Confession clears the blockage.

TWO: UNFORGIVENESS

Jesus said if you don't forgive others, the Father won't forgive you. Not because He's withholding forgiveness, but because unforgiveness creates a barrier in YOUR heart that blocks grace from flowing.

You can't receive what you won't release. When you hold grudges, you're kinked.

THREE: UNBELIEF

Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Faith is the connector. Unbelief disconnects you from the supply.

Every time you say "God won't," "God can't," or "God isn't," you're crimping the hose.

FOUR: PERFORMANCE MINDSET

This is the sneaky one. You can KNOW grace theologically and still OPERATE from performance practically.

When you slip back into "I have to earn it," "I need to prove it," or "I must work harder," you've switched systems. And grace doesn't flow in the performance system.

FIVE: PRAYERLESSNESS

Prayer isn't begging God to turn on the tap. Prayer is positioning yourself under the flow.

Jesus said in John 15:7, "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Remaining is the key. Prayer keeps you connected. Prayerlessness disconnects you.

You can't receive by grace what you're trying to earn by works.

The Maintenance Required

So how do you keep the pipeline clear?

ONE: DAILY CONFESSION

Not because you're groveling, but because you're clearing the line. Acknowledge where you missed it. Receive forgiveness. Move forward.

TWO: DAILY FORGIVENESS

Release everyone who's hurt you. Every day. Don't let bitterness build up. It's toxic and it clogs everything.

THREE: DAILY DECLARATION

Speak your faith. Declare who God is and what He's doing. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

FOUR: DAILY CONNECTION

Spend time with Jesus. Not just reading your Bible, CONNECTING. Talking. Listening. Remaining.

FIVE: DAILY GRATITUDE

Thank God for what grace has already provided. Gratitude opens the valve wider.

This isn't legalism. This is maintenance. You change the oil in your car not because you're earning transportation, but because you want the car to run smoothly.

Same with grace. Daily maintenance keeps the supply flowing.

Blocked pipelines produce stressed Christians. Clear pipelines produce powerful Christians.

Application: Clear Your Pipeline

Personal: Do a pipeline audit. Which of the five blockages are present in your life right now? Confess it. Clear it. Connect it.

Family: Is unforgiveness blocking grace in your home? Have the hard conversation. Release the grudge. Watch grace flow.

Business/Work/Church: Are you operating from performance or from grace—whether you're leading at home, managing at work, pastoring at church, or running your business? Check your stress levels. They'll tell you which system you're running.

Marriage: Is bitterness clogging the pipeline between you and your spouse? Forgive. Release. Let grace restore.

Declarations to Keep the Pipeline Clear

Say these daily:

I confess my sins and receive cleansing. I forgive everyone who has hurt me. I believe God is my source and my supply. I reject performance and receive grace. I remain connected to Jesus daily. Grace flows through me freely. My pipeline is clear and the supply is unlimited.

The Invitation

Stop trying to manufacture what should be flowing. Check your pipeline. Clear the blockages. Stay connected.

The supply is unlimited. The source never runs dry. The only question is: Are you receiving?

Now that you understand how the supply chain works and how to keep it clear, you're ready for the next critical shift: moving from fear to faith. Because even with a clear pipeline, fear can shut down the flow. Let's tackle that next.

9

From Fear to Faith: The Shift That Unlocks Everything

I'm going to ask you something, and I want you to answer honestly.

What are you afraid of?

Failure? Rejection? Loss? The future? What people think? Not having enough? Being exposed? Losing control?

Here's what most people don't realize: Fear is the number one blocker of grace.

You can understand righteousness. You can know about the supply chain. You can even have the pipeline clear. But if fear is running your life, grace can't flow.

Because fear and faith cannot coexist. They're incompatible. Opposite systems. One shuts down the other.

You can't walk in grace while you're running from fear.

Two Operating Systems

Think of fear and faith like two different operating systems on a computer. You can't run both at the same time. One has to dominate.

The Fear System: Operates from scarcity Focuses on what could go wrong Makes decisions from anxiety Produces stress and paralysis Sees God as distant or unreliable

The Faith System: Operates from supply Focuses on God's promises Makes decisions from peace Produces courage and action Sees God as present and faithful

Most Christians flip between these two systems multiple times a day without even realizing it.

Something good happens? Faith kicks in. God is good.

Crisis hits? Fear takes over. What if God doesn't come through?

You're saved by grace. But you're LIVING by fear.

Fear locks doors. Faith opens them.

My Land Story: When Fear Said Stop and Faith Said Go

Let me tell you about a season when I had to choose between fear and faith over and over again. And every time fear screamed louder, I had to choose faith harder.

It was 2019. We were planting what would become our Sugarloaf campus in Gwinnett County, Georgia. I'd been searching for the right property for months. We needed land in a strategic location, the right size, the right zoning, and the right price.

I looked at over a hundred properties. Buildings. Land parcels. Every option you could imagine.

And nothing worked.

Wrong location. Wrong size. Wrong price. Wrong zoning. Every single time, something was off.

Then a pattern started to emerge. A painful, frustrating, faith-testing pattern.

Six different times—six times—I found land that seemed absolutely perfect. Prime location. Right size. Good price. Proper zoning. Everything we needed. Everything we'd been praying for.

And six times, just days before we could make an offer, someone bought it.

Same buyer. Every. Single. Time.

A regional powerhouse development company.

After the second time, I was frustrated. After the fourth time, I was discouraged. After the sixth time, I was ready to quit.

Fear was screaming at full volume now.

"Give up. You're outgunned. They have more money, more connections, more resources than you'll ever have. You'll never compete with them. You're wasting your time. God's obviously not in this. If He was, you wouldn't keep losing."

I started researching this company. Who were they? Why did they keep buying all our land?

And I discovered they were part of a massive empire owned by one of the wealthiest developers in Atlanta. Huge tower in Buckhead. Operations all over Georgia. This wasn't just a company—this was a juggernaut.

And me? I was a pastor from Australia trying to plant a church campus in a city I barely knew.

The odds weren't just against me. They were laughable.

Then one morning, everything changed.

I was praying. Meditating on grace and favor. Dwelling on scriptures about God's provision. Asking God what to do about this impossible land situation.

And a thought dropped into my spirit. Not audible, but so clear it might as well have been.

"Go see him. Ask him to help you."

I knew immediately who God meant. The owner of that massive development company. One of the wealthiest men in Atlanta.

And fear went absolutely ballistic.

"Are you insane? You think some billionaire developer is going to help a church? He doesn't know you. He doesn't care about you. You'll embarrass yourself. You'll look like a fool. This is the dumbest idea you've ever had."

But under the fear, there was something else. A quiet confidence. A still, small voice.

Faith.

"Go."

So I made a decision. I was going to trust faith over fear.

I picked up the phone and called his office. Asked for an appointment with one of the wealthiest, busiest men in Atlanta.

And I got a meeting. Within the hour.

Let that sink in. Within the hour.

You don't just call a billionaire developer and get on his calendar in sixty minutes. But when the Holy Spirit goes before you, doors open that human effort can't even find.

Fear said, "This won't work."

Faith said, "Watch what God does."

The following week, I drove to midtown Atlanta with Rick, our treasurer, and Philip, our general counsel. We pulled up to this fifty-story office building. Sleek. Impressive. Intimidating.

We walked into the lobby, took the elevator up, and waited in the reception area.

And fear started whispering again.

"What are you doing here? Look at this place. Look at the artwork on the walls. Look at the view from these windows. This man operates at a level you'll never reach. You're about to ask him to help you beat his own company. Do you realize how ridiculous that is?"

But I'd made my decision. Faith. Not fear.

He'd brought two of his senior Vice Presidents to the meeting. We sat down. Got past the small talk.

And I delivered my pitch. Australian directness. A bit of humor to break the tension.

"We've been trying to find land in Gwinnett County. And every time I find some, your company has bought it. After six times, I figured I should come straight to you and ask if you'd help us get some land."

I laughed when I said it. Tried to keep it light. But my heart was pounding.

He smiled. Leaned back in his chair. Looked at his team. Then looked back at me.

"I like your boldness," he said. "Tell me more about what you're trying to do."

So I shared the vision. The growth of Futures Church. The need for a campus in Gwinnett County. The mission to reach families and transform communities.

He listened. Really listened. Not just politely waiting for me to finish so he could say no. He was actually engaged.

Then he said something that changed everything.

"I'll help you."

Just like that. No long negotiation. No complicated back-and-forth. Just three words.

"I'll help you."

Then he turned to one of his VPs—Jason—and said, "Jason, work with Ashley. Help them find the right property."

I walked out of that office stunned. Fear had said it was impossible. Faith said it was done.

And faith was right.

Over the next few weeks, Jason connected us with brokers, helped us navigate deals, and eventually led us to a piece of land that was perfect for what we needed.

But here's where the story gets even better.

The real estate agent who helped us close the deal was a Korean Christian. A brother in Christ. We sat down to go through the final negotiations, and in the middle of the conversation, he mentioned a name.

"Do you know him?" he asked.

I stopped. My mind raced. "Yes! He's my next-door neighbor in Georgia. His son is best friends with my son. He's at our house all the time."

The agent's face lit up. He smiled. And right there, something shifted in the room.

"Pastor," he said, leaning forward, "I'm going to help you. I'm going to reduce my commission so you can get this land under asking price. This is the best location for what you're trying to do. You need to be here."

And that's exactly what happened.

We got prime land. Under market value. Perfect location. Perfect terms.

Because a Christian Korean real estate agent discovered a divine connection to my next-door neighbor and decided to sacrifice his profit to advance the Kingdom.

Fear said, "You'll never get land in Gwinnett."

Faith said, "Watch God open doors."

And God didn't just open a door. He opened a pathway I never could have imagined, connected through relationships I didn't even know existed, orchestrated by a Holy Spirit who sees everything and misses nothing.

That's what happens when you shift from fear to faith.

The Shift

So how do you make the shift from fear to faith?

ONE: RECOGNIZE FEAR'S VOICE

Fear always speaks in "what ifs."

What if it doesn't work? What if I fail? What if people reject me? What if I don't have enough?

Faith speaks in "even ifs."

Even if it's hard, God is with me. Even if I fail, God's grace covers me. Even if people reject me, God accepts me. Even if resources are low, God is my supply.

Learn to identify which voice you're listening to.

TWO: REMEMBER GOD'S CHARACTER

Fear questions God's faithfulness. Faith anchors in God's character.

Hebrews 13:5-6 says, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

God's character doesn't change based on your circumstances. He's faithful whether you feel it or not.

THREE: DECLARE TRUTH OVER FEELINGS

Your feelings are real, but they're not always true.

Fear feels real. But it's often a liar.

Start declaring truth: God is my provider. God is my protector. God is faithful. God's grace is sufficient.

Say it until you believe it. Say it until fear shuts up.

FOUR: TAKE ONE STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Faith isn't passive. Faith acts.

When I called that developer's office, I was terrified. But I dialed anyway. That one act of obedience unlocked everything.

What's the one thing fear is telling you NOT to do? Do that. In faith.

FIVE: FEED FAITH, STARVE FEAR

What you feed grows. What you starve dies.

If you're feeding fear—through worry, negative news, toxic relationships, constant "what if" thinking—it will dominate.

If you're feeding faith—through Scripture, worship, declarations, testimonies of God's faithfulness—it will dominate.

You can't starve fear if you keep feeding it.

Application: Shift to Faith

Personal: What fear is dominating your life right now? Name it. Then declare God's truth over it. Every day.

Family: What fear is infecting your home? Financial fear? Health fear? Future fear? Bring it to God together. Pray as a family. Shift from fear to faith.

Business: What decision are you avoiding because of fear—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Take one step of faith today. Make the call. Send the email. Have the conversation.

Marriage: What fear is creating distance between you and your spouse? Fear of vulnerability? Fear of rejection? Choose faith. Open up. Trust.

Declarations to Shift from Fear to Faith

Say these out loud:

Fear is a liar; faith is the truth.

I am deeply loved by God, and perfect love casts out fear.

I will not be paralyzed by "what ifs," I will move forward in faith.

God is faithful, and His character never changes.

I feed faith and starve fear.

The Invitation

When you shift from fear to faith, everything unlocks. Doors open. Opportunities appear. Courage rises. Clarity comes.

Fear locks you in a prison of your own making. Faith unlocks the door and leads you into the future God has prepared.

So stop listening to fear's lies. Stop feeding fear's voice. Stop letting fear dictate your decisions.

Choose faith. Declare faith. Live faith. And watch what God does.

Fear said I'd never get land in Gwinnett County. Faith said God would provide.

And God didn't just provide land. He provided favor with a billionaire, connection with a VP, divine alignment with a Korean agent connected to my neighbor, and terms so favorable they could only be explained by grace.

If He can do that for me, He can do it for you.

The question isn't whether God is faithful. The question is: Will you choose faith over fear? Make the choice. Take the step. Watch God move.

10

The Overflow Life: Living Beyond Survival Mode

Stop surviving. Start overflowing.

That's not a motivational slogan. That's a theological reality.

Most Christians are living in survival mode. Barely making it. Scraping by. Holding on. Hoping things don't fall apart.

But that's not what Jesus promised.

John 10:10 says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Not survival life. Not barely-getting-by life. Not I-hope-I-make-it-through life.

Full life. Abundant life. Overflow life.

The Greek word Jesus uses here is *perissos*—superabundant, excessive, over and above, more than enough. It's the picture of a cup so full that it's spilling over the sides.

That's what Jesus died to give you. Not survival. Overflow.

So why are so many Christians living like they're one crisis away from collapse?

Because they don't understand overflow.

Overflow isn't selfish accumulation, it's supernatural circulation.

The Cup Principle

Picture a cup under a running faucet.

At first, the cup fills. Slowly. Water rises. But as long as the water coming in exceeds the water going out, the cup fills.

Then it reaches the brim. And what happens next?

It overflows.

Now here's the key: The cup doesn't stop receiving just because it's full. The water keeps flowing. And the overflow becomes a supply for everything around it.

That's how the overflow life works.

You're the cup. Grace is the water. As long as grace keeps flowing IN, it will eventually flow OUT. And when it flows out, it becomes supply for everyone around you.

My 2018 Grace Revelation

Let me tell you about a moment that radically shifted how I understood this.

It was 2018. I'd been preaching grace for years. I understood righteousness. I knew about rest. I'd broken free from the burnout trap.

But something still felt incomplete.

Then someone handed me a book by Joseph Prince on grace. And they said, "Read this. It'll challenge everything you think you know."

I almost didn't. I'm a seasoned leader—whether in the church, in the home, or in business. I've been in ministry for decades. I've taught on grace extensively. What could I possibly learn from another book?

But I cracked it open. And page after page, I was confronted with layers of grace I hadn't seen before.

Not because the theology was new. But because the APPLICATION was deeper.

I realized I'd been preaching grace from a position of knowledge but not always from a position of OVERFLOW.

I was teaching supply while still operating from a subtle scarcity mindset.

Here's what hit me: You can preach overflow without LIVING overflow. You can KNOW it theologically without EXPERIENCING it practically.

So I did something I rarely do. I read that book again. And again. I took notes like a student. I listened to the podcasts. I dove in with diligence.

It took me three months. Three months as a seasoned leader to fully shift from KNOWING grace to LIVING overflow.

And when I did? Everything changed.

My preaching got sharper. My leadership got lighter. My decision-making got clearer. My relationships got healthier.

Why? Because I stopped operating from "just enough" and started operating from "more than enough."

Knowing about overflow doesn't produce overflow, living from overflow does.

The Difference Between Supply and Overflow

Supply means you have enough. Overflow means you have extra.

Supply gets you through the day. Overflow gets you AND others through the day.

Supply pays your bills. Overflow blesses someone else's bills.

Supply sustains you. Overflow impacts everyone around you.

Most Christians live at the supply level. They have enough to survive. But they never reach overflow.

Why? Because they're afraid if they give, they'll run out.

But that's scarcity thinking. And scarcity thinking cuts off the flow.

Second Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Read that again. Slowly.

ALL THINGS. Not some things. All things.

ALL TIMES. Not sometimes. All times.

HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED. Not barely enough. All that you need.

YOU WILL ABOUND. Not survive. Abound.

That's the overflow promise. Not IF you're good enough. Not IF you work hard enough. But because God is able to bless you abundantly.

Three Marks of the Overflow Life

ONE: GENEROSITY WITHOUT ANXIETY

When you're living from overflow, giving doesn't create fear. You don't calculate whether you can afford to bless someone. You just do it.

Why? Because you're not giving from your reserves. You're giving from the flow.

TWO: REST WITHOUT GUILT

When you're living from overflow, rest doesn't feel lazy. You don't have to grind twenty-four-seven to prove your worth. You can stop. You can breathe. You can enjoy.

Why? Because productivity isn't your identity. Grace is your supply.

THREE: IMPACT WITHOUT BURNOUT

When you're living from overflow, ministry doesn't drain you. Leadership—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business—doesn't exhaust you. Serving doesn't deplete you.

Why? Because you're not working FROM your own energy. You're working FROM God's supply.

Overflow produces generosity, rest, and impact, all at the same time.

How to Live the Overflow Life

ONE: STOP MEASURING WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT

Scarcity constantly calculates. *Do I have enough? Will there be more? What if I run out?*

Overflow trusts the source. *God is my supply. His resources are unlimited. I can give freely.*

TWO: START MEASURING WHAT'S FLOWING

Don't focus on the cup. Focus on the faucet.

Is grace flowing? Yes. Then overflow is inevitable.

THREE: GIVE BEFORE YOU FEEL LIKE IT

Overflow starts with obedience, not emotion.

When God prompts you to bless someone, DO IT. Even if it doesn't make sense. Even if you feel the pinch. That's when the flow accelerates.

FOUR: DECLARE ABUNDANCE DAILY

What you declare, you create.

Say it out loud: *I live from overflow. God's supply is unlimited. I have more than enough. I am blessed to be a blessing.*

FIVE: READ AND LISTEN TO OVERFLOW TEACHING

Here's my challenge to you: Read this book again. And again. Take notes like I did. Listen to the podcasts. Dive in with diligence.

Don't just read it once and move on. Let it saturate your thinking until overflow becomes your default operating system.

Because knowing this stuff won't change you. LIVING this stuff will.

Application: Shift to Overflow

Personal: Where are you still operating from scarcity? Identify it. Declare abundance over it. Act from overflow.

Family: How can your family operate from overflow instead of survival? Start blessing others together. Give as a family. Watch God replenish.

Business/Work/Church: How can you lead from overflow instead of stress—whether you're leading at home, managing at work, pastoring at church, or running your business? Trust God's supply. Make generous decisions. Watch impact multiply.

Marriage: How can you love from overflow instead of demand? Give without keeping score. Bless without expecting return. Watch grace transform your relationship.

Declarations for the Overflow Life

Say these until they become your reality:

- I live from overflow, not survival.
- God's supply is unlimited and always flowing.
- I have more than enough to bless others.
- Generosity accelerates my overflow.
- I rest without guilt and give without fear.

- I am blessed to be a blessing.

The Invitation

Jesus didn't die to give you survival mode. He died to give you overflow life.

Stop living like you're one crisis away from collapse. Start living like your cup is always overflowing.

Because it is. Grace is flowing right now. The supply is unlimited. The faucet never turns off.

Your only job? Stay under the flow. Receive continuously. Give generously. And watch overflow become your new normal.

11

The Grace and Work Paradox: Working Hard Without the Burden

Before we go any further, I need to address the elephant in the room.

You've just read about the overflow life. About living from supply instead of scarcity. About rest, grace, and trusting God's provision.

And I know what some of you are thinking: "This sounds like you're telling me to be lazy. To coast. To stop working hard."

Let me be crystal clear: That's not what I'm saying at all.

Grace doesn't eliminate hard work. Grace eliminates the BURDEN that comes with hard work.

There's a massive difference between working hard and working under the curse of toil. And most Christians can't tell the difference.

The Confusion About Work

Here's where people get stuck: They hear "grace" and immediately think it's the opposite of "works." And it is—when we're talking about EARNING salvation or God's approval.

Ephesians 2:8-9 is crystal clear: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

You can't WORK your way into God's acceptance. That's settled.

But here's what people miss: The very next verse, Ephesians 2:10, says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Did you catch that? You're saved by grace to DO works. Not FOR acceptance, but FROM acceptance.

Grace doesn't cancel work. Grace changes HOW you work and WHY you work.

The Two Types of Work

Let me show you the difference between working under the curse and working under grace.

Genesis 3:17-19 describes work under the curse: "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you… By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food."

That's the curse. Painful toil. Sweat. Thorns. Frustration. Grinding effort with diminishing returns.

But Jesus came to break that curse. Matthew 11:28-30 shows us work under grace: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

WORKING UNDER THE CURSE (Performance): Physical strain: Your body is tired Mental strain: Your mind is anxious, calculating, obsessing Emotional strain: You're stressed, worried, insecure Spiritual strain: You feel distant from God, like you're doing it alone Result: Exhaustion, burnout, diminishing returns

WORKING UNDER GRACE (Supply): Physical exertion: Your body is engaged, working hard Mental clarity: Your mind is clear, focused, at peace Emotional stability: You're confident, secure, trusting Spiritual connection: You sense God's presence, guidance, and help Result:

Sustainable productivity, breakthrough ideas, multiplied effectiveness

See the difference? One exhausts you. The other sustains you.

Grace doesn't remove the physical effort. Grace removes the mental and emotional BURDEN that crushes you while you work.

What Working Under Grace Actually Looks Like

Let me paint you a real picture.

You've got a deadline. A big project. A critical decision. A problem that needs solving.

Under the curse (performance mode): You wake up thinking about it. Anxiety is your alarm clock. You work frantically, checking and rechecking. Your mind races even when you're not working. You can't enjoy dinner because you're mentally still at work. You lie in bed rehearsing worst-case scenarios. You're physically working AND mentally striving AND emotionally spiraling. You're exhausted but you can't rest because rest feels irresponsible.

Under grace (supply mode): You wake up and connect with God first. Peace is your starting point. You work diligently, focused and present. Your mind is engaged while working but releases when you stop. You enjoy dinner because you trust God with outcomes. You sleep well because your identity isn't tied to results. You're physically working but mentally at rest AND emotionally secure. You work hard but you're sustained because the burden isn't on you.

Philippians 4:6-7 describes this perfectly: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

That's the difference. And it's MASSIVE.

The Holy Spirit Factor

But here's where it gets even better. When you're working under grace, you're not working alone.

The Holy Spirit becomes your partner in productivity.

John 14:26 says, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

The Holy Spirit TEACHES you. Guides you. Gives you wisdom you don't naturally possess.

I can't tell you how many times I've been wrestling with a decision, grinding on a strategy, trying to figure out the next move—and getting nowhere.

Then I stop. Pray. Surrender the outcome. Rest in God's supply.

And within hours—sometimes minutes—a solution appears. An idea drops into my spirit. A person calls with exactly what I need. A door opens I didn't even know existed.

That's not magic. That's the Holy Spirit giving you shortcuts, breakthroughs, and divine downloads that save you HOURS of wasted effort.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

When you're striving in your own strength, you take the long route. You make mistakes. You waste time. You work harder for less result.

When you're working under grace, connected to the Holy Spirit, He makes your paths STRAIGHT. He gives you wisdom you didn't have. Ideas you couldn't manufacture. Connections you never planned.

James 1:5 promises, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

That's supply. That's what it means to work FROM fullness instead of FOR fullness.

Grace Doesn't Mean No Deadlines

Let me address the elephant in the room: "But Ashley, I have deadlines. I have goals. I have outcomes I HAVE to hit. I can't just 'rest' my way through life."

I get it. And I'm not telling you to.

Grace doesn't eliminate responsibility. Grace empowers you to meet responsibility without being crushed by it.

Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

You still have deadlines. You still have to deliver results. You still have to work hard. WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

But here's the shift:

Under the curse, you carry the weight of the outcome on your shoulders. If it fails, you're a failure. So you grind, strive, obsess, and burn out.

Under grace, you give your best effort and trust God with the outcome. If it fails, you learn and move forward. You work hard, but you're not carrying the weight alone.

Psalm 127:1-2 says it perfectly: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for He grants sleep to those He loves."

Same deadline. Same goal. Different burden.

The "Lazy Grace" Lie

Some people accuse grace teaching of producing lazy Christians. "If you teach people they don't have to work for God's approval, they won't work at all!"

That's garbage.

People who truly understand grace work HARDER than legalists. But they work from a different source.

Legalists work from fear, insecurity, and the need to prove themselves. They burn out, give up, or become bitter.

Grace-filled believers work from love, security, and gratitude. They sustain, they multiply, and they thrive.

Paul worked harder than anyone. He planted churches across the Roman Empire. He endured beatings, shipwrecks, imprisonments. He wrote half the New Testament.

Was he lazy? Hardly.

But listen to what he said in 1 Corinthians 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."

Did you catch that? "I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God."

He worked hard. But it wasn't his effort alone. It was grace empowering his effort.

Second Corinthians 12:9 reveals the secret: "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Grace isn't weakness. Grace is God's POWER working through you. That's what makes you effective, not exhausted.

My Own Experience

I've lived both sides of this.

In my twenties and early thirties, I worked 80-100 hour weeks. Grinding. Striving. Building. Achieving.

And I burned out. Completely. Age 31, physical collapse.

Why? Because I was working under the curse. Mental strain. Emotional strain. Spiritual strain. I was carrying the weight of the entire ministry on my shoulders.

After burnout, I learned to work under grace.

Now? I still work hard. Really hard. But the burden is different.

I work physically—leading, preaching, traveling, strategizing. But mentally, I'm at rest. Emotionally, I'm secure. Spiritually, I'm connected.

And here's the crazy part: I'm more effective now working 50-60 hours under grace than I was working 100 hours under the curse.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit multiplies effectiveness when you're working in partnership with Him instead of grinding in your own strength.

Zechariah 4:6 says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

Breakthroughs come faster. Doors open easier. Problems solve quicker. Impact multiplies exponentially.

That's what working under supply looks like.

The Bottom Line

So let me make this crystal clear:

Grace doesn't mean: No hard work No deadlines No accountability No discipline No effort

Grace means: Hard work without the mental and emotional burden Deadlines met from peace, not panic Accountability embraced, not feared Discipline sustained by love, not driven by fear Effort empowered by the Holy Spirit, not depleted by striving

First Corinthians 3:9 says, "For we are co-workers in God's service."

CO-WORKERS. You work. God works. Together.

You're still working. You're still pushing. You're still giving your best.

But you're doing it FROM fullness, not FOR fullness.

You're working WITH the Holy Spirit, not grinding in your own strength.

You're trusting God with outcomes while being responsible with your effort.

Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

You commit. You work. You do. But HE establishes. HE supplies the breakthrough. HE opens the doors.

That's the grace and work paradox. And once you get it, everything changes.

Application: Work Under Grace

Personal: What are you grinding on right now? What mental and emotional burden are you carrying that you were never meant to carry? Surrender the outcome. Give your best effort. Trust God with the results.

Family: Are you working FOR your family's approval or FROM God's acceptance? Stop performing. Start providing from overflow.

Business: Are you leading from anxiety or from peace? Your team will mirror your energy. Work hard, but work under grace. Let the Holy Spirit give you breakthrough ideas and divine shortcuts.

Marriage: Are you striving to MAKE your marriage work through sheer effort? Or are you working hard while trusting God to sustain your covenant? There's a massive difference.

Declarations to Work Under Grace

Say these until they become your reality:

I work hard, but I work under grace. The Holy Spirit is my partner in productivity. I give my best effort and trust God with outcomes. Mental and emotional burdens are not mine to carry. I work from peace, not from panic. Grace empowers my work and multiplies my effectiveness. I am sustained by the Spirit, not exhausted by striving. I work with all my heart, as unto the Lord.

The Invitation

Now that we've cleared up the confusion, let's be absolutely clear about what grace-empowered work looks like:

Grace doesn't make you lazy. It makes you effective. Sustainable. Powerful.

You're going to work hard. Really hard. But you'll work under grace, not under the curse.

Let the Holy Spirit guide your steps. Give you shortcuts. Supply you with wisdom, ideas, and breakthroughs.

Isaiah 40:31 promises, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

That's the promise. Work without weariness. Run without burnout. Sustained strength from the Source.

And watch what happens when you stop grinding under the curse and start flowing under grace.

You'll work harder than ever. But you'll be sustained, not destroyed.

Now that you understand the paradox—that grace empowers hard work rather than eliminating it—let's dive deeper into what it actually looks like to LIVE in this grace on a daily basis. In the chapters ahead, we'll explore the practical rhythms, spiritual battles, and mindset shifts that will help you maintain this grace-empowered effectiveness for the long haul.

12

Grace vs. Law: Why Mixing the Two Will Destroy You

Here's a truth that's going to make some people uncomfortable:

You can't mix grace and law. It doesn't work. It's not a balance. It's poison.

Let me say that again so there's no confusion: Mixing grace and law doesn't create healthy Christianity. It creates destructive Christianity.

And most believers are doing it without even realizing it.

They've been saved by grace. They know they can't earn salvation. They quote Ephesians 2:8-9 like a battle cry.

But then they slip right back into law for everything else.

They're saved by grace but living by rules. Rescued by faith but driven by fear. Accepted by Jesus but striving for approval.

Grace and law are not two sides of the same coin, they're two entirely different currencies.

The Galatian Problem

Paul dealt with this exact issue in the book of Galatians. And he didn't handle it gently.

Galatians 3:1-3 says:

"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to

learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"

Paul's not mincing words. He calls them FOOLISH. Twice.

Why? Because they started in grace and drifted back into law.

They got saved by faith. But then false teachers came in and said, "Yeah, faith is great, but you also need to follow these rules, observe these rituals, keep these laws. THEN you'll be fully accepted by God."

And the Galatians bought it.

Paul says they were bewitched. Literally under a spell. Deceived. Confused. Operating under a system that was never meant for them.

And here's what most Christians miss: This isn't just a first-century problem. This is YOUR problem. TODAY.

How Christians Mix Grace and Law

Let me show you how subtle this is.

You BELIEVE you're saved by grace. But then you:

- Feel guilty when you don't read your Bible every day. *That's law.*
- Worry that God is disappointed when you mess up. *That's law.*
- Try to earn God's favor through your service. *That's law.*
- Compare your spiritual performance to others. *That's law.*
- Feel like you need to do more to stay in God's good graces. *That's law.*

You're SAVED by grace but LIVING by law.

And here's the problem: Law produces the exact opposite of what it promises.

Law promises righteousness but produces guilt.

Law promises peace but produces anxiety.

Law promises strength but produces exhaustion.

Law makes promises it can never keep, and steals the grace that was freely given.

Why Law is Destructive

Paul says in Galatians 5:4:

"You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

Did you catch that? Fallen away from grace.

Not fallen away from SALVATION. Fallen away from GRACE.

You can still be saved and operating under law. But you've disconnected from the supply. You've switched systems. And the Christian life becomes a grinding, joyless, exhausting burden.

Here's why law is destructive:

ONE: LAW FOCUSES ON WHAT YOU DO

Grace focuses on what JESUS did. Law shifts the focus back to your performance. And once performance becomes your metric, you'll never feel like you're doing enough.

TWO: LAW PRODUCES FEAR, NOT FAITH

Grace says, "It is finished." Law says, "You're not finished, keep working."

Grace produces confidence. Law produces insecurity.

THREE: LAW CREATES COMPARISON AND COMPETITION

Grace levels the playing field—everyone receives the same unmerited favor. Law creates rankings—who's doing better, who's more spiritual, who's earning more approval.

FOUR: LAW LEADS TO BURNOUT

Grace sustains. Law drains. You can't maintain a law-based system long-term without crashing—whether you're leading in your home, your workplace, your church, or your business.

Law demands what it cannot provide, and condemns you when you fail.

The Antidote to Law: Pure Grace

So how do you break free from law and live fully in grace?

ONE: STOP TRYING TO EARN WHAT'S ALREADY YOURS

Righteousness is a gift, not a goal. You don't work FOR it, you work FROM it.

Romans 5:17 says you RECEIVE the abundance of grace and the GIFT of righteousness.

It's a gift. Gifts aren't earned. They're received.

TWO: REJECT THE GRACE PLUS GOSPEL

Any teaching that says grace PLUS something else is law in disguise.

- Grace plus works.
- Grace plus rituals.
- Grace plus rules.

It's all law. And Paul says in Galatians 1:8-9 that if anyone preaches a different gospel, let them be under God's curse.

That's how serious this is.

THREE: RENEW YOUR MIND DAILY

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Law thinking is the pattern of this world. Grace thinking requires daily renewal.

Read grace. Listen to grace. Declare grace. Let it saturate your mind until it becomes your default.

FOUR: RECOGNIZE WHEN YOU'VE DRIFTED

You'll know you've drifted back into law when:

- Guilt dominates instead of peace
- Anxiety replaces rest
- Performance pressure returns
- Comparison and competition creep in

When you catch yourself operating from law, STOP. Repent. Reconnect to grace.

The moment you notice law creeping in, run back to grace.

What Grace Actually Produces

Here's what blows my mind: The Christian life that law TRIES to produce, grace ACTUALLY produces.

Law says: *Try harder to be holy.* Grace says: *You ARE holy, now live like it.*

Law says: *Earn God's approval.* Grace says: *You already HAVE God's approval, now enjoy it.*

Law says: *Work for your righteousness.* Grace says: *Receive your righteousness, then work FROM it.*

Grace doesn't make you lazy. Grace makes you powerful.

Grace doesn't lower the standard. Grace empowers you to LIVE the standard.

Grace doesn't give you permission to sin. Grace removes sin's power over you.

What law demands through fear, grace produces through faith.

Application: Choose Grace

Personal: Where have you drifted into law-based thinking? Confess it. Reject it. Reconnect to pure grace.

Family: Are you leading your family by rules or by grace? Rules create rebellion. Grace creates relationship.

Business/Work/Church: Are you managing people through performance pressure or grace-empowered leadership—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Fear-based leadership produces compliance. Grace-based leadership produces excellence.

Marriage: Are you keeping score in your relationship? Law keeps track of wrongs. Grace covers a multitude of sins.

Declarations to Stay in Grace

Say these daily:

- I am saved by grace and I live by grace.
- I reject any teaching that mixes law with grace.

- I don't earn God's favor, I receive it.
- I am righteous by faith, not by works.
- Grace empowers me to live the life law demands.
- I will not fall back into the slavery of law.

The Invitation

Paul ends Galatians 5:1 with this: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

You were set free FROM law TO grace. Don't go back.

Stand firm in grace. Live fully in grace. And watch what grace produces in your life—everything law promised but could never deliver.

13

The Reign of Rest: When Rest Becomes Your Ruling Mindset

Stop working for rest. Start working from rest.

That sentence right there? That's the difference between burnout and breakthrough.

Most people think rest is what you do AFTER you've worked hard enough. It's the reward. The break. The vacation you finally get to take once you've earned it.

But that's not biblical rest. That's just exhaustion management.

Biblical rest isn't something you GET when you're done. It's something you START from.

Rest isn't the reward for hard work, it's the foundation FOR hard work.

The Hebrews 4 Revolution

Hebrews 4:9-11 says:

"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience."

Did you catch the paradox? *Make every effort to enter that rest.*

How do you make effort to rest? Sounds contradictory, right?

But here's what the writer of Hebrews is saying: You have to FIGHT to stay in rest. You have to be INTENTIONAL about not slipping back into striving.

Because the default mode of humanity is hustle. Grind. Prove. Earn. Strive.

Rest requires effort—not physical effort, but mental and spiritual discipline.

You have to resist the pull of performance. You have to say NO to the pressure. You have to refuse to live like your worth is tied to your productivity.

That takes effort.

The God Who Rested First

Genesis 2:2-3 says:

"By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done."

Now think about this: God didn't rest because He was tired. He's God. He doesn't get tired.

God rested because He was DONE. The work was complete. Perfect. Finished.

And then, and this is key, He blessed the seventh day. He made it holy. He elevated rest to a place of honor.

Rest wasn't weakness. Rest was worship.

But here's what most people miss: God rested BEFORE Adam was created.

Read that again. Adam's first full day of existence was the Sabbath. God's day of rest.

Adam didn't start his life working and then rest. He started in rest and then worked FROM rest.

Adam's first day was a rest day, because he was working FROM completion, not FOR completion.

That's the model. That's the design. You work FROM what's already finished, not FOR what needs to be finished.

My Rest Journey

Let me be honest. I didn't always understand this.

After my burnout in 1994, I learned to slow down. I learned to take breaks. I learned to set boundaries.

But I was still operating from the wrong paradigm. I was MANAGING rest, not REIGNING from rest.

I thought rest was something I did so I could work harder later. Recovery so I could go again.

But that's still performance thinking.

It wasn't until years later that this clicked for me: Rest isn't a break FROM the work. Rest is the POSTURE of the work.

I can work hard, really hard, and still be at rest. Not because I'm taking it easy, but because I'm not carrying the weight.

The pressure isn't on me. The results aren't my responsibility. The outcome is in God's hands.

I work. I give my best. I lead with excellence—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business. But I'm not striving. I'm not grinding. I'm not white-knuckling.

I'm working FROM rest, not FOR rest.

And that changes everything.

What Rest Looks Like Practically

Let me clarify what I'm NOT saying:

I'm not saying be lazy. I'm not saying avoid hard work. I'm not saying productivity doesn't matter.

Here's what I AM saying:

Rest is a mindset, not just an activity.

You can be physically still and mentally striving.

You can be on vacation and emotionally grinding.

You can be sitting in church and spiritually exhausted.

Rest isn't about STOPPING. Rest is about TRUSTING.

When you're at rest:

- You work hard but don't carry anxiety
- You pursue excellence but don't chase approval
- You take responsibility but don't take ownership of outcomes
- You give your best but don't depend on your effort alone
- You plan strategically but trust God ultimately

Rest doesn't mean you stop moving, it means you stop striving.

Four Signs You're NOT at Rest

ONE: CONSTANT ANXIETY ABOUT OUTCOMES

When you're not at rest, you obsess over results. You can't enjoy the process because you're too worried about the product.

You check metrics constantly. You compare yourself to others. You lose sleep over what might happen.

Rest says: *I've done my part. God's got the rest.*

TWO: INABILITY TO SAY NO

When you're not at rest, every opportunity feels like a demand. You can't say no because you're afraid of missing out, disappointing people, or losing momentum.

Rest says: *I don't have to do everything. I only have to do what God's called me to do.*

THREE: DEFENSIVENESS WHEN CRITICIZED

When you're not at rest, criticism devastates you. Because your identity is wrapped up in performance.

Rest says: *My worth isn't based on what people think. I'm secure in Christ.*

FOUR: EXHAUSTION THAT SLEEP DOESN'T FIX

When you're not at rest, you're tired all the time. Not just physically—emotionally, mentally, spiritually.

You sleep eight hours and wake up drained. Because the exhaustion isn't physical. It's spiritual.

Rest says: *My strength comes from the Lord. He renews me daily.*

How to Enter and Stay in Rest

ONE: DECLARE IT DAILY

Before your feet hit the floor, say it: *Today I work from rest, not for rest. I trust God with outcomes. I give my best and leave the rest with Him.*

TWO: RELEASE CONTROL

Identify what you're white-knuckling. That project. That relationship. That financial situation.

Open your hands. Give it to God. Let Him carry the weight.

THREE: STOP COMPARING

Comparison is the enemy of rest. You'll never be at peace if you're constantly measuring yourself against others.

Your calling is unique. Your pace is unique. Your results are between you and God.

FOUR: CELEBRATE PROGRESS, NOT JUST PERFECTION

When you're striving, nothing is ever good enough. When you're at rest, you can celebrate growth.

You didn't arrive yet? That's okay. You're further than you were yesterday. Praise God and keep moving.

FIVE: PRIORITIZE SABBATH

This isn't legalism. This is wisdom.

Take one day a week and rest. Really rest. No work emails. No hustling. No grinding.

Worship. Enjoy family. Restore your soul.

God designed you to need this. Honor the design.

Sabbath isn't a rule to follow, it's a rhythm to embrace.

Application: Reign From Rest

Personal: What are you carrying that God never asked you to carry? Release it today. Work from rest, not for rest.

Family: Is your home marked by peace or pressure? Create a culture of rest. Let your family see you trusting God, not striving.

Business/Work/Church: Are you leading from anxiety or rest—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Your

team will mirror your energy. If you're frantic, they'll be frantic. If you're at rest, they'll follow.

Marriage: Are you striving to earn your spouse's approval? Rest in covenant love. You're already accepted. Now enjoy the relationship.

Declarations for the Reign of Rest

Say these until they become your reality:

- I work from rest, not for rest.
- God carries the weight; I carry the assignment.
- My worth isn't tied to my productivity.
- I trust God with outcomes while I give my best effort.
- I don't have to do everything, only what God's called me to do.
- Rest is my foundation, not my reward.

The Invitation

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

He's not offering a vacation. He's offering a new way to work. A new way to lead. A new way to live.

Yoked to Him, the burden is light. The work is sustainable. The rest is real.

Stop striving. Start resting. And watch how much more you accomplish when you're working FROM rest instead of FOR rest.

14

The Battle Is the Lord’s: From Striving to Surrender

Let me ask you something: How many battles are you fighting right now that God never asked you to fight?

Financial battles. Relational battles. Health battles. Business battles.

You're grinding. Strategizing. Worrying. Losing sleep. Carrying the weight.

And God's watching you, saying, "Why are you doing this alone? I never asked you to fight this battle by yourself."

Here's the truth most Christians miss: Not every battle is yours to fight.

Some battles? You're supposed to STAND in faith and watch God fight FOR you.

Your job isn't to win every battle, it's to let God fight on your behalf.

The 2 Chronicles 20 Strategy

Second Chronicles 20 tells the story of King Jehoshaphat facing an impossible situation.

Three massive armies are marching toward Judah. Jehoshaphat has no military strategy that can win this. He's outnumbered. Outgunned. Outmatched.

So what does he do?

Verse 3 says, "Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord."

He doesn't panic. He doesn't scramble. He doesn't try to manufacture a solution.

He prays. He seeks God. He gathers the people and declares their dependence on the Lord.

And then God speaks through a prophet in verses 15-17:

"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you."

Read that again. *You will not have to fight this battle.*

God doesn't say, "I'll help you fight." He says, "I'll fight FOR you. You just stand."

And what happens? The enemy armies turn on each other and destroy themselves. Judah never lifts a sword.

God doesn't need your strength to win, He needs your surrender.

My Own Striving Season

I've lived through seasons where I tried to fight battles God never gave me.

Early in ministry, I thought every attack required a response. Every critic needed a rebuttal. Every challenge demanded my intervention.

I was exhausted. Constantly defending. Constantly strategizing. Constantly fighting.

Then one morning during prayer, the Holy Spirit whispered, "Whose battle is this?"

I stopped. And I realized: I'd been fighting battles that belonged to God.

People's opinions? God's battle.

Critics' attacks? God's battle.

Financial provision? God's battle.

Ministry growth? God's battle.

My job wasn't to fight. My job was to STAND. To trust. To obey. And let God do what only He can do.

When I released those battles, everything shifted.

The anxiety lifted. The pressure eased. The results multiplied.

Not because I worked harder. But because I trusted deeper.

The leader who resigned? God brought someone better. The financial challenge? Provision came from an unexpected source. The family crisis? Breakthrough came through prayer, not pressure. The critics? They moved on.

I stayed in rest. And God fought for me.

Your rest is your weapon. Don't abandon it when the attack comes.

How to Know Which Battles Are Yours

Not every battle requires surrender. Some battles require action.

So how do you know the difference?

ONE: DOES THIS BATTLE PRODUCE PEACE OR ANXIETY?

If you're in the right battle, you'll have peace even in the storm. If you're in the wrong battle, you'll have anxiety even when things are going well.

Philippians 4:7 says, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Peace is the indicator. If you don't have peace, you're probably fighting the wrong battle.

TWO: DID GOD TELL YOU TO FIGHT THIS?

Just because there's a battle doesn't mean it's YOUR battle.

Before you engage, ask: *God, is this mine to fight? Or is this Yours?*

Wait for His answer. And if He says, "This is Mine," then STAND. Don't engage. Don't strive. Just trust.

THREE: ARE YOU FIGHTING FROM REST OR FOR REST?

If you're fighting to earn God's approval, provision, or favor, that's the wrong battle.

If you're fighting FROM God's approval, trusting His provision, operating in His favor, that's the right battle.

The difference? One drains you. The other sustains you.

Right battles energize you. Wrong battles exhaust you.

What Surrender Actually Looks Like

Surrender doesn't mean giving up. Surrender means letting God take control.

Here's what surrender looks like practically:

ONE: PRAY INSTEAD OF PANIC

When a battle comes, your first move isn't strategy. It's prayer.

"God, is this my battle or Yours? What do You want me to do?"

TWO: OBEY INSTEAD OF OVERTHINK

Once God gives you direction, DO IT. Don't second-guess. Don't overanalyze. Just obey.

Jehoshaphat sent the worshipers out front. That made no military sense. But it was obedience. And obedience unlocked victory.

THREE: STAND INSTEAD OF STRIVE

Sometimes God's instruction is simple: Stand still. Don't move. Don't fight. Just STAND.

Exodus 14:13-14 says, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Stand. Be still. Watch God move.

FOUR: WORSHIP INSTEAD OF WORRY

Second Chronicles 20:21-22 says Jehoshaphat appointed singers to go ahead of the army, praising God. And as they began to sing, God set ambushes against the enemy.

Worship shifts the atmosphere. Worry keeps you stuck. Worship activates God's power.

Worship in the battle releases God's intervention.

The Battles You Should Fight

Now let me be clear: Some battles ARE yours to fight.

The Battle for Your Mind: You fight lies with truth. You renew your mind daily. That's your responsibility.

The Battle for Purity: You flee temptation. You guard your heart. You take thoughts captive. That's your battle.

The Battle for Obedience: You choose to obey even when it's hard. You follow God's leading. That's your fight.

But here's the key: Even in those battles, you're not fighting in your own strength. You're fighting FROM God's strength.

Ephesians 6:10 says, "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

Not YOUR power. HIS power.

You fight, but He supplies the strength. You engage, but He guarantees the victory.

Application: Surrender the Battle

Personal: What battle are you fighting right now that isn't yours? Name it. Release it. Give it to God today.

Family: What family battle have you been carrying alone? Invite God into it. Pray together. Let Him fight for your home.

Business/Work/Church: What challenge are you striving to solve on your own—whether in your home, your workplace, your business, or your church? Surrender it. Seek God's strategy. Trust His provision.

Marriage: What relational battle are you white-knuckling? Let go. Stop trying to change your spouse. Let God do the heart work.

Declarations to Surrender the Battle

Say these out loud:

- The battle is not mine, it's the Lord's.
- I release control and trust God's strategy.
- I will not fight battles God hasn't given me.
- I stand in faith and watch God move on my behalf.
- God fights for me while I worship Him.
- Victory belongs to the Lord, and I rest in His power.

The Invitation

Stop carrying battles that belong to God. Stop fighting in your own strength. Stop striving for victories that He's already won.

Surrender. Stand. Worship. And watch God fight on your behalf.

The battle is the Lord's. Your job? Trust Him.

15

Worship with the Words of David: From Pressure to Presence

You know what changes everything? Worship.

Not singing. Not music. Not even good theology set to a melody.

I'm talking about worship—raw, honest, desperate, powerful worship that shifts atmospheres and changes realities.

And if you want to learn how to worship like that, you go to David.

David wasn't perfect. He messed up, badly. But he knew how to worship his way through pain, fear, failure, and pressure.

The Psalms aren't just songs. They're weapons. They're declarations. They're road maps for how to move from pressure to presence.

David didn't worship because everything was fine, he worshiped until everything aligned.

The Honest Worship of David

Here's what I love about David: He didn't fake it.

He didn't put on a religious mask and pretend everything was okay when it wasn't.

Read Psalm 13:1-2:

"How long, Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?"

That's not a polite prayer. That's raw emotion poured out before God.

How long, Lord? He's frustrated. Tired. Feeling abandoned.

But here's what happens by verse 5-6:

"But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me."

David starts in desperation and ends in declaration. That's the journey of worship.

You don't have to START happy. You just have to start HONEST.

Bring your pain. Bring your fear. Bring your frustration. Lay it before God. And then worship your way through it.

Worship isn't pretending everything's fine, it's declaring God is faithful even when everything isn't fine.

Worship Shifts Atmospheres

First Samuel 16:14-23 tells the story of Saul tormented by an evil spirit. And the only thing that brought relief? David's worship.

Verse 23 says, "Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him."

Worship drove out the demonic. Worship brought peace. Worship shifted the atmosphere.

You know what that tells me? Worship isn't just vertical, it's also spatial. It changes the environment.

When you walk into a room full of fear, your worship can shift it to faith.

When you walk into a home full of tension, your worship can shift it to peace.

When you face a situation full of impossibility, your worship can shift it to breakthrough.

Because worship invites the presence of God. And where God's presence is, everything changes.

The Three Levels of Worship

Not all worship is the same. David operated at different levels depending on what he was facing.

LEVEL ONE: THANKSGIVING

This is entry-level worship. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving is acknowledging what God has already done. It's gratitude for blessings received.

Thank You for provision. Thank You for protection. Thank You for family. Thank You for grace.

Thanksgiving gets you IN the door. But it doesn't take you all the way.

LEVEL TWO: PRAISE

Praise moves you deeper. Psalm 100:4 continues: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."

Praise declares WHO God is, not just what He's done.

You are faithful. You are powerful. You are loving. You are mighty.

Praise shifts your focus from circumstances to character. And that's where faith rises.

LEVEL THREE: WORSHIP

Worship is the deepest level. It's intimate. Personal. Surrendered.

Worship says, "I'm Yours. Completely. Regardless of outcomes. Whether You give or take away, I trust You."

Worship isn't contingent on blessings. Worship is rooted in relationship.

David knew how to move through all three levels. He thanked God for victories. He praised God in battles. He worshiped God in the valley.

Thanksgiving celebrates the past. Praise declares the present. Worship surrenders the future.

Worship in the Pressure

Some of David's most powerful psalms were written under extreme pressure.

Psalm 57 was written when David was hiding in a cave, running from Saul who wanted to kill him.

Look at verse 1:

"Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in You I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed."

He's desperate. Hiding. Afraid for his life.

But then verse 7-8:

"My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn."

In the cave. With enemies hunting him. David worships.

He doesn't wait for the pressure to lift. He worships IN the pressure. And his worship shifts his perspective.

Worship doesn't remove the pressure, it realigns your focus under the pressure.

How to Worship Like David

ONE: START WITH HONESTY

Don't sanitize your prayers. God knows what you're feeling anyway.

Bring the frustration. The fear. The confusion. Lay it all out.

David did. And God met him there.

TWO: DECLARE TRUTH OVER FEELINGS

Once you've been honest, shift to declaration.

"God, I feel abandoned. BUT I know You're faithful. I feel overwhelmed. BUT I know You're my refuge."

Truth doesn't deny feelings. Truth overrides them.

THREE: SING YOUR WAY THROUGH

David didn't just THINK worship, he SANG worship.

There's power in vocalization. When you sing, you're engaging your whole being—mind, emotions, spirit.

Sing in the car. Sing in the shower. Sing in the storm. Let worship become your soundtrack.

FOUR: MAKE IT PERSONAL

David's psalms weren't generic. They were specific. Personal. Real.

Write your own psalms. Journal your prayers. Make it about YOUR journey with God.

FIVE: WORSHIP UNTIL THE SHIFT HAPPENS

Sometimes the shift is immediate. Sometimes it takes time.

Keep worshiping. Keep declaring. Keep pressing in.

David worshiped until the atmosphere changed. You do the same.

Application: Worship Your Way Through

Personal: What pressure are you facing right now? Write a psalm. Be honest with God. Then declare His faithfulness. Sing it out loud.

Family: Create a culture of worship in your home. Play worship music. Sing together. Let your kids see you worship through hard times.

Business/Work/Church: When stress hits—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church—pause. Worship. Shift the atmosphere before you make decisions.

Marriage: Worship together. Pray together. Sing together. Let worship strengthen your covenant.

Declarations to Worship Through Pressure

Say these out loud:

- I worship God in every season, good and bad.
- My worship shifts atmospheres and invites God's presence.
- I don't wait for pressure to lift, I worship under pressure.
- God is faithful, and I declare His truth over my feelings.
- Worship is my weapon, my refuge, and my strength.

The Invitation

Stop letting pressure silence your worship. Stop waiting for everything to be perfect before you praise.

Worship like David. Honest. Raw. Powerful.

Bring your pain to God. Declare His faithfulness. Sing until the shift happens.

Because worship doesn't just change circumstances, it changes YOU. And when you change, everything around you changes too.

16

The Reconnection Revolution: How Disconnection Destroys and Grace Restores

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!" — Romans 5:17

Grace flows like a river when you're connected to Jesus.

Not a trickle. Not a drip. A RIVER.

But here's what most Christians don't understand: The enemy's primary strategy isn't just to make you sin. It's to keep you DISCONNECTED from grace after you sin.

Because disconnection doesn't stay isolated. It SPREADS.

When you disconnect spiritually because of sin and shame, that disconnection starts affecting your WORK life. Your relationships. Your peace. Your effectiveness—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

You drift from resting in grace to performing for approval. And when that happens, Paul says you've "fallen from grace."

Let me show you the enemy's strategy and how one disconnection creates a domino effect that sabotages everything.

The enemy's goal isn't just to make you sin. It's to keep you disconnected LONG ENOUGH to sabotage your life and push you back into toil and striving.

The Enemy's Two-Weapon Attack

The devil has two weapons, but only one is deadly.

WEAPON ONE: TEMPTATION TO SIN

He tempts you to sin. And sometimes you fall. You mess up. You blow it.

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We all do it. Sin happens.

And in that moment, there's a disconnect. Not permanent. Not irreversible. Just a momentary break in fellowship.

First John 1:9 was written for this exact moment: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confession reconnects you. Immediately. Completely. Permanently.

So sin, by itself, isn't the enemy's ultimate weapon. Because there's a remedy: Confess. Receive forgiveness. Reconnect.

Simple. Clean. Done.

The sin creates a momentary disconnect, but confession can fix it in SECONDS.

WEAPON TWO: SHAME (THE REAL KILLER)

But here's where the enemy gets deadly.

He doesn't care if you sin. What he REALLY wants is to keep you DISCONNECTED after you sin.

Why? Because if he can keep you disconnected for a week, a month, or longer, he can SABOTAGE your entire life.

Here's his strategy: After you sin, SHAME whispers:

- "You're not good enough to go back to God yet."
- "You can't pray until you feel better about what you did."
- "Don't go to church this week. You're too dirty."
- "God's disappointed in you. Wait. Prove yourself first."

And you believe it. So you disconnect.

You stop praying. You skip church. You avoid your connect group. You withdraw from community.

Days pass. Then a week. Then two weeks. Then a month.

And during that time of disconnection, something deadly happens: The disconnection SPREADS.

You're not just spiritually disconnected anymore. Now you're PRACTICALLY disconnected.

You drift into performance mode at work. Anxiety creeps in. Stress dominates. You stop trusting God's provision and start grinding in your own effort.

That's when Paul says you've "fallen from grace."

Shame doesn't just make you feel bad—it keeps you isolated long enough for disconnection to destroy you.

How Do You Know You're Disconnected From Grace?

Most people don't realize they've drifted from grace until they're already exhausted, anxious, and overwhelmed. But disconnection from grace produces very specific symptoms.

Let me show you the warning lights. These aren't personality traits. These are SYMPTOMS that you've become disconnected from the flow of grace.

EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS

When you're disconnected from grace, here's what shows up emotionally:

- Lack of peace. Your mind won't stop spinning. You can't rest even when you're resting.
- Anxiety dominating your thoughts. What-if scenarios play on repeat. Fear about the future consumes you.
- Constant worry. You're always waiting for the other shoe to drop.
- Insecurity tied to your performance. When you do well, you feel okay. When you fail, you feel worthless.
- Guilt that won't lift. You confessed, but you still feel dirty.
- Shame that keeps you hiding. You avoid God, avoid people, avoid community.
- Feeling evaluated instead of loved. You sense God watching you, keeping score, waiting for you to mess up.

Listen, when grace is flowing, peace flows with it. John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."

When you're connected to Jesus, peace is automatic. When peace disappears, it's a warning light. You've drifted from grace.

SPIRITUAL SYMPTOMS

Here's how disconnection shows up in your spiritual life:

- Avoiding prayer. You know you should pray, but you don't want to. Prayer feels awkward. Heavy. Obligatory.
- Skipping church. You find reasons to stay home. You convince yourself you need a break. But weeks turn into months.

- Withdrawing from your connect group. You stop showing up. You ghost people. You isolate.
- Feeling distant from God. He feels far away. Unreachable. Silent.
- Doubting God's love when life gets hard. You think, "If God loved me, this wouldn't be happening."
- Trying to earn God's blessing. You're working harder spiritually, but it feels like grinding, not flowing.
- Feeling like you need to work harder to deserve His favor. You're performing to get His attention instead of resting in His acceptance.
- Prayer feels like begging instead of confident asking. You're hoping God will hear you instead of knowing He already has.

Romans 8:15 says, "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

When you're connected to grace, you pray like a son talking to a Father. When you're disconnected, you pray like a slave begging a master.

That shift? That's a warning light.

PHYSICAL AND PRACTICAL SYMPTOMS

Disconnection from grace doesn't stay spiritual. It affects your BODY and your DAILY LIFE.

- Exhaustion that sleep doesn't fix. You wake up tired. You go to bed tired. You're running on fumes.
- Fatigue from never feeling good enough. The weight of constant performance crushes you.

- Unable to enjoy God's blessings without guilt. Something good happens, and instead of celebrating, you think, "I don't deserve this."
- Constant stress. Your shoulders are tight. Your jaw is clenched. Your chest feels heavy.
- Grinding instead of flowing. Everything is hard. Nothing comes easy.
- Working FOR approval instead of FROM approval. You're trying to earn what's already been given.
- Overworking instead of resting. You can't stop. You can't slow down. You're afraid if you rest, everything will collapse.

Genesis 3:19 describes what happens when you fall from grace: "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food."

Toil. Striving. Grinding.

That's not how grace works. Grace EMPOWERS. Grace gives STRENGTH. Grace makes hard things easy.

Matthew 11:30 says, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

When your burden feels HEAVY, you've drifted from grace.

RELATIONAL SYMPTOMS

Here's how disconnection affects your relationships:

- Isolating from community. You stop reaching out. You stop responding. You disappear.
- Comparing yourself to others. You measure your worth by how you stack up against them.
- Competitive spirit instead of generous heart. You're threatened by their success instead of celebrating it.

- Keeping score in relationships. "I did this for you, so you owe me that."
- Difficulty receiving love or help. People offer support, and you push them away. "I'm fine. I don't need help."

Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

When you're connected to grace, you receive help easily. You carry burdens together. You don't isolate.

When you're disconnected, you withdraw. You hide. You try to carry everything alone.

WORK AND PROVISION SYMPTOMS

Finally, here's how disconnection shows up in your work life—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church:

- Striving and grinding at work. You're working at 130% instead of 100%.
- Scarcity mindset. Fear of running out. Fear there won't be enough.
- Anxiety about provision. "How am I going to pay for this? What if I lose my job?"
- Trying to control outcomes. You can't let go. You micromanage. You obsess over details.
- Measuring your worth by your output. On productive days, you feel good. On slow days, you feel worthless.
- Performance-based identity. You ARE what you DO. If you fail, you're a failure.
- Can't rest without guilt. You take a day off, and guilt crushes you. "I should be working."

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

When you're connected to grace, provision flows. You trust God's supply. You work hard, but from rest, not stress.

When you're disconnected, you grind. You strive. You carry the weight yourself.

Look, if you're reading this list and checking off symptom after symptom, don't panic. You're not broken. You're just DISCONNECTED.

And disconnection has a solution: RECONNECTION.

The Domino Effect: From Grace to Toil

Let me show you how one spiritual disconnection creates a cascade that affects EVERYTHING.

STEP ONE: YOU SIN

We all do. First John 1:8 says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

Sin creates a momentary break in fellowship. Not permanent. Just a break.

STEP TWO: SHAME KEEPS YOU DISCONNECTED

Instead of confessing immediately and reconnecting, shame whispers: "Wait. You're not worthy yet."

So you disconnect. Days turn into weeks. Weeks turn into a month.

STEP THREE: SPIRITUAL DISCONNECTION SPREADS TO PRACTICAL LIFE

During that extended disconnection, something shifts. You're not just separated from God spiritually. Now you're separated from GRACE practically.

You start performing at work instead of flowing. You grind instead of resting. You strive instead of trusting.

Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

But when you're spiritually disconnected, you stop seeking His kingdom FIRST. You start striving for "these things" in your own strength.

STEP FOUR: YOU FALL FROM GRACE

Galatians 5:4: "You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

You didn't lose your salvation. But you FELL from the grace that empowers your daily life.

And when you fall from grace, EVERYTHING gets harder:

- Your work becomes toil instead of worship
- Your relationships become strained instead of life-giving
- Your peace becomes anxiety instead of rest
- Your provision becomes scarcity instead of abundance

Genesis 3:19 describes what happens when you fall from grace: "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food."

You're back to TOIL. Back to STRIVING. Back to the curse.

STEP FIVE: THE ENEMY SABOTAGES YOUR LIFE

Now the enemy has you exactly where he wants you:

Spiritually isolated. Practically exhausted. Living under performance instead of grace.

One sin. One week of shame-driven disconnection. And your entire life shifts from reigning to surviving.

That's the enemy's strategy. He uses sin to trigger shame, shame to create disconnection, and disconnection to sabotage your life.

The Reconnection Protocol

So how do you stop the enemy's strategy? How do you prevent the domino effect?

Here's your five-step protocol to stay connected to grace:

STEP ONE: CONFESS IMMEDIATELY (DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A WEEK)

When you sin, don't wait. Don't hide. Don't try to feel better first.

First John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confess. Out loud. Right then. "God, I messed up. I confess it. I receive Your forgiveness. I reconnect to You right now."

The enemy wants a week to sabotage your life. Don't give him a MINUTE.

The faster you reconnect, the less damage disconnection can do.

STEP TWO: RECEIVE THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (YOUR IDENTITY DOESN'T CHANGE)

Romans 5:17: You RECEIVE the gift of righteousness.

Say it out loud: "I am righteous. Not because I earned it, but because Jesus gave it to me. My sin didn't change my identity."

Romans 8:1: "There is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Shame will try to convince you otherwise. Reject it immediately.

STEP THREE: RECONNECT FULLY (BREAK THE ISOLATION)

Don't wait to pray. Pray NOW.

Don't skip church. GO.

Don't avoid your connect group. ENGAGE.

James 5:16: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

The enemy uses isolation to sabotage you. Community is your defense.

The longer you isolate, the more disconnection spreads. Reconnect spiritually, and you'll regain access to grace practically.

STEP FOUR: RECEIVE THE ABUNDANT PROVISION OF GRACE (STOP PERFORMING, START FLOWING)

When you reconnect spiritually, you regain access to grace's provision practically.

Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

Say it out loud: "God is my supply. I work from rest, not for rest. Grace empowers my effectiveness."

You don't work FOR approval. You work FROM approval.

You don't grind for provision. You receive provision and work from overflow.

STEP FIVE: STAND FIRM IN GRACE (DON'T FALL BACK INTO PERFORMANCE)

Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

When you feel anxiety creeping in at work, recognize it: You're drifting from grace back into performance.

When you start overworking to prove yourself, recognize it: You're falling from grace back into toil.

Return to grace. Don't try to work your way back. Just reconnect.

John 7:38: "Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Grace is a RIVER. It flows when you're connected.

Romans 5:2: "Through Him we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now STAND."

You're not standing on your performance. You're standing IN grace.

Application: Stay Connected

Personal: What's blocking your connection to grace right now? Confess it. Release it. Reconnect immediately.

Family: Is shame or guilt creating disconnection in your home? Bring it into the light. Pray together. Reconnect as a family.

Business/Work/Church: Are you grinding in your own strength—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Stop. Reconnect to the Source. Work from grace, not for it.

Marriage: Is disconnection creating distance? Confess. Forgive. Reconnect. Let grace restore intimacy.

Declarations to Stay Connected

Say these daily:

- I confess quickly and reconnect immediately.
- Shame has no authority over me.
- I am righteous, and God is not disappointed in me.
- Grace flows like a river when I stay connected to Jesus.

- I reject the lie that I must feel worthy before I reconnect.
- I live from grace, not from law, and grace empowers me to live effectively.
- I work from rest, not for rest.
- I receive the abundant provision of grace, and it flows in every area of my life.

The Invitation

Here's the revolution: The enemy's strategy only works if you LET IT.

When you confess immediately and reconnect to grace, the sabotage STOPS.

One sin doesn't have to become a week of disconnection.

One week of disconnection doesn't have to become a month of isolation.

One month of isolation doesn't have to become a fall from grace into toil and striving.

You can stop the domino effect by reconnecting IMMEDIATELY.

When you sin:

1. Confess immediately. Don't give the enemy time to sabotage.
2. Receive the gift of righteousness. Your identity hasn't changed.
3. Reconnect fully. Break the isolation. Get back to community.
4. Receive the abundant provision of grace. Stop performing. Start flowing.
5. Stand firm in grace. Don't fall back into toil and striving.

Because when you're connected to Jesus, grace flows in EVERY area.

Spiritually AND practically.

Righteousness AND provision.

And you REIGN in life. Not survive. REIGN.

That's the grace and favor revolution.

Don't give the enemy a week. Reconnect NOW.

17

Standing in Grace: From Shifting Sand to Solid Ground

Where are you standing right now?

I don't mean physically. I mean spiritually. What's the foundation under your feet?

Is it your performance? Your effort? Your consistency? Your track record?

Or is it grace?

Because here's the reality: Most Christians think they're standing on grace, but they're actually standing on sand. And when the storm hits, they realize their foundation wasn't as solid as they thought.

You can't stand in the storm if you're not standing on the right foundation.

The Romans 5:2 Revelation

Romans 5:1-2 says:

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained access by faith into this grace IN WHICH WE STAND, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Three critical words: *IN WHICH WE STAND.*

Grace isn't just something you receive. It's something you STAND IN.

Think about that. You're not standing IN your performance. You're not standing IN your obedience. You're not standing IN your consistency.

You're standing IN GRACE.

Grace is your platform. Your foundation. Your solid ground.

And when storms come—and they will—you don't fall because grace doesn't shift.

The Difference Between Standing IN Grace and Standing ON Performance

Let me paint you a picture.

STANDING ON PERFORMANCE: You're constantly checking the foundation. Is it strong enough? Did I do enough? Am I consistent enough? One bad day, one failure, one mistake, and you feel the ground shift under your feet.

STANDING IN GRACE: You're anchored. Secure. Confident. Not because YOU'RE strong, but because GRACE is unshakable. Your bad days don't move the foundation. Your failures don't crack it. Your mistakes don't weaken it.

Most Christians live in constant fear of losing their footing. Why? Because they're standing on the wrong foundation.

Performance-based standing is exhausting. Grace-based standing is restful.

My Foundation Crisis

I had a moment years ago where I realized my foundation was shakier than I thought.

Everything was going well. Ministry was growing. Finances were stable. Family was healthy.

But then a season of challenge hit. Nothing catastrophic, just a series of setbacks. Ministry decisions that didn't pan out. Financial pressures. Relational tensions.

And I started to wobble.

Not externally. I kept leading—whether at home, at church, or in ministry. Kept preaching. Kept showing up.

But internally, I was shaken. And I realized why: I'd been standing on results, not grace.

As long as things were going well, I felt secure. But when challenges came, my confidence cracked.

That's when I had to ask myself: What am I actually standing on?

And the honest answer was: My track record. My wins. My momentum.

Not grace.

So I made a decision. I declared out loud: "I'm not standing on what I've done. I'm standing in grace. And grace doesn't shift based on outcomes."

And slowly, my foundation stabilized. Not because circumstances changed, but because I changed what I was standing on.

Your circumstances will shift. Grace won't. Stand on what doesn't move.

What Happens When You Stand in Grace

When you're truly standing in grace, three things become evident:

ONE: CONFIDENCE IN EVERY SEASON

When you're standing on performance, good seasons make you confident and bad seasons make you insecure.

When you're standing in grace, you're confident in EVERY season. Because your confidence isn't based on what's happening around you. It's based on where you're standing.

TWO: STABILITY IN THE STORM

Performance-based standing produces panic when storms hit. *Did I do something wrong? Is God mad at me? Am I being punished?*

Grace-based standing produces peace. The storm is real, but the foundation is solid. You're not going anywhere.

THREE: QUICK RECOVERY FROM FAILURE

When you're standing on performance, failure devastates you. It feels like the ground just gave way.

When you're standing in grace, you bounce back quickly. You confess. You receive forgiveness. You stand back up. Because the foundation didn't move.

Four Keys to Standing Firm in Grace

Let me give you four practical keys to standing firm in grace:

KEY ONE: KNOW YOUR POSITION

You have to KNOW where you're standing. Not just intellectually, but experientially.

Say it out loud: "I stand in grace. My position is secure. My foundation is unshakable."

Declare it until it becomes more real than your circumstances.

KEY TWO: REFUSE TO MEASURE YOUR STANDING BY YOUR PERFORMANCE

Every time you check your spiritual foundation based on how you're performing, you've switched systems.

Grace-based standing means your position is secure REGARDLESS of performance.

You stand in grace on your best day and on your worst day.

KEY THREE: CONFESS QUICKLY AND MOVE FORWARD IMMEDIATELY

When you mess up, don't stay down. Don't camp out in condemnation.

Confess. Receive forgiveness. Stand back up.

First John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confess and move. Don't let guilt keep you on the ground.

KEY FOUR: CELEBRATE GRACE IN EVERY SEASON

When things are going well, celebrate grace. "God, thank You that I'm standing in Your grace, not in my performance."

When things are tough, celebrate grace. "God, thank You that I'm still standing in Your grace. My circumstances haven't changed my position."

Grace is worth celebrating in EVERY season.

The Storm Test

Want to know if you're truly standing in grace?

Wait for the storm.

When the storm hits, where does your mind go?

PERFORMANCE-BASED THINKING:

- "What did I do wrong?"
- "Is God mad at me?"

- "I must not be praying enough."
- "I need to work harder."

GRACE-BASED THINKING:

- "The storm is real, but my foundation is solid."
- "God is with me in this."
- "My position hasn't changed."
- "I trust God's faithfulness."

The storm reveals your foundation. If you're panicking, you're probably standing on performance. If you're at peace, you're standing in grace.

Application: Check Your Foundation

Personal: What are you standing on right now? Performance or grace? If it's performance, shift today. Declare your standing in grace.

Family: Is your family standing on rules or grace? Rules create fear. Grace creates security.

Business/Work/Church: Are you leading from performance pressure or grace confidence—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Your team will mirror your foundation.

Marriage: Is your marriage built on performance or grace? Grace-based marriages thrive. Performance-based marriages crumble.

Declarations to Stand Firm in Grace

Say these every day:

- I stand in grace, not in my performance.

- My position is secure because of Jesus, not because of me.
- Challenges don't shake me because grace doesn't shift.
- I confess quickly and move forward immediately.
- I celebrate grace in every season.

The Invitation

Stop checking your foundation every five minutes. Stop worrying that one mistake will knock you off balance.

You're standing IN GRACE. And grace is unshakable.

Storms will come. Challenges will hit. But you won't fall. Because you're not standing on what you've done, you're standing in what Jesus did.

And that foundation? It's solid.

18

Living Under the Unforced Rhythms of Grace–From Burnout to Balance

Jesus said something in Matthew 11:28-30 that most people skim over:

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Easy yoke. Light burden.

Does your life feel like that?

Or does it feel heavy, grinding, exhausting?

If you're exhausted, you're not living under grace. You're living under pressure. And pressure will burn you out every time—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

Grace doesn't add more to your plate, it lightens what's already there.

The Unforced Rhythms of Grace

Eugene Peterson's translation of Matthew 11:28-30 in The Message captures something most translations miss:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me—watch how I do it. Learn the UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Unforced rhythms of grace.

Grace has a rhythm. And it's unforced.

You're not grinding. You're not hustling. You're not white-knuckling your way through life.

You're flowing. Moving. Working. But it's sustainable. It's light. It's FREE.

That's what Jesus offers. Not a vacation from work, but a new way TO work.

My Burnout Redux

I've told you about my 1995 burnout. But let me tell you about the season AFTER I thought I'd learned my lesson.

It was about ten years later. Ministry was thriving. I'd implemented rest rhythms. I wasn't working the insane hours I used to.

But I was still exhausted.

Not physically. Emotionally. Mentally. Spiritually.

And I couldn't figure out why. I was resting. I was taking breaks. I had boundaries.

Then someone said to me, "You're still carrying the weight. You've slowed down, but you haven't surrendered the burden."

That hit me.

I'd learned to manage my schedule. But I hadn't learned to release the pressure.

I was still trying to control outcomes. Still trying to ensure results. Still feeling responsible for things that weren't mine to carry.

I'd changed my PACE but not my POSTURE.

And that's when I discovered: The unforced rhythms of grace aren't just about time management. They're about trust.

You can slow your pace and still be striving. Rhythm without rest is just slower grinding.

The Symptoms of Forced Living

How do you know if you're living under forced rhythms instead of unforced grace?

SYMPTOM ONE: YOU'RE ALWAYS ON

Even when you rest, you can't turn off. Your mind is racing. Your emotions are heightened. You feel like you need to stay in control.

Grace says: *You can rest because God's got it.*

SYMPTOM TWO: YOU RESENT REST

When you're forced, rest feels like wasted time. You feel guilty for taking a break. You rush through Sabbath so you can get back to real work.

Grace says: *Rest IS productive. It's where you're refilled.*

SYMPTOM THREE: YOU CAN'T CELEBRATE WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S NEXT

You hit a goal, and instead of enjoying it, you're already stressed about the next one.

Grace says: *Celebrate fully. God's provision isn't contingent on your anxiety.*

SYMPTOM FOUR: YOU MEASURE YOUR WORTH BY YOUR OUTPUT

When you're forced, productivity equals value. If you're not producing, you feel useless.

Grace says: *Your worth is IN CHRIST, not in what you accomplish.*

SYMPTOM FIVE: YOU ENVY PEOPLE WHO SEEM MORE BALANCED

You look at others who rest easily, who seem to have margin, and you think, "Must be nice. I don't have that luxury."

Grace says: *Rest isn't a luxury. It's a necessity. And it's available to you too.*

Forced living makes rest feel guilty. Grace living makes rest feel essential.

The Shift to Unforced Rhythms

So how do you move from forced living to unforced rhythms?

SHIFT ONE: SURRENDER THE OUTCOMES

You can control your effort. You can't control results.

Give your best. Trust God with the rest.

When you release outcomes, the pressure lifts. You're no longer carrying weight you were never meant to carry.

SHIFT TWO: SET BOUNDARIES WITHOUT GUILT

Saying NO isn't selfish. It's wisdom.

You can't do everything. And trying to will destroy you.

Jesus said no to demands all the time. He left crowds. He withdrew to pray. He prioritized the Father's agenda over human expectations.

Follow His example.

SHIFT THREE: WORK FROM FULLNESS, NOT FOR FULLNESS

Most people work TO get filled. "Once I achieve this, THEN I'll rest. THEN I'll be fulfilled."

Grace says: Get filled FIRST. Then work FROM that fullness.

Spend time with God BEFORE you dive into your day. Receive BEFORE you give. Fill your cup BEFORE you pour out.

SHIFT FOUR: CELEBRATE WINS FULLY

Don't rush past victories. Pause. Thank God. Let joy settle in.

Grace rhythms include celebration. Gratitude. Reflection.

The Israelites built altars to commemorate God's faithfulness. You should too.

SHIFT FIVE: RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BUSY AND FRUITFUL

Busy doesn't equal fruitful. You can be doing a lot and accomplishing little.

Unforced rhythms focus on fruitfulness, not busyness. You're not chasing activity, you're pursuing impact.

And impact comes from presence with God, not just productivity for God.

Busy is exhausting. Fruitful is energizing.

Three Practices That Create Unforced Rhythms

Let me give you three practices that will shift you into unforced rhythms:

PRACTICE ONE: MORNING PRIORITY WITH GOD

Before you check your phone. Before you dive into email. Before you start the grind.

Spend time with God. Pray. Worship. Read. Receive.

Start FROM fullness, not working TOWARD fullness.

PRACTICE TWO: STRATEGIC PAUSES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Set alarms. Take breaks. Step away from your desk.

Ask yourself: *Am I working from rest or striving for rest? Am I trusting God or trying to control everything?*

Recalibrate as needed.

PRACTICE THREE: SABBATH RHYTHM EVERY WEEK

One full day. No work. No hustle. No grinding.

Worship. Enjoy family. Restore your soul.

This isn't legalism. This is life-giving rhythm.

God designed you to need this. Honor the design.

Application: Live Unforced

Personal: Where are you forcing instead of flowing? Identify the pressure points. Surrender them. Trust God.

Family: Is your home marked by rest or stress? Create rhythms that honor grace. Meals together. Margin in schedules. Laughter instead of rushing.

Business/Work/Church: Are you leading from striving or from rest—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Your team will reflect your energy. Rest yourself. Lead from fullness.

Marriage: Are you forcing connection or flowing in grace? Stop performing for each other. Start resting in covenant love.

Declarations for Unforced Living

Say these until they sink deep:

- I live under the unforced rhythms of grace.
- I surrender outcomes and trust God with results.

- Rest is not a luxury, it's essential.
- I work from fullness, not for fullness.
- My worth is not tied to my productivity.
- I flow in grace, not force in striving.

The Invitation

Jesus isn't asking you to work harder. He's inviting you to work differently.

Easy yoke. Light burden. Unforced rhythms.

Stop grinding. Start flowing. Stop forcing. Start trusting.

Grace will carry what you were never meant to bear. And when you live under grace, everything becomes lighter.

19

When the Enemy Attacks Your Rest: The Amalek Principle

Here's something most Christians don't realize:

The enemy doesn't attack you when you're striving. He attacks you when you're resting.

Why? Because rest in God's grace is the greatest threat to his kingdom.

When you're grinding, he doesn't need to do anything. You're already defeating yourself. But when you discover rest? When you start operating from grace instead of performance?

That's when he shows up.

The enemy's favorite strategy is attacking you at your place of rest.

The Amalek Story

Exodus 17 tells the story of Israel at Rephidim. They've just been delivered from Egypt. God's provided manna. Water from the rock. They're learning to trust Him for daily supply.

And then Amalek attacks.

Verse 8: "The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim."

Notice WHERE the attack happened. Rephidim. The place of REST. The place where God was teaching them to trust His provision.

God didn't ignore this. In fact, He took it personally.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19 explains why:

"Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. When the Lord your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land He is giving you, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!"

The Amalekites attacked when Israel was WEARY. When they were WORN OUT. When they were at their most vulnerable.

And God said: That's unforgivable. Blot them out.

Why such a severe response? Because attacking someone at their place of rest is an assault on God's character and provision.

Attacking rest is attacking the grace of God Himself.

The Enemy's Strategy

The enemy uses the same strategy today. He waits until you're finally experiencing rest, peace, and grace. Then he attacks.

And the attack usually comes in one of three forms:

FORM ONE: CHAOS IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Everything's going well. You're finally at peace. Then suddenly, crisis. Financial pressure. Health issue. Relational conflict. Ministry challenge.

It feels random. But it's not. It's strategic.

The enemy wants to pull you OUT of rest and back INTO striving.

FORM TWO: ACCUSATION IN YOUR MIND

You're resting in your righteousness. Trusting God's provision. Walking in confidence.

Then the voice comes: "Who do you think you are? You don't deserve this. You're not good enough. You're going to fail."

That's Amalek. Attacking your mind when you're resting in grace.

FORM THREE: PRESSURE FROM PEOPLE

You set boundaries. You honor Sabbath. You prioritize rest.

And people start questioning you: "Why aren't you working harder? Why aren't you doing more? Don't you care?"

That's the enemy using others to guilt you out of rest.

When you enter rest, expect resistance. It means you're a threat.

How to Respond When Amalek Attacks

When the attack comes—and it will—you don't panic. You respond with the Exodus 17 strategy.

RESPONSE ONE: GO TO THE HILL

Exodus 17:9 says Moses went to the top of the hill with the staff of God.

The hill represents the place of prayer. The place of communion with God.

When the attack comes, your first move isn't strategy. It's PRAYER.

"God, I'm under attack. I'm resting in You, and the enemy doesn't like it. Fight for me."

RESPONSE TWO: HOLD UP THE ROD

Moses held up the staff of God. And as long as his hands were lifted, Israel prevailed.

The rod represents your DECLARATION. Your confession. Your stand in grace.

You hold up the truth: "I am righteous. I stand in grace. God fights for me. The battle is the Lord's."

And as long as you keep declaring, the enemy loses ground.

RESPONSE THREE: GET SUPPORT

Moses' arms got tired. Aaron and Hur held them up.

You can't fight alone. You need people who will support you, remind you of truth, and hold you up when you're weary.

Don't isolate when the attack comes. Get in community. Let others strengthen you.

RESPONSE FOUR: FINISH THE BATTLE

Exodus 17:13 says, "Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword."

You don't just survive the attack. You OVERCOME.

How? By staying in rest. By trusting God. By declaring truth. And by refusing to go back to striving.

The goal isn't to survive the attack, it's to overcome while staying in rest.

My Amalek Moment

I had a season a few years ago where everything was flowing. Ministry was growing. Finances were stable. Family was healthy. I was finally operating from rest instead of striving.

Then it felt like everything hit at once.

A key leader resigned. A financial challenge surfaced. A family crisis erupted. And critics started questioning our decisions.

My first instinct? Go back to grinding. Fix it. Control it. Work harder.

But then I remembered: This is Amalek. This is the enemy attacking my rest.

So instead of striving, I doubled down on rest. I prayed more. I worshiped more. I declared more. I leaned into community more.

And slowly, every single challenge resolved. Not because I worked harder, but because I trusted deeper.

The leader who resigned? God brought someone better. The financial challenge? Provision came from an unexpected source. The family crisis? Breakthrough came through prayer, not pressure. The critics? They moved on.

I stayed in rest. And God fought for me.

Your rest is your weapon. Don't abandon it when the attack comes.

Three Warning Signs Amalek Is Attacking

Let me give you three warning signs that Amalek is attacking your rest:

WARNING ONE: SUDDEN URGENCY

Everything suddenly feels urgent. You feel pressure to respond immediately, fix it now, solve it today.

That's not God. God leads with peace, not panic.

WARNING TWO: GUILT OVER BOUNDARIES

You start feeling guilty for resting, for saying no, for having margin.

That's not conviction. That's condemnation disguised as responsibility.

WARNING THREE: COMPARISON CREEPS IN

You start looking at what others are doing and feeling like you're not doing enough.

That's the enemy trying to pull you out of your lane and back into striving.

When you see these signs, recognize the attack. And respond with rest, not striving.

Application: Stand Against Amalek

Personal: What attack are you facing right now? Don't panic. Don't strive. Go to the hill. Hold up the rod. Stand in grace.

Family: Is chaos trying to steal your family's peace? Don't react in fear. Pray together. Declare God's faithfulness. Stay in rest.

Business/Work/Church: Is pressure mounting—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Don't grind harder. Trust deeper. Lead from rest, not from anxiety.

Marriage: Is conflict trying to disrupt your peace? Don't fight each other. Fight the enemy TOGETHER. Pray. Worship. Stay united.

Declarations to Defeat Amalek

Say these when the attack comes:

- The enemy attacks my rest, but God fights for me.
- I will not abandon rest when pressure comes.
- I stand in grace, and no weapon formed against me will prosper.
- God is my defender, and I trust His strategy.
- I overcome by staying in rest, not by returning to striving.
- The battle is the Lord's, and victory is certain.

The Invitation

When the enemy attacks your rest, don't be surprised. Be ready.

Go to the hill. Hold up the rod. Get support. Finish the battle.

And whatever you do, don't leave your place of rest.

Because your rest is your weapon. Your peace is your power. Your trust is your triumph.

Stay in grace. And watch God fight for you.

20

Abundance in Every Season: From Dry Spells to Divine Supply

Let me ask you something: What do you do when the well runs dry?

When provision stops flowing? When breakthrough doesn't come? When it feels like God's gone silent and the supply has shut off?

Most Christians panic. They scramble. They start hustling, strategizing, trying to manufacture what used to flow naturally.

But that's not the grace response. That's the fear response.

Here's what you need to understand: Dry seasons aren't punishment. They're preparation.

God doesn't dry up your supply, He redirects it to deeper wells.

The Psalm 23 Promise

Psalm 23:1 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Not "I might not want." Not "I hopefully won't want." *I SHALL NOT WANT.*

That's a promise. A guarantee. A declaration of divine supply in every season.

But notice what David says next in verse 2-3:

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul."

Green pastures. Quiet waters. Soul refreshment.

That's the picture of abundance. Not just survival, thriving.

But here's the key: The shepherd MAKES the sheep lie down. It's not optional. It's necessary.

Why? Because sheep won't rest if they feel threatened, uncomfortable, or hungry. The shepherd creates the CONDITIONS for rest.

God does the same for you. Sometimes He makes you lie down. He slows you down. He redirects you.

Not to punish you. To POSITION you for the next level of supply.

What feels like a dry season is often God repositioning you for overflow.

The Elijah Pattern

First Kings 17 tells the story of Elijah during a drought.

God sends him to the Brook Cherith. Elijah drinks from the brook, and ravens bring him food. Miraculous supply. Supernatural provision.

Then verse 7: "Some time later the brook dried up."

Now think about this: Elijah was being obedient. He was right where God told him to be. He was trusting God for provision.

And the brook dried up.

Why? Did God forget him? Did God stop caring? Was Elijah disqualified?

No. God was redirecting him.

Verse 8-9: "Then the word of the Lord came to him: 'Go at once to Zarephath. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.'"

The brook dried up so Elijah would go to the widow. And at the widow's house, the miracle multiplied. Oil and flour that never ran out.

A son raised from the dead. Prophetic training for the showdown with Baal.

The brook was provision for a season. The widow was provision for the next level.

When one supply dries up, God's already prepared another.

The Three Reasons God Allows Dry Seasons

Let me give you three reasons God allows dry seasons in your life:

REASON ONE: TO DEEPEN YOUR ROOTS

When water is scarce on the surface, roots go deeper to find it.

Dry seasons force you to dig deeper into God. Deeper in prayer. Deeper in worship. Deeper in trust.

And when the rain comes again, you don't just survive, you THRIVE. Because your roots are now deep enough to sustain overflow.

REASON TWO: TO REDIRECT YOUR SUPPLY

Sometimes God dries up one stream because He's opening a better one.

That job that dried up? He's got a better opportunity.

That relationship that ended? He's protecting you for the right one.

That ministry that plateaued? He's repositioning you for multiplication.

Don't cling to the dried-up brook. Trust that God's already directing you to the next supply.

REASON THREE: TO TEST YOUR TRUST

When supply is flowing, faith is easy. But dry seasons reveal what you really believe about God's character.

Do you trust Him when you can't see provision?

Do you worship Him when the breakthrough hasn't come?

Do you remain faithful when the results aren't visible?

Dry seasons aren't about punishment. They're about proving that your faith is in GOD, not in His gifts.

My Dry Season

I had a season about fifteen years into ministry where it felt like everything slowed down.

Growth plateaued. Finances tightened. Opportunities dried up. It felt like momentum had stopped.

I prayed. I sought God. I examined my heart for sin, disobedience, anything that might be blocking the flow.

Nothing. I was walking in obedience. Trusting God. Leading faithfully—whether at home, at church, or in ministry.

So why the drought?

Then one morning in prayer, the Holy Spirit whispered, "I'm not punishing you. I'm preparing you."

I didn't understand it then. But looking back now, I see it clearly.

God was doing internal work during that season. Deepening my roots. Strengthening my foundation. Teaching me to trust Him when I couldn't see the results.

And when that season ended, everything exploded. New campuses. New leaders. New levels of impact.

But I needed the drought to prepare for the flood.

Dry seasons build the capacity for overflow seasons.

How to Navigate Dry Seasons

So what do you do when you're in a dry season?

ACTION ONE: DON'T PANIC

Panic is a sign you're trusting the supply more than the Source.

God hasn't forgotten you. He's repositioning you.

Stay calm. Stay faithful. Stay in rest.

ACTION TWO: DON'T MANUFACTURE

When the brook dries up, don't try to create your own stream.

Trust God's timing. Trust God's strategy. Trust God's provision.

Manufactured supply never lasts. Divine supply never runs out.

ACTION THREE: GO DEEPER

Use the dry season to deepen your relationship with God.

Pray more. Worship more. Study more. Let your roots go down.

When the rain comes, you'll be ready to handle the overflow.

ACTION FOUR: LOOK FOR THE REDIRECTION

Ask God: "Where are You sending me? What's the next supply?"

Don't camp at the dried-up brook. Follow God to the widow's house.

ACTION FIVE: WORSHIP THROUGH IT

This is critical. Don't wait until the drought ends to worship.

Worship IN the drought. Declare God's faithfulness when you can't see provision.

That's when worship becomes a weapon, not just a response.

Three Declarations for Dry Seasons

When you're in a dry season, declare these truths:

DECLARATION ONE: GOD IS FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN I CAN'T SEE PROVISION

Your feelings say: "God's abandoned me."

Truth says: "God is faithful. He's never left me. He's working even when I can't see it."

DECLARATION TWO: THIS IS PREPARATION, NOT PUNISHMENT

Your feelings say: "I must have done something wrong."

Truth says: "God is preparing me for the next level. Dry seasons build capacity for overflow."

DECLARATION THREE: THE SUPPLY IS COMING

Your feelings say: "It's never going to change."

Truth says: "God's already prepared my next supply. The brook may dry up, but the widow's house is waiting."

The Turnaround Moment

Here's what I've learned about dry seasons: They don't last forever.

There's always a turnaround moment. Always.

For Elijah, it was when God said, "Go to Zarephath."

For me, it was when God opened doors I didn't even know existed.

For you, it's coming. The turnaround is on the way.

But here's the key: Don't abandon your post before the turnaround comes.

Stay faithful. Stay obedient. Stay in rest.

The supply is coming. And when it does, you'll be ready because the dry season built capacity you didn't have before.

Application: Navigate the Dry Season

Personal: Are you in a dry season right now? Don't panic. Pray. Ask God what He's doing. Trust the process.

Family: Is your family facing financial pressure or relational drought? Worship together. Declare God's faithfulness. Let your kids see you trust Him in the valley.

Business/Work/Church: Is business slow—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Instead of scrambling, seek God's direction. Is He pruning? Testing? Redirecting?

Marriage: Is intimacy or connection dry? Don't give up. Dig deeper. Go to the deeper wells of covenant, commitment, and communication.

Declarations for Dry Seasons

Say these when supply seems scarce:

- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- Dry seasons are preparation, not punishment.
- God is deepening my roots for the next level.
- When one supply dries up, God has already prepared another.
- I trust God's process even when I can't see the provision.
- Worship is my weapon in the drought.

The Invitation

If you're in a dry season, don't lose heart. Don't give up. Don't panic.

God hasn't forgotten you. He's preparing you.

The brook dried up so Elijah would go to the widow. Your current drought is positioning you for your next overflow.

Trust the process. Deepen your roots. Worship through it.

And when the rain comes—and it will—you'll be ready.

21

The Power of Right Believing: From Mental Strongholds to Renewed Minds

You know what controls your life more than anything else?

Your beliefs.

Not your circumstances. Not your past. Not even your behavior.

Your beliefs.

Because what you believe shapes how you think. How you think shapes how you feel. How you feel shapes how you act. And how you act determines your outcomes.

You don't live from your circumstances, you live from your beliefs about your circumstances.

The Romans 12:2 Command

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Notice the process: Transformation happens through MIND RENEWAL.

Not through trying harder. Not through better circumstances. Through RENEWED THINKING.

You can have the right theology and still operate from wrong beliefs.

You can quote Scripture and still think like the world.

You can know the truth and still be bound by lies.

Why? Because knowing truth and BELIEVING truth are two different things.

Head knowledge doesn't transform, heart belief does.

The Stronghold Problem

Second Corinthians 10:3-5 says:

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

A stronghold is a belief system that contradicts God's truth.

It's not just a bad thought. It's a PATTERN of thinking. A mental fortress. A belief that's been reinforced over time until it feels like reality.

And here's the scary part: You can have strongholds and not even know it.

Because strongholds don't announce themselves. They masquerade as "just the way things are."

- "I'll never change."
- "I'm not good enough."
- "God's blessing is for others, not me."
- "I'll always struggle with this."

Those aren't truths. Those are strongholds. And they need to be demolished.

Five Common Strongholds Christians Battle

Let me expose five strongholds that keep Christians stuck:

STRONGHOLD ONE: "I'M NOT WORTHY"

You believe deep down that you don't deserve God's blessing. That you're not good enough for His favor.

TRUTH: Worthiness isn't based on what you've done. It's based on what JESUS did. You're worthy because HE made you worthy.

STRONGHOLD TWO: "GOD IS MAD AT ME"

You believe every hardship is punishment. Every setback is God's judgment.

TRUTH: There is NO condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. God isn't mad at you. He's FOR you.

STRONGHOLD THREE: "NOTHING EVER WORKS OUT FOR ME"

You believe you're cursed. That breakthrough is for everyone else but not you.

TRUTH: You're blessed in Christ. What God did for others, He'll do for you. The same grace available to them is available to you.

STRONGHOLD FOUR: "I'LL NEVER BE FREE FROM THIS"

You believe your struggle is permanent. That you're stuck forever.

TRUTH: Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. Your past doesn't determine your future. God is bigger than your biggest struggle.

STRONGHOLD FIVE: "I'M TOO FAR GONE"

You believe you've blown it too many times. That God's done with you.

TRUTH: God's mercies are new EVERY morning. His grace never runs out. You're never too far gone for God to restore.

Which stronghold do you recognize in your own thinking?

How Strongholds Form

Strongholds don't develop overnight. They form through repetition.

A thought becomes a belief. A belief becomes a pattern. A pattern becomes a stronghold.

Here's how it happens:

STAGE ONE: THE INITIAL THOUGHT

Something happens. A failure. A rejection. A disappointment.

And a thought enters your mind: "Maybe I'm not good enough."

STAGE TWO: THE REPETITION

The thought comes again. And again. And each time, you agree with it.

"Yeah, I'm really not good enough. That's just who I am."

STAGE THREE: THE BELIEF SYSTEM

Now it's not just a thought. It's a BELIEF. It's how you see yourself.

"I'm not good enough" becomes your identity.

STAGE FOUR: THE STRONGHOLD

The belief is now so ingrained that you don't even question it. It's just reality.

And it controls how you live, how you relate to God, how you respond to opportunities—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business.

That's a stronghold. And it has to be demolished.

How to Demolish Strongholds

Here's the battle plan for demolishing strongholds:

STEP ONE: IDENTIFY THE LIE

You can't demolish what you don't recognize.

What negative belief keeps replaying in your mind?

What lie have you agreed with about yourself, about God, about your future?

Name it. Write it down.

STEP TWO: FIND THE TRUTH

For every lie, there's a corresponding truth in Scripture.

Lie: "I'm not worthy." Truth: Second Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Lie: "God is mad at me." Truth: Romans 8:1, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Find the Scripture that contradicts the lie.

STEP THREE: DECLARE THE TRUTH DAILY

Don't just read the truth. SPEAK it.

Out loud. Every day. Multiple times a day if necessary.

"I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." "There is no condemnation for me." "God is FOR me, not against me."

Repetition is how the stronghold was built. Repetition is how it's demolished.

STEP FOUR: TAKE THOUGHTS CAPTIVE

Every time the lie tries to come back, capture it immediately.

"No. That's a lie. The truth is..."

Don't let the thought take root. Capture it. Replace it. Move on.

STEP FIVE: SURROUND YOURSELF WITH TRUTH

Listen to messages that reinforce truth. Read books that build faith. Spend time with people who speak life.

What you surround yourself with either builds strongholds or demolishes them.

My Stronghold Battle

For years, I battled the stronghold of "Rejection."

Not wanted enough. Not valued enough. Not accepted enough.

It started with early wounds. People who turned away when I needed them most. Moments where I was left out, overlooked, cast aside.

And over time, those experiences became beliefs. And those beliefs became a stronghold.

Even as relationships grew, the stronghold remained. Someone would show me love, and the voice would whisper, "They'll leave you too. Everyone does."

Then I realized: This isn't protection. This is a stronghold.

So I started the demolition process.

I identified the lie: "I'll always be rejected."

I found the truth: Romans 8:38-39, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God."

I declared it daily. Out loud. In my car. In my office. In my relationships.

And slowly, the stronghold crumbled.

Not overnight. But progressively. Day by day. Declaration by declaration.

But here's what changed everything:

After my seventh major rejection, I stopped and looked back. And I saw a pattern I'd missed while I was hurting.

Every single rejection had been followed by a promotion.

The job I didn't get? Led me to the ministry position that launched my calling.

The relationship that ended? Made room for the person who became my greatest supporter.

The team that excluded me? Pushed me to build something greater than I ever imagined.

Seven rejections. Seven redirections. Seven divine setups disguised as setbacks.

God wasn't allowing rejection to destroy me. He was using rejection to position me.

What the enemy meant to break me, God was using to elevate me.

And now? I still feel the sting occasionally. But it doesn't define me anymore. Because I've learned rejection is often God's protection and preparation for promotion.

I've built a new perspective based on TRUTH: What feels like rejection is almost always the test before I get promoted to something greater.

Your test—whatever it is—is preparing you for your next promotion, so embrace it.

Application: Demolish the Strongholds

Personal: What stronghold have you been tolerating? Identify it. Find the truth. Start declaring daily.

Family: What lies are your kids believing? Speak truth into them. Affirm their identity. Demolish strongholds before they take root.

Business/Work/Church: What limiting beliefs are affecting your leadership—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? "I'm not a good leader." "I don't have what it takes." Demolish those lies. Lead from truth.

Marriage: What beliefs about your spouse are poisoning your relationship? "They'll never change." "This is just how they are." Replace lies with grace and truth.

Declarations to Renew Your Mind

Say these every day:

- I demolish strongholds with the power of God's Word.
- I take captive every thought that contradicts Scripture.
- I am transformed by the renewing of my mind.
- Lies have no power over me, truth sets me free.
- I believe what God says about me, not what my feelings suggest.
- Right believing produces right living.

The Invitation

You've been fighting the wrong battle. You've been trying to change your behavior when you need to change your beliefs.

Identify the strongholds. Expose the lies. Declare the truth.

And watch transformation happen, not through effort, but through renewed thinking.

Because when you believe right, you live right. And when you live right, everything changes.

22

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus: From Distraction to Focus

You know what the enemy's favorite weapon is?

Distraction.

Not temptation. Not persecution. Not even doubt.

Distraction.

Because if he can't stop you, he'll distract you. And a distracted Christian is an ineffective Christian—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

The enemy doesn't need to destroy you if he can just distract you.

The Peter Principle

Matthew 14:22-33 tells the story of Peter walking on water.

Jesus is walking on the lake. The disciples see Him and are terrified. Peter says, "Lord, if it's You, tell me to come to You on the water."

Jesus says, "Come."

And Peter steps out of the boat. And he WALKS ON WATER.

Think about that. Peter is doing the impossible. Defying gravity. Walking in supernatural power.

But then verse 30: "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'"

What changed? Did the wind suddenly get stronger? Did Jesus stop empowering him?

No. Peter got DISTRACTED.

He took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the storm. And the moment his focus shifted, he sank.

You can walk on water as long as you keep your eyes on Jesus. Look at the storm, you sink.

Three Types of Distraction

The enemy uses three primary types of distraction to pull your focus off Jesus:

DISTRACTION ONE: COMPARISON

You start looking at what others are doing. Their success. Their influence. Their breakthrough.

And suddenly, you're not running YOUR race anymore. You're measuring yourself against them.

Comparison steals your focus. It shifts your eyes from Jesus to people.

And when you're focused on people, you sink.

DISTRACTION TWO: CRITICISM

Someone criticizes you. Questions your motives. Attacks your character.

And now instead of focusing on your calling, you're focused on your critics.

You're defending. Explaining. Proving. Striving.

Criticism steals your focus. It shifts your eyes from Jesus to your reputation.

And when you're focused on reputation, you sink.

DISTRACTION THREE: CIRCUMSTANCES

The storm gets louder. The wind gets stronger. The waves get higher.

And suddenly, you're not seeing Jesus anymore. You're only seeing the problem.

Circumstances steal your focus. They shift your eyes from Jesus to the storm.

And when you're focused on circumstances, you sink.

The Hebrews 12:2 Strategy

Hebrews 12:2 says, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

FIXING. Not glancing. Not occasionally looking. FIXING.

That's intentional. Deliberate. Constant.

Your eyes are naturally drawn to the storm. To the critics. To the comparison.

So you have to FIGHT to keep them on Jesus.

It's not passive. It's active warfare.

You fix your eyes on Jesus by REFUSING to let them wander.

Four Practices to Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Let me give you four practices that will help you maintain focus:

PRACTICE ONE: FILTER EVERYTHING THROUGH THE LENS OF ETERNITY

When comparison tries to distract you, ask: "Does this matter in eternity?"

When criticism tries to distract you, ask: "Am I living for an audience of One or an audience of many?"

When circumstances try to distract you, ask: "Is God still on the throne? Is His plan still intact?"

The lens of eternity recalibrates your focus instantly.

PRACTICE TWO: LIMIT YOUR INPUTS

You can't stay focused on Jesus if you're constantly consuming content that shifts your focus.

Limit social media. It breeds comparison.

Limit news. It breeds anxiety.

Limit voices. Not every opinion deserves your attention.

What you feed grows. Feed focus on Jesus.

PRACTICE THREE: CREATE DAILY RESET MOMENTS

Set alarms throughout your day. When they go off, pause.

Ask: "Where are my eyes right now? Am I focused on Jesus or distracted by the storm?"

Recalibrate. Refocus. Reset.

PRACTICE FOUR: SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO KEEP YOU FOCUSED

Some people pull your focus toward Jesus. Others pull your focus toward distraction.

Choose your circle wisely. Spend time with people who remind you of truth, not drama.

My Focus Battle

I went through a season where I was constantly distracted.

Social media was pulling me into comparison. Critics were pulling me into defense mode. Circumstances were pulling me into anxiety.

And I realized: I'm sinking. Not because Jesus stopped empowering me. But because my eyes were on everything EXCEPT Jesus.

So I made some hard decisions.

I suspended all my social media apps. Not forever, but for a season. I needed to remove the comparison trigger.

I stopped reading comments. Not because I didn't care about feedback, but because I couldn't discern between conviction and condemnation in that noise.

I implemented daily reset alarms. Three times a day, my phone reminded me: "Where are your eyes?"

And slowly, my focus returned.

I started walking on water again. Not because the storm stopped, but because my eyes were back where they belonged.

The Cost of Distraction

Let me tell you what distraction costs you:

COST ONE: MOMENTUM

When you're distracted, you slow down. You lose forward motion. You start drifting instead of driving.

COST TWO: AUTHORITY

When you're distracted, you lose the power of your voice. Because you're speaking from insecurity, not from secure identity.

COST THREE: IMPACT

When you're distracted, you can't fully invest in what God's called you to—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business. You're spread thin. Scattered. Ineffective.

COST FOUR: PEACE

When you're distracted, anxiety increases. Because your eyes are on the storm, not on the Savior.

Distraction is expensive. And the enemy knows it.

Three Signs Your Focus Has Shifted

How do you know if you've shifted from focus to distraction?

SIGN ONE: ANXIETY IS INCREASING

When your eyes are on Jesus, peace increases. When your eyes are on the storm, anxiety increases.

Check your anxiety levels. They'll tell you where your eyes are.

SIGN TWO: YOU'RE CONSTANTLY COMPARING

When your eyes are on Jesus, you run your own race. When your eyes are on others, you're constantly measuring.

If you're comparing, you're distracted.

SIGN THREE: YOU'RE DEFENDING INSTEAD OF DECLARING

When your eyes are on Jesus, you're declaring truth. When your eyes are on critics, you're defending your reputation.

If you're defending more than declaring, you're distracted.

Application: Refocus on Jesus

Personal: What's distracting you right now? Comparison? Criticism? Circumstances? Identify it. Refocus on Jesus.

Family: Is your family distracted by social media, busyness, or comparison? Create rhythms that refocus everyone on Jesus. Worship together. Pray together. Keep Him central.

Business/Work/Church: Are you making decisions based on metrics or mission—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church? Refocus. Lead for an audience of One.

Marriage: Are you comparing your marriage to others? Stop. Focus on Jesus and His design for YOUR covenant.

Declarations to Stay Focused

Say these daily:

- I fix my eyes on Jesus, not on circumstances.
- I am not distracted by comparison, criticism, or chaos.
- Jesus is my focus, my standard, and my strength.
- I walk on water when I keep my eyes on Him.
- I filter everything through the lens of His truth.
- I lead, live, and love for an audience of One.

The Invitation

Stop looking at the storm. Stop comparing. Stop obsessing over what people think.

Fix your eyes on Jesus. Keep them there. And watch what happens.

You'll walk on water. You'll do the impossible. You'll live in supernatural power.

Because when Jesus is your focus, everything else loses its grip.

23

Living the Overflow: From Scarcity to Supply

We've come full circle.

You started this journey living from scarcity. Grinding. Striving. Performing. Exhausted.

But now you know the truth: You were never meant to live that way.

You were designed to live from SUPPLY. Eden's supply. Grace's supply. Heaven's unlimited resources flowing through you.

This is the overflow life. And it's not just a theory, it's your new reality.

You don't work your way INTO overflow, you receive your way there.

The Overflow Checklist

Let me give you a quick diagnostic. If you're living the overflow life, you'll see these markers:

MARKER ONE: PEACE DOMINATES, NOT ANXIETY

Anxiety says, "What if it runs out?" Peace says, "God's got this."

When you're living from supply, peace dominates even in uncertainty.

MARKER TWO: GENEROSITY FLOWS, NOT SCARCITY

Scarcity clutches. Overflow releases.

When you're living from supply, you give freely because you trust the source.

MARKER THREE: REST IS NORMAL, NOT RARE

Scarcity grinds constantly. Overflow works from rest.

When you're living from supply, rest is your foundation, not your reward.

MARKER FOUR: JOY RETURNS

Scarcity steals joy. Overflow restores it.

When you're living from supply, you enjoy the journey, not just the destination.

MARKER FIVE: IMPACT MULTIPLIES

Scarcity produces limited results. Overflow produces exponential impact.

When you're living from supply, you accomplish more with less effort because grace is multiplying your effectiveness—whether at home, at work, at church, or in business.

Overflow isn't just internal, it's visible. Others will see it.

The Daily Rhythm of Overflow

So how do you SUSTAIN the overflow life? Here's your daily rhythm:

MORNING: RECEIVE BEFORE YOU GIVE

Start every day with God. Fill your cup FIRST. Don't give from depletion, give from overflow.

Five minutes. Ten minutes. Thirty minutes. However long it takes to connect and receive.

This isn't legalism. This is wisdom. You can't pour out what you haven't received.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY: STAY CONNECTED

Check in with Jesus regularly. Am I working from supply or striving for supply? Adjust as needed.

Set an alarm for during the day. Take pauses. Reconnect.

EVENING: REFLECT AND RECALIBRATE

End the day by reviewing: Did I live from overflow today? Where did I drift into scarcity thinking? Realign for tomorrow.

Don't beat yourself up. Just recalibrate.

WEEKLY: SABBATH REST

One full day to unplug, worship, restore. No grinding. No striving. Just receiving.

This is non-negotiable. Your body needs it. Your soul needs it. Your family needs it.

MONTHLY: EVALUATE AND ELIMINATE

What's draining you? What's distracting you? What's pulling you back into scarcity? Cut it.

Be ruthless about protecting your overflow.

QUARTERLY: CELEBRATE AND RECALIBRATE

Review the wins. Celebrate God's faithfulness. Recalibrate your focus for the next season.

Celebration is part of overflow. Don't skip it.

Overflow is sustained through rhythm, not random effort.

The Choice You Have to Make

Here's the reality: You'll face constant pressure to slip back into scarcity thinking.

The world operates from scarcity. Religion operates from performance. The enemy operates from accusation.

And they'll all try to pull you back.

So you have to CHOOSE overflow. Daily. Intentionally. Aggressively.

You have to declare it: "I live from supply, not scarcity."

You have to protect it: "I won't let comparison, criticism, or circumstances steal my overflow."

You have to practice it: "I receive before I give. I work from rest. I trust God's provision."

This isn't passive. It's WARFARE.

Overflow is a choice you make every day, not a destination you arrive at once.

My Final Word to You

I wrote this book because I almost destroyed myself living with a scarcity mindset even though I was working 80 plus hours a week.

Age thirty-one. Burned out. Exhausted. Sick.

I'd built an entire ministry on striving. And it nearly killed me.

But God met me in that burnout and taught me a better way. He showed me Eden's design. He taught me grace's supply. He restored my soul through rest.

And now, decades later, I'm still standing. Still leading—at home, at church, in ministry. Still overflowing.

Not because I'm special. Not because I'm super-spiritual. But because I learned to live FROM supply instead of FOR supply.

And if I can do it, you can too.

You don't have to burn out. You don't have to grind yourself into the ground. You don't have to live in constant anxiety about running out.

There's a better way. And it's called grace.

Grace doesn't just save you, it sustains you. Now live from it.

Three Overflow Stories

Let me leave you with three stories of what overflow looks like in real life:

OVERFLOW STORY ONE: THE VISION PROVISION

As the leader of Futures Church, we have a God-sized vision: to plant churches all over the world and fulfill the Great Commission. Currently, in 2025, we have twenty-one campuses across four countries. But that's just the beginning. The goal is two hundred campuses. And then two thousand.

You read that right. Two thousand churches. Reaching nations. Transforming communities. Advancing the Kingdom.

That kind of vision requires enormous faith. And enormous resources.

And here's what I've learned over the last few weeks while writing this book: The constant temptation in vision this big is to slip back into self-effort. To start grinding. To start strategizing in the flesh. To work FOR provision instead of FROM provision.

The multiplication of campuses creates constant financial pressure. Buildings. Staff. Resources. Everything that comes with advancing God's church to the world costs money. Real money. And the temptation is always there to hustle, fundraise, manipulate, control.

But as I've been writing this book, God's been teaching me again, at a deeper level, what it means to live from SUPPLY instead of scarcity.

So I made a decision. I shifted back to receiving grace. I stopped striving and started connecting to Jesus and the Holy Spirit daily.

Not just for a few minutes, but deeply. Intentionally. Making sure I stayed in the supply zone.

And here's what happened: Incredible peace came. Emotional rest. Mental clarity. Fresh faith rose in my heart. My relationship with Jesus got turbo-charged. I started living in expectation of supply instead of anxiety about scarcity.

I wasn't passive. I was still leading. Still planning. Still working hard. But I was working FROM fullness, not FOR fullness.

Then, out of the blue, I got a phone call.

Someone on the other end said, "Pastor Ashley, I was at your leadership summit earlier this year. And God spoke to me during that event. He challenged me to bring provision for the vision."

I listened. Encouraged them. Thanked them. Didn't think much more about it.

Then, just a few days before finishing this book, they called again.

"We want to give millions of dollars for church planting."

I almost dropped the phone.

Millions. Not thousands. Millions.

It came from a completely unexpected source. Someone I'd never asked and never considered. It was supply from heaven, not manufactured by effort.

And it was the biggest gift any one person has ever given to Futures Church.

I didn't earn it. I didn't manipulate it. I didn't strategize it into existence.

I received it. Because I was living from supply in my heart, and suddenly it became supply given.

That's how God wants us to live. In EVERY area of life.

Not hustling for provision. Not grinding for breakthrough. But connecting to the Source, staying in the supply zone, and watching God move in ways you never could have manufactured.

This is overflow. And it's available to you too.

OVERFLOW STORY TWO: THE MULTIPLIED IMPACT

We launched a new ministry initiative expecting maybe fifty people to participate. We budgeted for fifty. Prepared for fifty.

Three hundred showed up.

We didn't have enough materials. Didn't have enough leaders. Didn't have enough space.

But God multiplied everything. People volunteered who'd never served before. Resources appeared from unexpected places. Space opened up that we didn't know existed.

That's overflow. When you step out in faith, God multiplies your capacity.

OVERFLOW STORY THREE: THE RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

There was a season where a key relationship in my life was fractured. Hurt on both sides. Distance. Tension.

I wanted to fix it. Force it. Control it.

But God said, "Rest. Let Me work."

So I did. I prayed. I released it. I trusted.

And a few years later, without any manipulation from me, God restored that relationship. Healed the hurt. Rebuilt the trust.

That's overflow. When you stop striving and start trusting, God does what only He can do.

Application: Live the Overflow

Personal: Declare it today: "I live from overflow. I receive before I give. I trust God's supply."

Family: Create a culture of overflow in your home. Model rest. Practice generosity. Celebrate God's faithfulness.

Business/Work/Church: Lead from overflow—whether at home, at work, in your business, or at church. Don't grind your team into exhaustion. Show them a better way.

Marriage: Love from overflow. Stop keeping score. Give freely. Trust God to sustain your relationship.

Final Declarations

Say these until they become your life:

- I live from supply, not scarcity.
- Grace is my source, and it never runs dry.
- I work from rest, not for rest.
- I give generously because I trust God's provision.
- I walk in overflow daily.
- I am sustained by grace, empowered by the Spirit, and supplied by heaven's unlimited resources.

The Invitation

This is it. This is your moment.

You've read the book. You've learned the truths. You've seen the examples.

Now it's time to LIVE it.

From this day forward, you're done with scarcity. Done with striving. Done with performance-based living.

You're stepping into overflow. Grace-empowered living. Supply-sustained thriving.

Welcome to Eden's design. Welcome to Jesus' promise. Welcome to the life you were always meant to live.

Now go live it. And watch what God does.

24

The Overflow Revolution: This isn't the end, it's the beginning

This book isn't the end. It's the beginning.

You're not just stepping into overflow for yourself, you're carrying it to others.

Because overflow doesn't stay contained. It SPREADS.

When you live from supply, people notice. They see the peace. The joy. The rest. The effectiveness.

And they ask: "How are you doing this? Why aren't you burned out like everyone else?"

That's when you tell them: "I'm not living from scarcity anymore. I'm living from supply. And you can too."

This is the Grace and Favor Revolution.

It's not just a message. It's a MOVEMENT.

A movement of people who refuse to burn out—whether they're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

A movement of believers who live from rest instead of striving.

A movement of families who operate from overflow instead of survival.

A movement of churches that preach grace and model it.

And you're part of it now.

Your Assignment

So here's my charge to you:

LIVE IT. Don't just know this, DO this. Make overflow your daily reality.

SHARE IT. When people ask how you're thriving, tell them. Point them to grace. Show them supply.

MODEL IT. Let your life be the proof that this works. Let your rest be the testimony that overflow is real.

MULTIPLY IT. Disciple others into this lifestyle. Teach your kids. Train your team. Lead your church.

Because the world doesn't need more burned-out Christians. It needs overflowing ones.

And that's you now.

The Ripple Effect

Let me tell you what happens when you live the overflow life:

YOUR FAMILY CHANGES. When you stop grinding and start flowing, your home becomes a place of peace instead of pressure.

YOUR WORK CHANGES. When you lead from rest instead of stress, your team becomes more effective and more loyal.

YOUR CHURCH CHANGES. When you model grace instead of performance, people experience freedom they've never known.

YOUR CITY CHANGES. When overflow becomes your lifestyle, you become a source of supply for everyone around you.

One person living from overflow creates a ripple effect that touches hundreds, thousands, even millions.

That's the revolution.

The Final Question

So let me ask you one last question:

Are you ready to live from supply instead of scarcity?

Are you ready to work from rest instead of for rest?

Are you ready to step into the overflow life Jesus died to give you?

If your answer is yes, then declare it right now:

"From this day forward, I live from supply, not scarcity. I reject the performance trap. I embrace the grace life. I walk in overflow daily. I am sustained by heaven's unlimited resources. And I will carry this message to everyone God puts in my path."

Say it. Mean it. Live it.

The Revolution Starts Now

This is the Grace and Favor Revolution.

And it starts with YOU.

One person at a time. One family at a time. One church at a time. One city at a time.

Living from supply. Walking in overflow. Modeling grace. Multiplying impact.

The world is watching. They're tired of burned-out Christians. They're tired of religious performance. They're tired of empty promises.

They're looking for people who ACTUALLY live in the power of God's grace.

They're looking for YOU.

So go. Live from supply. Walk in grace. Overflow with favor.

And watch the revolution spread.

The Final Word

"The world doesn't need more burned-out Christians. It needs overflowing ones. And that's you now."

You've been given Eden's design. You've received grace's supply. You've learned overflow's rhythm.

Now you have a choice: Will you return to scarcity? Or will you live from supply?

The choice is yours. But here's what I know:

Once you've tasted overflow, you can never go back to survival mode.

Once you've experienced rest, you can never settle for grinding.

Once you've walked in grace, you can never return to performance.

You're different now. Changed. Transformed.

Not by your effort. But by His grace.

And that grace will sustain you for the rest of your life—whether you're leading at home, at work, at church, or in business.

From scarcity to supply. From grinding to grace. From exhaustion to overflow.

This is your new reality.

Welcome to the revolution.

About the Author

Ashley Evans is the Global Senior Pastor of Futures Church, a thriving multi-campus church with many thousands attending weekend services with 21 locations across four countries. With a vision to plant 200 churches worldwide, raise 10000 leaders and see 100,000 people find Jesus this is just the beginning. Ashley has occupied many high level positions including being a national ACC director. President of ACC SA, Youth Alive SA State Director. He has an Honorary Doctorate from Alphacrusis University. Ashley leads with a passion for grace-empowered living and sustainable ministry and is known across the world for his ability to raise leaders who are significant in the world.

After experiencing burnout in 1994, Ashley discovered the transformative power of living from God's supply rather than human striving. This revelation revolutionized not only his ministry but also his marriage, family, and personal life.

For almost 4 decades, Ashley has been teaching believers how to escape the performance trap and step into the overflow life that Jesus promised. His message of grace and favor has impacted thousands of leaders across the globe.

Ashley and his wife, Jane, have been married for 39 years and have three sons—Mark, Nate, and Benjamin—all of whom are serving God in vocational ministry. He divides his time between Australia and the United States, leading Futures Church's global expansion while maintaining a rhythm of rest and overflow.

Connect with Ashley:

Website: www.futures.church

Instagram: @ashleymarkevans