

# Comprehending Grace

David J Keyser PhD

© 2020 David J Keyser

## What Is Christianity About?

The Didache is an early Christian manuscript which means "The Teaching." It was very important when believers did not yet have their own New Testaments.

### Chapter 1.

1:1 There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways. 1:2 The way of life is this.

If you ask almost any Bible Belt Christian what the gospel is for they will usually tell you something like, "Well, if you're saved you won't go to hell when you die." Although this is true, it falls way short of God's intention.

A favorite verse of many Christians is, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God." It is very comforting to know deep down in your "knower" that God is looking after you and that even when people and events seem to conspire together for your harm God can turn it all to your favor.

What is often overlooked is a following phrase which says that God has chosen you to "become conformed to the image of his dear son." This means, quite simply, that God expects you to grow to be just like Jesus.

Since most church goers know that Jesus is not only a sinless man but also God, it is nearly impossible for them to believe that God expects them to become just like Jesus. If they think about this for very long

they many even decide that God is being unfair to expect this of them.

They come to this conclusion because they don't understand just how God expects them to do this. Like most other things in life they just presume that they are expected to accomplish this transformation in this life with enormous amounts of self-effort. In other words, becoming like Jesus is a monumental task of self-improvement. However, this is not the case. God through the work of the Holy Spirit can transform you. God wants us to be little brothers and sisters of Jesus. But you have to let him. He will not impose this change on you involuntarily.

Furthermore, the entire passage assures us that God will follow through with this process until his goal is accomplished. <sup>1</sup>

The next objection raised by the natural mind of the average believer is, "of course, we can't become perfect, a really finished product, in this life. We will have to wait for the Resurrection for it to be complete. Dwelling in this thought only causes us to abandon any real spiritual growth in this life. That is a trap. Unless we do grow and show improvement in this life we will be mostly worthless in the next. God builds character starting now.

The next concept that interferes with our transformation is the whole idea that Jesus is always "nice." It is somewhat of a mystery just where this notion comes from because the New Testament writings do not support it. It is "the gospel according to Emily Post."

One bright day when Jesus was with his disciples he asked them

who they believed he really was. Good old Peter responded that he is the Son of the living God. For this Jesus praised him strongly. Not too long after that Jesus implied that he himself would be killed by evil men. Peter responded to this by trying to correct Jesus and was told "get behind me Satan!" This was not nice. But it was necessary. <sup>2</sup>

There are many other places in the Gospels where Jesus really lays into people. He was especially hard on the Pharisees because they were extreme legalists.

Does this mean that Jesus did not love people? No. however, there is a difference between loving someone and affirming their wrong attitudes or actions. Jesus knows the difference and we should too.

In order to really grasp our ability to grow we must first understand how Grace, the continuing free gift

of forgiveness and cleansing,  
works. Because it is "a good thing  
for the heart to be established with  
Grace." <sup>3</sup>



## The Way Of God.

### Step One: Accept Jesus

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2: 8 KJV

### Step Two: Read the Bible

### Step Three: Stop Counting

When Jesus told his disciples to forgive not seven times but seventy times sever he did not mean to forgive 490 times. Seven is the number of God's perfection. Ten represents completeness or infinity. We should have no limit on our forgiveness because God forgives us completely.

There is a "grace channel" inside every human soul. If you let it get

clogged up you can no longer receive or give forgiveness. God's Word is not so much as a law book presided over by an almighty God who can punish greatly. It is an "owner's manual." God made us and he knows how we are made and what we need to do to function properly. The grace channel within us runs both ways, the more we give the more we are able to receive. We forgive others because God has forgiven us infinitely. This means that there is no use counting the number of times we forgive or that God forgives us.

If we are counting the sins and shortcomings of others then we are invariably counting our own sins. If we cannot forgive others, then we will not be able to forgive ourselves.

Often in Christian counseling the counselee is told that since they

have confessed their sins they are forgiven and then ask them if they forgive themselves.

Some answer that they cannot forgive themselves. A sympathetic counselor might say that they understand this but that they should pray about this that God will give them the ability to forgive themselves.

A master counselor will usually confront the counselee by asking them, "Who are you to refuse to forgive yourself when God in Christ has forgiven you?"

This will often catch the counselee off guard and they will realize that it is their pride that will not allow them to forgive themselves.

There is a difference between confrontation and conflict. Confrontation is not going to battle. It is corrective.

When this writer was conducting drug counselor classes in a state prison I would often ask the men how many times they believed God would “take them back.”

They would usually come up with a number like 3 times or five or even 50 or a hundred times. I would then announce that God would take them back as many times as they needed him to no matter what they had done if they were truly sorry for their actions.

Then they would then just sit and stare at me. This was almost too much for them accept. But they wanted to, I could see it in their eyes.

I went on to tell them that the civil judge might have to send them to prison, but that they could be forgiven by God even there.

You see, the Good News is truly difficult to believe unless we are desperate. Why wait until then?

Accept it now. But you have to  
Stop Counting! <sup>4</sup>



## Grace Transforms

### Dependence On God

It is important to understand that to walk in the grace of God we must first acknowledge both with our minds and our hearts that we are totally dependent on God. This is the first big problem. Today in Western culture we are taught that independence and self-reliance are the most important virtues that we can possess. In religious circles we are taught that we are dependent on God for our salvation because we are sinners and desperately in need of the help and deliverance that only He can provide. This is true, but in the teaching of this we are so often left with the impression deep down in our beings that the dependence is because of our sin alone. This is not true.

We were originally designed to be dependent on God. Adam was given great power to be in charge of the entire natural world. But he had this power in dependence on God. He lost this power when he took his life into his own hands. Jesus said that he did not do anything that he did not see the Father doing. Jesus walked in total dependence on God the Father. Can we improve on Jesus' attitude? Not likely.

Dependence on God is not wrong. Dependence on God is good. When our sins are dealt with by the cross of Christ, we are free from the consequences of them. But we were never supposed to be free from God. He wants us to draw from him continually. He delights in meeting our every need.

The life of faith is an adventure with God meeting every need, even anticipating our needs and arranging the supply before we



ask. This is healthy Christianity. To walk in grace, when we can only stop our sinning by degrees, requires us to be willingly dependent as a lifelong lifestyle. Only after we embrace this, can we truly understand grace.

Many earthly dependencies have unwanted side effects. Dependence on God has no unwanted side effects. The unwanted side effects of drugs, for example, are that they can in themselves be damaging to a person. Also, they will lead to a dependency which will take a person away from the good things in life. And, last but not least, the supply of the drug may be interrupted or stopped and painful withdrawal will result. A dependency on God will not lead to any of these consequences.

God is not damaging to the person. His goal is to free the person and help that person to realize all of his or her potential. A dependency on

God will not take us away from the good things in life. Rather, it will bring us into a complete fulfillment of the good things in life like health and love and relationships and joy.

Finally, the prospect of not being able to receive God or the blessings of God at any time in the future is not possible, at least not from God's side of the relationship. God is always available to us and always will be in this life and in eternity. This dependency does certainly imply relationship. We are to live in a living relationship with a living God.

This article is not about rules. The rules, called the Law, were added because of the growth of disobedience. But rules have never been the object of God's relationship with his people. A religion of rules is not the Christian faith; it is not the faith that Paul teaches; it is not the faith that Jesus teaches. They teach

relationship with the living God. Sometimes it is easier for people to learn to walk by rules than by relationship. Sometimes people prefer rules to relationship. "Just tell me what the rules are and I will do it." <sup>5</sup>

Relationship is harder than rules because there is a living being on both sides of the issue. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of relationship. Rules lead to death; relationship leads to life. They say that the three most important things in real estate are location, location and location. The three most important things in the Christian life are relationship, relationship and relationship; relationship first with God and then with our fellow human beings.

The peace of God that accompanies grace is a special peace. The peace of God is not dependent on circumstances. Circumstances can be difficult and we can still have

the peace of God that comes from walking in relationship with him. The peace of God passes or goes beyond understanding. Sometimes, this makes Christians look irrational. This is not because they do not understand rational conduct but because they have been enabled to live beyond the rational when necessary. Most of the time they will probably live within rational guidelines and understanding.

## Breaking The Vicious Circle

There is a vicious circle that torments the sincere Christian. This circle simply moves from being content in holy living, then to failure by sinning, to repentance, to a greater effort to improve, to temporary improvement, then back to failure and around again. The Christian believer can love Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit; he or she can love God's law and hate his own sinful nature; he can repent when he fails over and over again, and begin his quest again. But the circle continues and continues.

The more times the believer fails the worse he feels about himself. His confidence wains and he cries out to God for supernatural help. If he continues to fail for too long a time, the time varies by believer, he just gives up and lives the

carnal life. Sometimes he rations himself in his journeys into carnality and comforts himself that he could be worse or he could be as bad as certain other persons. The vicious circle needs to be broken. Paul and John knew this circle well and they leave us keys on how to break it more frequently and come to live on a higher spiritual plain.

### Paul's Escape Clause

Romans 7:18 WEB For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. For desire is present with me, but I don't find it doing that which is good. 19 For the good which I desire, I don't do; but the evil which I don't desire, that I practice. 20 But if what I don't desire, that I do, it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me.

How can Paul hold this absurd position? The immature Christian calls it a “cop out.” Paul is just saying that since we are hopeless in our human condition, then we should just give up and rely on God to make up the difference. If only we could get rid of our own conscience!

But Paul knew a secret, he had a revelation. It is simply this: If we are truly sick of our carnal nature then we need to disown it. Every time we accept the power of the carnal nature we go back to “square one” to start all over again.

There is a story, whether true or not, that when Queen Cleopatra gave birth to Ptolemy Caesarian, the child of Julius Caesar, she instructed her servant to take the baby and lay it at Caesar’s feet. The servant protested that this was not appropriate for the Egyptian Crown Prince to be laid at the feet

of a Roman. Cleopatra took a firm hold on the servant and said, "Do as I command you! If Caesar picks the child up, he is acknowledging my son as his rightful heir under Roman law." The servant obeyed and Caesar picked up the child.

I use this illustration to make a simple point, when you stumble in your Christian walk and it grieves your conscience, do not "pick up the baby." When you claim it, it becomes your inheritance from then on once again. Of course, if what you did was a crime, then you will have to deal with the civil law. But most of the daily sins of sincere Christians offend God rather than men.

What does this tell us? Quit acknowledging that your carnal nature is the boss. Disown it. Move on in victory. Some may say that this is pure presumption. How can we disown our own obvious actions? Were we not born in sin?



Surely we are not trying hard enough.

Philippians 1: 6 KJV Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3 KJV According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

If the believer is not totally sincere, this is presumption and it will not work. The vicious circle will not be broken. If the believer is totally sincere in his or her hatred and disgust for whatever sins they are fighting, then it is faith. If it is faith, it will break the circle.

Romans 1:17 KJV For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

From “faith to faith” means that when one faith victory is achieved another is ready to be won.

### John’s Escape Clause

1 John 3:18 WEB My little children, let’s not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and persuade our hearts before him, 20 because if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our hearts don’t condemn us, we have boldness toward God;

John has the same insight from his own perspective. If your heart condemns you, then we rely on the Gospel of Grace instead of our feelings. We do not own those feelings of failure. If we overcome, then our heart will not condemn us and we have confidence. In Christ we are in a win-win position. All we

have to do is move forward from faith to faith. The more consistently we win in faith the easier it becomes. But if we stumble, we have to stop counting failures before they will diminish. In this process we will also stop counting the failures of others. The believer will get more and more humble with each victory because he or she will understand more and more that it is God within him that is winning. He will not have to "work on his humility."

Matthew 18:21-23 KJV Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

What does "seventy times seven" mean? Remember, it does not mean 490 times? It is biblically symbolic. Seven is the number of God's perfection. Ten represents

completeness or infinity. We should have no limit on our forgiveness because God forgives us completely. The grace channel within us runs both ways, the more we give the more we are able to receive.

This biblical strategy from Paul and John is guaranteed to work because it is the Transforming Power of Grace.

## Only Begotten Life

The great C. S. Lewis mentions in one of his books that fact that Jesus give us his life and that this life is "only begotten life." This is not just a restored Adam to the garden of Eden. This is better. Jesus was not given life by God the Father. Jesus is himself also a foundation of eternal life. He gives to regenerate Christian believers his own only begotten life.

The greek for only begotten is monogenés: only begotten. It literally means one-and-only, "one of a kind" – literally, "one (monos) of a class, genos."

Several passages from scripture make this very clear.

In 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son,

which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. KJV

1 John 5:12 (NASB)

12 He who has the Son has **the life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have **the life**.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

As the Head of a new race of human beings, Jesus gives a new kind of life, an eternal life that is not extinguishable. Dare to believe it.





## In Case We Get Confused

### What Is Happening To Me?

Often after a person has been a Christian for a while, they begin to experience confusing or disorienting times. They may wonder, where is the joy, where is the excitement that I experienced at the first? They often feel that they are wandering in the woods looking for some of the old familiar signposts or markers. Things regarding their faith seem hazy or fog filled. They are going through a brief period of wandering in the wilderness.

Other Christians often tell them that such times are normal. After all, Moses and the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted and Paul spent years in obscurity before he began his

ministry. These comparisons may apply somewhat to the individual walk of many believers, but they should not be accepted as normal or necessary. We live under a better covenant than the Israelites. Jesus had a unique mission to accomplish as did Paul. Many times the believer in this fog is experiencing one of three basic Christian experiences. Sincere Christians go through these repeatedly in their lives. God's Great Love for us causes or allows these experiences for our own good. Often when someone becomes a Christian by accepting Jesus Christ into their heart, they are convinced that nothing can ever get difficult again. It is not long before they learn that this is not the case.

In this book Dr. Keyser explains what these experiences are, why they happen to believers and what

the believer can do to end them as soon as possible.

REMEMBER: Before we proceed any further we must remember that we live in a fallen world. Our existence is not idyllic. But it is victorious. One way or another we win. The verse is true that says that God causes all things to work together for our good. (Romans 8:28) All things do not work together for our good; but God is fully capable of turning any event to our favor.

What we are considering in this little book is not particularly about God turning events, it is about three things that we all experience. But we often spend a longer time in the fog than is necessary because we do not understand what to do to bring it to a conclusion.

We will approach each of these experiences by answering the following questions.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET OUT OF IT?

The answers to these questions are different for each of the three experiences.

DISCIPLINE FROM GOD <sup>6</sup>

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Since Father God is the perfect parent, he does not allow us to persist in doing things that will hurt us. Human parents do not let their children play in the traffic, eat rat poison or touch things that are very hot. Since God made us, he knows what is not good for us and

disciplines us for our own good. Please understand, the Christian life is NOT about morals. Good morals can be achieved by following rules. The Christian life is about a RELATIONSHIP with God through Jesus Christ. When this life is truly lived, a person displays good morals, but rules will not change people, only new life in Christ can change us.

God's discipline in our lives is usually the easiest experience to recognize. This is because we usually know when we are doing something wrong. Our heart, conscience, tells us so.

If a parent approaches a child with one of those "what did you do?" looks, the response is often, "Whaaat?!" When pressed the child will look guilty and often confesses to what he or she has done. When I taught eleventh grade American history, I noticed a student cheating while take a test. I

announced that I had seen someone cheating and if they would simply write a sentence admitting it at the bottom of the test, we could talk later and they would not be embarrassed. To my surprise I received three confessions.

The first indication that we are out of the will of God is a lack of the divine peace. The more we displease God the more the Holy Spirit withdraws the peace of God from our life. Having once known this peace we yearn for it again. If the withdrawal of his peace does not bring us back to him, things will start going wrong in our lives. We lose the favor of people and things just don't work out like they should. If we persist in wrong living, we can bring great hardship on ourselves. The longer we wait to return to God the harder it is to admit our errors.

**WHY IT IS HAPPENING**

We are assured that every child of God will be corrected by God because he is a loving and active father. One thing is sure with father God's correction, it is not given at the convenience or need of the parent. It is solely given for our own good. It is for our profit so that we can further share God's own nature. And it will not last indefinitely. So we should not be surprised when it happens.

Discipline also has to do with inheritance. We have an inheritance from God which Jesus Christ paid for so that we can have abundant life here and in the afterlife. We will see that if we do not submit to discipline, we cannot have the inheritance.

In biblical and medieval times only a legitimate child could inherit. A king's son who had a mother who was not married to the king was illegitimate. He might become an important man, but he would never be king. As a matter of fact many

illegitimate sons were proud to be sons of the king even though they could not inherit. James Stewart, Earl of Moray, was the half brother of Mary Queen of Scots, but he was illegitimate and Mary was not so James could not inherit. At the death of Mary her son James Stuart inherited the thrones of both Scotland and England. The scriptures teach us that to refuse our discipline from father God will cause us to share the place of the illegitimate son. Our inheritance is to share the very nature of God himself.

God takes the long view. Our growth into someone who resembles our father is his priority. We often want what feels good only for the present.

When we are being disciplined, we should not offer an inappropriate response. There are two kinds of rebellion; active and passive.



Active rebellion: If we rebel, we defiantly reject the discipline of God. We rail against it. We may even intentionally begin to act ever worse. When we do this, we are shaking our fist at God. This is not a good thing to do. God is always right and he can outwait us all.

Passive rebellion: If we give up, we are then weakened and fall into all sorts of false trails which can lead us to a worse place. This is likened to letting our feet wander anywhere that is easiest. We no longer control our destiny. Then we often wander off and hurt ourselves in many ways.

If we rebel or give up, we cannot have our inheritance.

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET OUT OF IT?

In short, we should submit to God's discipline.

Simply tell God that you are sorry and ask him to help you stop doing what is displeasing to him. Repent out of it. The sooner you repent, the sooner it will end. This only works for this experience. The other two are different.

## A TRIAL FROM GOD <sup>7</sup>

### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The Greek word "peirazo" means to make proof of, to attempt, test, tempt. It is very important to remember that virtually all of the Greek scholars agree that the difference between the "tempt" interpretation and the "test" or "trial" interpretation can only be determined by the CONTEXT. Sometimes it can even mean both tempt and test simultaneously depending on the context. <sup>8</sup>

God tests every believer who shows promise. So, when God

tests us, we need to realize that we have not done anything wrong. As a matter of fact, we have shown promise in our faith and the test or trial is actually a reward and not a punishment.

### WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

God tries or tests us in order to cause us to grow in our faith and in our relationship with him.

The greatest example of testing in the Bible is Abraham, the father of faith. In Genesis 22:2 Abraham was told to sacrifice his only son, the son of promise, to God. Abraham also believed that he had been promised many descendants through Isaac, but Isaac was still a boy and had no children at the time Abraham was told to sacrifice him. This causes Abraham extra grief because, as the father of faith, his faith was very important

to him. He grieved at losing his only son. Then he had to deal with the fact that the promise of many descendants could not be fulfilled if Isaac was killed. Then he had to deal with the fact that he believed that he had heard God tell him two contradictory things. This is the essence of a trial by God, a faith situation that seems to be contradictory to what we know about God.

The book of Genesis tells us that Abraham took steps to obey God and that God interrupted the sacrifice by stopping Abraham and providing a ram for the sacrifice. But Genesis does not tell us what Abraham was thinking at this time. Paul tells us in the New Testament letter to the Hebrews by direct divine revelation what Abraham was thinking (yes, Paul did write Hebrews.) Paul tells us that Abraham resolved the conflict in

his faith by further believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead so that he could father many descendants. Imagine the impossibility of such a thought for Abraham.

The amazingness of this leap of faith is almost too much to comprehend. It is made all the greater by the fact that in Abraham's time resurrections were not commonly believed. Since Abraham's time we have examples of resurrections not only by the Old Testament prophets like Elijah and Elisha but also resurrections in the gospels and Acts. The greatest resurrection of all is, of course, the resurrection of Jesus himself because it makes possible the resurrection of every believer at the final day of resurrection. Abraham received Isaac back as resurrected symbolically when God provided the ram. Abraham had not brought a ram with him.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO GET OUT OF IT?

Therefore, Abraham solved his faith crisis by going higher. He came up to God's way of thinking. But not only was this significant that Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac but he also began to share the grandest thought of all with God. Abraham believed in the resurrection of the long promised and sacrificed son. Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time for the long promised Isaac. The fallen human race had to wait a long time for Jesus to come. At the transfiguration in Luke 9:31 we are told that Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus and talked about the conclusion of the great sacrificial plan which would end in the resurrection of Jesus. In I Corinthians 2:9 we are told that we could not possibly imagine the greatness of God's plan for our salvation. But through trial Abraham shared God's grandest secret thought, the resurrection of

the long promised Son. For this Abraham, to our knowledge, was not tested again and he is called the "friend of God." (James 2:23) Imagine the fellowship with God that only Abraham had. As far as we know, nobody knew about Abraham's test results except God. It does not matter who else knows. God knows and he is pleased with our growth. Although no one can initially earn God's favor through good works, eternal rewards are based on our obedience to God and our obedience itself brings many rewards.

The way out of test is to endure and go higher. You cannot repent out of it and you cannot rebuke it. Remember it is a reward for your faithfulness.

AN ATTACK OF THE ENEMY <sup>9</sup>

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

An attack of the enemy, Satan or his minions, is not something God wants you to accept.

Such an attack is usually harsh and threatening. It can come in the form of a strong temptation to do what you know you should not do. A lot of lies come to your mind which are designed to lead you astray, make you angry and confuse you. It can also come in the form of disorientation and fear. It is indiscriminate. There seems to be no reason for it. Negative things can even begin to happen if you allow it to continue. When this happens, remember that God is not upset with you and you did not do anything wrong. You are not being tested by God. Also, merely enduring it will not end it.



## WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

It is happening because Satan and his forces are eternally outside the redemption of God. They are condemned and in time face eternal punishment. Human beings while they live on earth always have a chance to turn to God. This is why they are hated by the enemy. Furthermore, the enemy hates Christians even more than other humans because they have already entered into an eternal covenant relationship with God. This makes them special targets of Satan's anger.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO GET OUT OF IT?

It is important to develop your confidence in your authority over these spirits which you have in the

name of Jesus and in the power of his shed blood.

Such an attack must be rebuked. Resist the Devil. Pray and then say aloud, "I rebuke you Satan, in the Name of Jesus. The blood of Jesus is against you. You must stop this attack on me and my loved ones. Go away and do not return."

Make this pronouncement until it stops and then pray to the Father that all of your peace will return. God wants you to learn to use this delegated authority. When you are a new or baby Christian, God providentially protects you. As you grow, he still protects providentially but he also wants you to learn to use your authority.

10

This is an easy and quick thing to stop. Enemy forces must obey you in the Name of Jesus. The more success you have doing this the

more confident you will become in your authority in Jesus. You have no authority of your own in this, you must use the delegated authority of the Name of Jesus. If you are not a believer, it will not work as it should.

#### WHY THE WRONG RESPONSE WON'T WORK.

You cannot rebuke a trial from God. You cannot rebuke a chastening from God. You can repent out of a chastening. There is no need to repent of a trial. You cannot repent out of an attack. You need to rebuke an attack from the enemy. Each incident has its own way out.

What if you are not sure which of these experiences you are having? Pray earnestly for guidance or consult another believer who understands such things.

## APPENDIX

### The Other Way: The Human Drift Away From God

#### How Deep Does It Go?

As water always seeks the lowest  
level.

Ro 1

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not [n]honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of

birds and four-footed animals and [o]crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for [p]a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed [q]forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is [r]unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing [s]indecent acts and receiving in [t]their own persons the due penalty of their error.

28 And just as they did not see fit [u]to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, [v]haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

FOR OTHER BOOKS BY DAVID J.  
KEYSER PhD GO TO:

[www.booksofffaith.info](http://www.booksofffaith.info)

or

[amazon.com/author/davidjkeyser](https://amazon.com/author/davidjkeyser)

---

<sup>1</sup> 28 And we know that [a]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Rom 8:28-30

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

<sup>3</sup> Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. Hebrews 13:9

<sup>4</sup> Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.



---

<sup>5</sup> Galatians 3:21 KJV Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

<sup>6</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight

---

paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. Hebrews 12:5-17 NKJV

<sup>7</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Hebrews 11:16-19 (NKJV)

---

<sup>8</sup> Strong's Number 3985 peirazó: to make proof of, to attempt, test, tempt "originally to test, to try which was its usual meaning in the ancient Greek and in the LXX. The word means either test or tempt. Context alone determines which sense is intended, or if both apply simultaneously." (Strong's Concordance, [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

---

<sup>9</sup> Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. James 1:12-15 (NKJV)

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:7-8 (NKJV)

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Matthew 17:18 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> I write to you, little children,  
Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.  
I write to you, fathers,  
Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.  
I write to you, young men,  
Because you have overcome the wicked one.  
I write to you, little children,

---

Because you have known the Father.  
I have written to you, fathers,  
Because you have known Him *who is* from  
the beginning.  
I have written to you, young men,  
Because you are strong, and the word of  
God abides in you,  
And you have overcome the wicked one. I  
John 2:12-14 (NKJV)