



Pastor Bob Hoekstra

**A Personal Message  
From  
Pastor Bob Hoekstra, Director  
INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY**

**P.O. Box 2868 Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868**

**IPM Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)**



**Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra**

November, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

The Lord has given us a new publication at IPM to distribute to inmates across the country -- DAY BY DAY BY GRACE: 90 Daily Devotionals on Growing in the Grace of God. This book which the Lord enabled me to write is our appreciation gift book for this month. Here is a sample taken from Day 35.

**Living by Grace: Humility and Faith**

*God resists the proud, but gives **grace** to the **humble**... through whom also we have **access by faith** into this **grace** in which we stand.* (James 4:6 and Romans 5:2)

**How** does a believer in Jesus Christ **access** the **ongoing, sanctifying grace** of God for **daily godliness**? It is accessed the **same way** that the **initial, justifying grace** of God was acquired – by **humility** and **faith**. We were justified, declared righteous in God’s sight, when we **humbly trusted** in the Lord Jesus. We **humbly** agreed with the Lord’s account of our guilty condition. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... For the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 3:23; 6:23a). We also put our **trust** in Christ concerning His offer of life (based upon His death and resurrection on our behalf). *“But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23b). Thereby we partook of the justifying grace of God through **humility** and **faith**. This is how the Lord wants us to continue to relate to Him for sanctifying grace.

Our God wants us to walk in **humility**, because **grace** is what we need for **growth in godly living**. Remember this great truth of grace: *“But **grow in the grace**... of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). If we are unwilling to walk in humility, we will not enjoy this wondrous sanctifying impact of grace, because *“**God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**”* When we live by self-sufficiency, God resists us. When we walk in humility, God gives us grace for living.

Our God also wants us to walk in **faith**, because faith accesses grace.

(over please)

“Through whom [Christ] also we have **access by faith** into this **grace** in which we stand.” We now stand in a kingdom that offers “grace upon grace” (John 1:16). Abundant grace is available for every step we are to take. This grace is partaken of by **faith**. Whenever we **trust** in the Lord Jesus concerning **any** issue of life, we are reaching by faith into God’s **unlimited** resources of grace, by which we are **enabled** to live **effectively**.

Hereby we see that living by grace involves two **relational realities: humility** and **faith**. We do not produce either. Neither one is a work. **Humility** admits we **cannot** do the **work** (of being holy, loving, perfect). **Faith** relies upon the **work** of **another**, the Lord Jesus Christ. These two attributes become **real** in our lives through a **growing relationship** with the Lord. The **more** we get to **know** the Lord Jesus Christ, to that degree **humility** and **faith** will become **realities** in our lives.

[A 365 day version of this book can be read online at our IPM Website (<[www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)>).]

Pray with us that the Lord will use this new publication in a tremendous manner in the hearts of humble, hungry prisoners. We have found that many inmates are exceedingly responsive to the grand message of God’s redeeming and transforming grace.

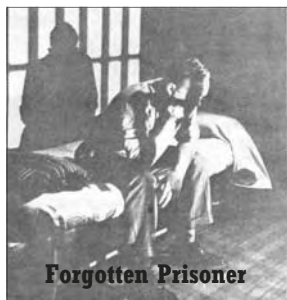
Giving Thanks unto God for His Glorious Redeeming Grace,

*Bob Hoekstra*

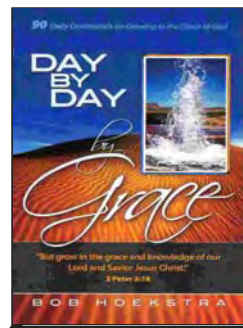
Pastor Bob Hoekstra

(for all of our “Chaplain Ray Family” and the IPM Team)

P. S. Remember, our appreciation gift book for this month is *DAY BY DAY BY GRACE: 90 Daily Devotionals on Growing in the Grace of God* (by yours truly).



“Grace upon Grace” (John 1:16)



# Reflecting on Grace: Humility and Faith

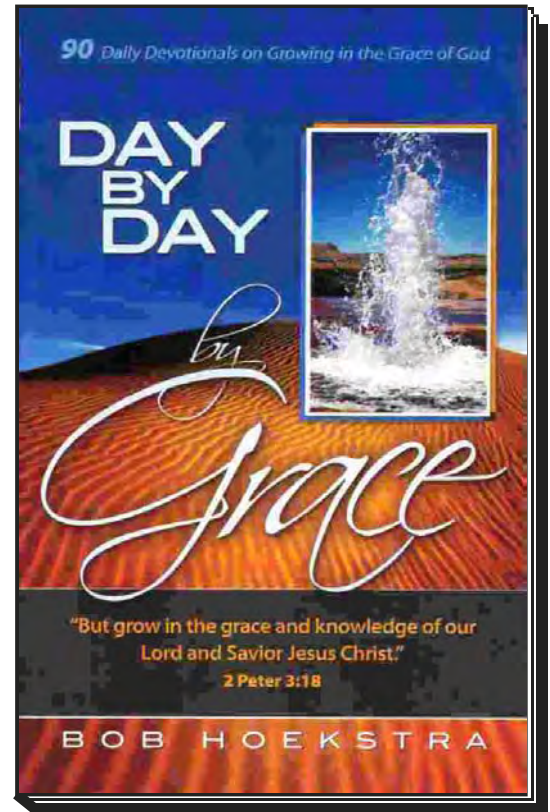
For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for **your** sakes He became **poor**, that **you** through His poverty might become **rich** . . . **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God** . . . "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**" (2 Corinthians 8:9; 3:5 and Luke 9:23)

Let's take a **reflective** look at **humility** and **faith**. We have repeatedly encountered these two relational realities. This is to be expected, since "God . . . gives **grace** to the **humble**" (James 4:6), and "we have **access by faith** into this **grace** in which we stand" (Romans 5:2).

In our first devotional study, humility and faith were evident. "For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for **your** sakes He became **poor**, that **you** through His poverty might become **rich.**" In order for Jesus to rescue us from our desperate situation, He had to become poor. When He hung on the cross for us, He took the spiritual poverty of our sin and guilt upon Himself. What a **humbling** picture of our inborn spiritual condition. Basically, we had to agree with the Lord, **humbling** ourselves before Him, asking for His help. Additionally, **faith** was involved. We had to **believe** that through His death, we could become spiritually rich, that is, forgiven of sin and righteous in His sight.

Humility and faith were later seen as vital for walking in this new life in Christ. "**Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.**" The sufficiency we need for Christian living does not originate in us. Actually, we must not think of "**anything as being from ourselves.**" How **humbling** to learn, even as born-again believers, that we need the Lord in everything. Then, how do we find the necessary resources? This is where **faith** applies. "Our **sufficiency is from God.**" This is **truth** that we are to **believe**.

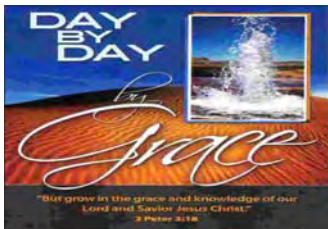
When we examined Christian discipleship, humility and faith again appeared. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me**" (Luke 9:23). Jesus' call to come and follow Him can only be received by



those who will say, "No to self" and "Death to self." This is **humiliating** to the self-life, to think it is not good enough, to admit that it belongs on the cross. This is especially **humbling** when we see that these are to be our daily confessions. The rest of the discipleship issue is settled by **faith**, trusting in Jesus each step of every day.

*Dear Heavenly Father, give me this perspective on the Christian life. Teach me, Lord, touch my heart, that I might be willing to walk humbly before You day by day. Build my faith, Lord, that I might depend upon You step by step throughout each day!*

Yes, Please Send Gift:



Bob Hoekstra

It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY  
Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- Use this gift for Bibles For Prisoners .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- "Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project" .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bibles and Books for Russia & India Prisons ...\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Use My Offering Where Needed Most.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: International Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 2868, Costa Mesa, CA 92628



# God's Grace Provides What Hopeless Prisoners Need.

**Michael A. from a Tennessee Prison wrote: "I appreciate your taking your time and reaching out to me and others in my situation. Your ministry is vital to men and women inside prisons and jails. We feel a lot of shame and are often filled with hopelessness. Thank you for all you do! May God bless you, your family, ministry and all else that you put your hand to."**

## Prisoner's Definition of Grace

Dear Pastor Bob, Grace, mercy and peace to you from God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the operation of the Holy Spirit. It is a blessing from God and when one thinks of the meaning, it is heart warming to think of God's goodness to us.

Grace is God giving us the good we do not deserve, and we can come up with a long list of those things everyday, both physically (breath, water, shelter) and spiritually (knowing Jesus and forgiveness of sin, the promise of eternal life, etc.).

The Bible study in your letter was real enlightening. I have been studying the Bible for a year and really like it -- good way to use my time and my brain. Please pray for me. I pray for you  
*Lamar J., California Prison*

*Grace is God freely providing for us (as we trust in the work of His Son) all that we will ever need, all that we will ever yearn for, all that He has commanded us to walk in and become -- realities that we could never produce on our own, could never earn, and could never deserve. Grace offers what every human desperately needs, but what God alone can provide.*  
*Pastor Bob Hoekstra*

## Asking for Grace in Time of Need

Dear Pastor Bob, I just finished reading "Murf the Surf" and it really got me thinking about my life. At the moment I am in a California prison all because of drug addiction. Since I have been in prison, I lost both parents to heroin overdoses and am real confused. I am a brother in Christ just beginning. I have more questions than answers. Could you help me? Please send more literature like Murf. God bless you.

*Darry W., California Prison*



## Prison Walls by Ruben R., Florida Prison

It was within these prison walls that Jesus made me see. Because within these prison walls Jesus came and set me FREE.

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

## Message or Prayer Request for IPM:

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