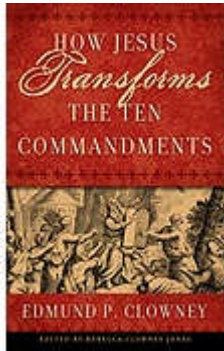


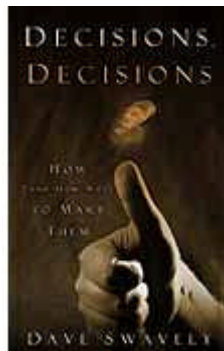
**Recommended Resources for Small Group & Personal Studies**



**How Jesus Transforms the Ten Commandments**

By: **Edmund Clowney**      *Study questions included*

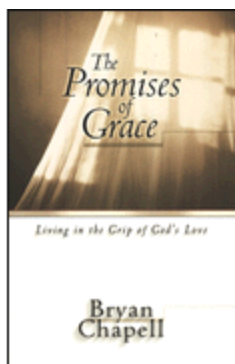
“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” For many Christians, conditioned to emphasize our freedom from the law, Jesus’ words seem strange, even incompatible with the gospel of grace. If Jesus did not abolish the law, then how should we look at the Ten Commandments today? Clowney explains how Jesus intensifies the law and expands its scope to every situation in life. But as the author did so often during his ministry, he goes further, finding Christ in the law and showing how he fulfills it for his people. Thus believers will learn more not only of God’s character revealed in the law, but also of the gospel with its focus on Christ. Divided into eleven chapters, each with study questions for reflection and application, this book is an ideal resource for group study and personal growth.



**Decisions, Decisions: *How (and How Not) to Make Them***

By **Dave Swavely**

Life is made up of more decisions than we can count. We face so many choices every day that often lead us to anxiety or desperation. Many people stumble this way and that because they do not ground their decisions in God’s Word. In this brief yet relentlessly biblical book, Swavely first shows us how not to make decisions and then reveals what biblical decision making is.



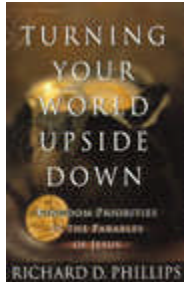
**The Promises of Grace** (Study of Romans 8)

By Bryan Chapell

God’s grace is a mystery, partially revealed through salvation, and increasing in the life of the committed Christian. It is unmeasured, unending, and undeserved. But do we really know what we have when God’s grace is showered on us?

*The Promises of Grace* offers a clear and thorough look at the beauty of grace and all it brings to believers - not physical prosperity but spiritual blessing. Bryan Chapell focuses on the promises you can expect God to fulfill - assurance of God’s love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, power in prayer, and perseverance in trial - through a study of Romans 8.

Broken down into 11 group or personal studies and illustrated by life stories, *The Promises of Grace* will help you discover what it means to live in the grip of God's love. Understanding the genuine benefits of his grace leads to a life that is "more satisfying and less selfish, more fulfilling and less driven, more peaceful and less guilt ridden.



### **Turning Your World Upside Down** (Study of the parables in Luke)

By Richard Phillips. The parables of Jesus pose a striking challenge to current thinking about personal relationships, money, security, and success. They search our hearts and try our attitudes, showing us the truth about ourselves and pointing the way God wants us to go. The parables confront our worldliness with the searching perspective of heaven- all the while deepening our understanding of salvation and the priorities of Christ our King. In short, they turn our world upside down. Richard Phillips shows how as he explores Jesus' parables of the sower, the rich fool, the lost treasure, and many more in these thirteen chapters. Discussion questions help make this book well suited to group or individual study.

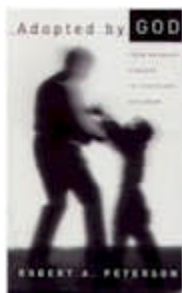


### **The Fruit of the Spirit** (Study of Gal. 5)

By John Sanderson. We have many yardsticks for measuring Christian greatness, but the fruit of the Spirit is not high on the list. We seem to prefer other forms of greatness. Yet the Scriptures place the highest value on the fruit. The studies in this book are an outgrowth of a series of sermons the author preached. His feeling is that there is a great need for this sort of teaching in the church today. Paperback.



**Holiness By Grace** By Bryan Chapell - PCA. In this challenging yet heartwarming work, Bryan Chapell illustrates the principles of grace, the practices of faith, and the motives of love in living a life of holiness. You will journey through reassuring Scripture passages that show good works and obedience to be, not a means of establishing or maintaining salvation, but a grateful response to God's mercy. (has study questions)



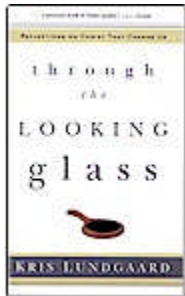
### **Adopted By God**

By Robert A Peterson. This is a sound, devotional, encouraging treatment of the doctrine of adoption. It draws from the Bible's use of family imagery rather than preconceived notions of fatherhood, adoption and sonship. It also gives comforting and compelling application of adoption to difficult life situations. (no study questions)



### **The Commandments of Christ**

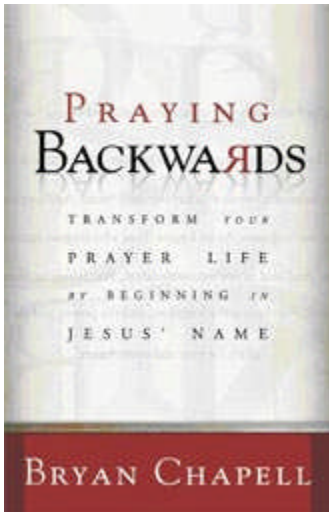
By Robert Beasley. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." With these world, Jesus clearly defined who are his true disciples. If we love the Savior, we'll want to do what pleases him. But how well do we understand what Jesus expects of us, and the difference his commands should make in our lives? (has study questions)



### **Through the Looking Glass**

By Kris Lundgaard. What makes your favorite hero shine in your eyes? Is it the courage of Indiana Jones swinging down into the snake-filled Well of the Souls? Is it the strength of Superman bringing to a screeching halt a locomotive that is bearing down on Lois and Jimmy? Is it the nobility of Shakespeare's Henry V inspiring his sorely outnumbered troops before the battle of Agincourt? Is it the wits of Sherlock Holmes dogging the trail of arch-villain Moriarty? Or is it the combination of fearlessness, muscle, dignity, and brains in Doc Savage, the consummate superhero?

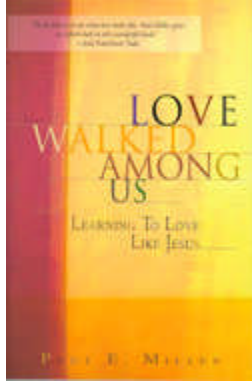
Whatever heroic traits pop into your mind, I suspect that obedience and suffering aren't among them. Yet it's in his obedience to God's law and his suffering the curse of that law for us that we see Christ as our conquering Hero. (has study questions)



### **Praying Backwards**

By: **Bryan Chapell**

"*Praying Backwards* introduces believers to the transforming process of *beginning* our prayers in Jesus' name--not by moving a simple phrase, but by understanding and embracing the meaning behind the phrase. To truly pray in Jesus' name is to reorder our priorities in prayer--and in life--away from ourselves and toward Jesus and his kingdom."

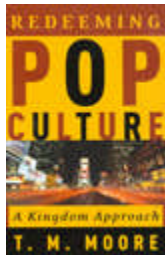


## Love Walked Among Us

By Paul E Miller.

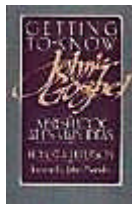
His name is recognized the world over. Christians claim to follow him. Muslims honor him as a prophet. And many Jewish rabbis regard him as a great teacher. Everyone knows about Jesus, but how many of us fully understand what he was like as a person? Nowhere was the vitality of Jesus more visible than in his love, a love unlike any the world has ever seen. Compassionate, honest, powerful, humble, and sacrificial- Jesus was love personified, love walking among us. Such an example doesn't just happen.

How did he do it? And how can we learn to love like him? In this book, Paul Miller invites us to get to know Jesus, to observe his life and his love as they unfold in the gospel narratives. The accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John combined with Miller's own life stories - will encourage us to imitate Jesus' way of loving people. We'll investigate such questions as: How do you love someone when you get no love in return, only withdrawal or ingratitude? How do you love when you have your own problems? When do you take care of yourself? When you are compassionate, people use you; but when you are honest, people get angry. So how do you love with both compassion and honesty? In every way, Jesus' life exemplifies the full potential of what we were intended to be. And the better we know him, the more we will be drawn to follow his perfect example. (no study questions but can get a study guide)



## Redeeming Pop Culture

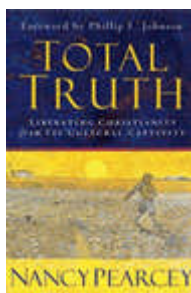
By T M Moore. T.M. Moore brings biblical insight and cultural awareness to questions surrounding pop culture in this readable book, complete with questions for study and discussion. He urges us neither to flee popular culture nor to follow it blindly. Pop culture presents countless opportunities for the alert, thinking Christian to glorify God through all that he has made. It also helps us understand a lost world and provides new avenues for communicating the gospel of the kingdom where people live.



## Getting to Know John's Gospel

By Robert A. Peterson

Building on the simplicity and depth of John's Gospel, this study is basic enough for the new believer and deep enough for the mature Christian. You'll become better equipped to present the gospel while strengthening your own faith. 13 lessons. (P&R Publishing)



## Total Truth by Nancy Pearcey

Does God belong in the public arena of politics, business, law, and education? Or is religion a private matter only—personally comforting but publicly irrelevant?

In today's cultural etiquette, it is not considered polite to mix public and private, or sacred and secular. This division is the single most potent force keeping Christianity contained in the private sphere—stripping it of its power to challenge and redeem the whole of culture.

In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey offers a razor-sharp analysis of the public/private split, explaining how it hamstrings our efforts at both personal and cultural renewal. Ultimately it reflects a division in the concept of truth itself, which functions as a gatekeeper, ruling Christian principles out of bounds in the public arena.

How can we unify our fragmented lives and recover spiritual power? With examples from the lives of real people, past and present, Pearcey teaches readers how to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity. She walks readers through practical, hands-on steps for crafting a full-orbed Christian worldview. Finally, she makes a passionate case that Christianity is not just religious truth but truth about total reality. It is total truth.

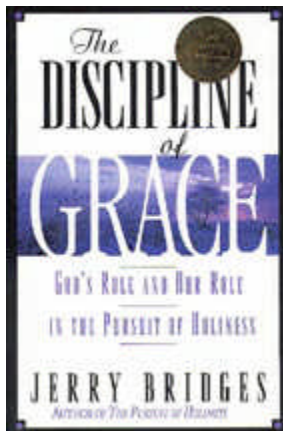


### **If God already Knows, Why Pray?**

*Douglas Kelly*

Knowing who God is - his character, his plans and why he wants us to pray - are essentials in building our understanding of prayer. Douglas Kelly is a distinguished theologian - he is well qualified to guide us both as a teacher and a fellow traveller, sharing his own setbacks and blessings.

One of the biggest questions about prayer is not 'How do you do it?' but rather 'Do we know who we are speaking to?'



### **The Discipline of Grace** (has a study guide)

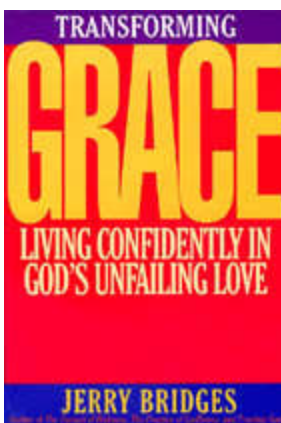
*Jerry Bridges*

#### **DOES LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE FEEL LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK?**

Remember that your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace, nor are your best days ever so good that you are beyond the need of it.

We know we need grace. Without it we'd never come to Christ in the first place, but being a Christian is more than just coming to Christ. It's about growing and becoming more like Jesus—it's about pursuing holiness. The pursuit of holiness is hard work, and that's where we turn from grace to discipline—and often make a big mistake.

Grace is every bit as important for growing as a Christian as it is for becoming a Christian. "The pursuit of holiness," writes Jerry Bridges, "must be anchored in the grace of God; otherwise it is doomed to failure." Grace is at the heart of the gospel, and without a clear understanding of the gospel and grace we can easily slip into a performance-based lifestyle that bears little resemblance to what the gospel offers us.



### **Transforming Grace** (*Discussion Guide is available also*)

By Jerry Bridges

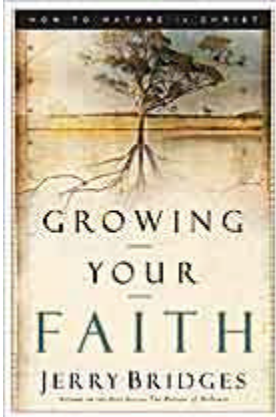
#### **GRACE—IT'S NOT JUST FOR BEGINNERS**

Funny how the exceeding riches of God's grace seem to run out the moment we're saved. From then on, we tend to base our relationship with Him on our performance rather than on His grace.

Of course, God continues to deal with us on the basis of His grace, whether or not we understand it. It's just that when we don't, we forgo the abundant freedoms that come from not having to measure up.

The product of over 10 years of Bible study, *Transforming Grace* is a fountainhead of

inspiration and renewal that will show you just how inexhaustible and generous God's grace really is—you'll never be able to ask for too much, need too much, hope for too much, or even sin too much. Like a never-ending stream of ocean waves crashing on the shore, His grace "superabounds" toward you without measure.



## **Growing Your Faith**

By Jerry Bridges

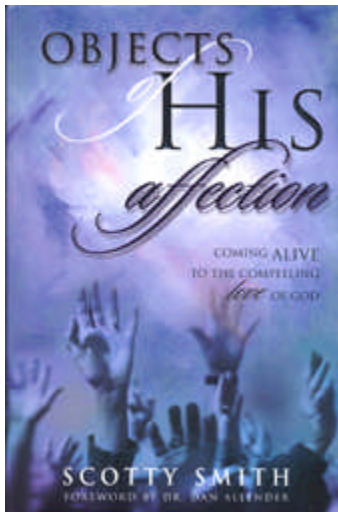
### **What does it mean to follow Christ?**

When we are gripped by the astonishing fact of Christ's love for us, we desire to draw close to Him. But what can we do to deepen our relationship with Jesus? What does He expect of us? And how can we be more like Him?

In *Growing Your Faith*, author Jerry Bridges, one of the most respected Bible teachers of our time, presents the essential elements of Christian life in a highly readable, surprisingly practical form. Jerry shows us how to:

- Feed our spiritual life through taking in the Scriptures
- Rely on the Holy Spirit in obedience and prayer
- Trust God during the trials of life
- Contribute our unique gifts to serve others

When we more fully open our hearts to the truth of His gospel and acknowledge the role of the Holy Spirit in our pursuit of holiness, we can make genuine progress in our spiritual lives. And that's a big part of what it means to follow Christ.



## **Objects of His Affection**

By Scotty Smith.

In this compelling book by a bestselling author, readers can discover the fascinating, far-reaching passion that burns for them within the heart of God. Smith's own journey to a relationship style that knows the delight and freedom of the love of God can guide readers as they break through barriers that hinder their relationships both in heaven and on earth.