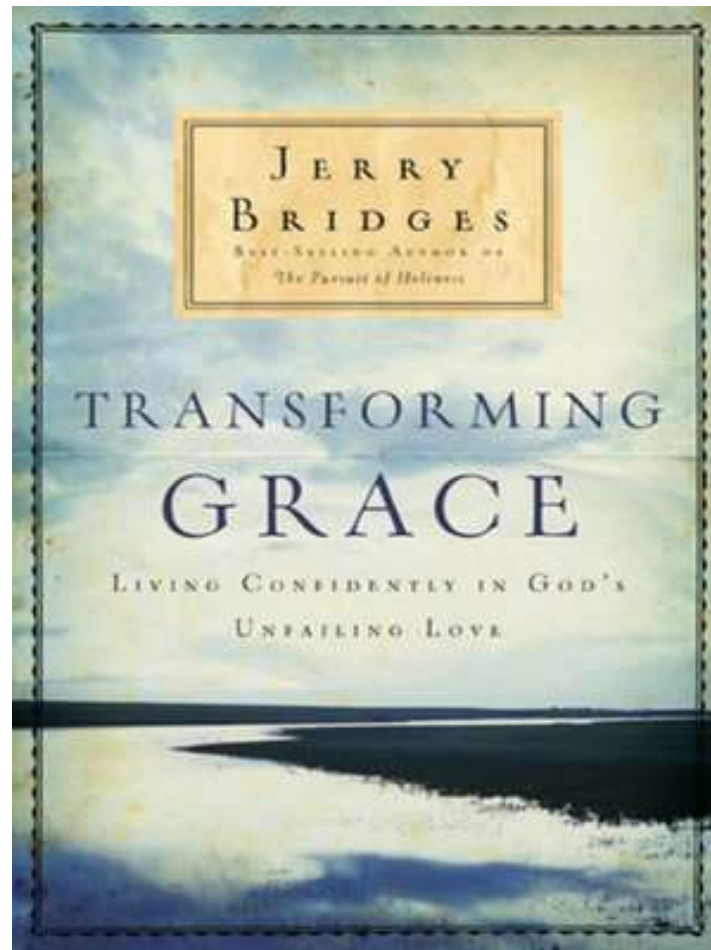
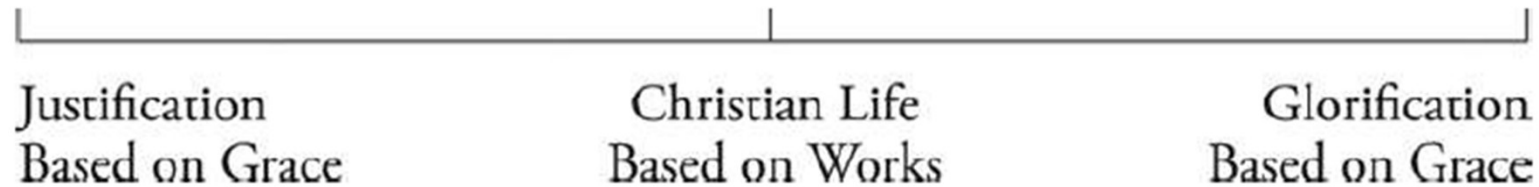


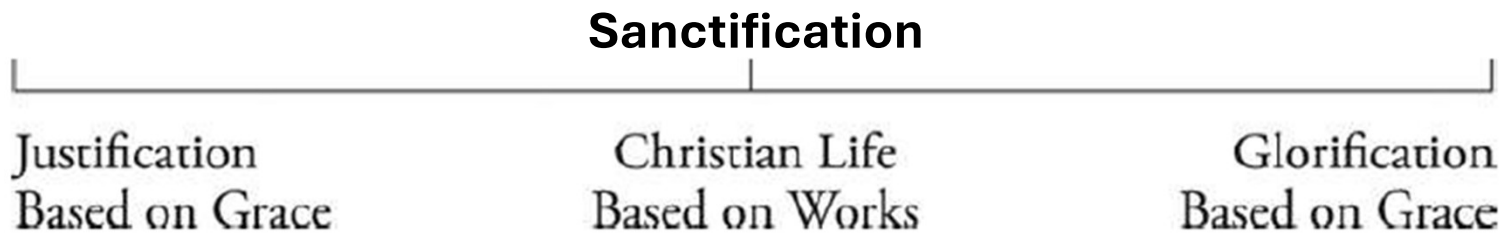


Chapter 1:
“The Performance Treadmill”

The Problem Jerry Bridges' Book is Tackling in Living the Christian Life

Sanctification

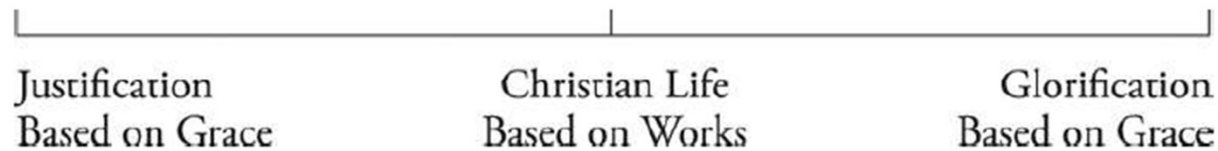




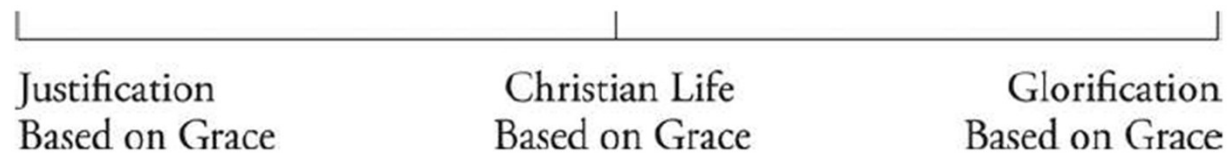
According to that illustration, our concept of the Christian life is a grace-works-grace sequence. The principal thesis of this book, however, and the truth I hope to demonstrate is that the illustration should look like this:



That is, the entire Christian life from start to completion is lived on the basis of God's grace to us through Christ.



According to that illustration, our concept of the Christian life is a grace-works-grace sequence. The principal thesis of this book, however, and the truth I hope to demonstrate is that the illustration should look like this:



That is, the entire Christian life from start to completion is lived on the basis of God's grace to us through Christ.

But how?

How does the grace of God lead us to living the Christian life not based on works, i.e., human-based ability driven Christian living and, consequently, to the “performance treadmill” that Jerry Bridges talks about?



Understanding the Work of God's Grace in Salvation and Sanctification

Whither Our Salvation

Monergism or Synergism?

Monergism

- * An act of God alone.

Synergism

- * A cooperative effort between God and humans.

Salvation: Monergism or Synergism?

Monergism

- * An act of God alone.

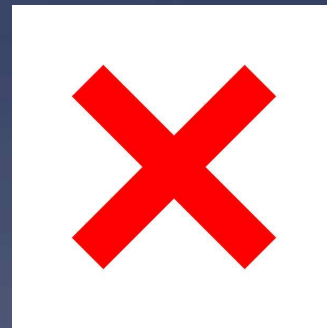
Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit



Synergism

- * A cooperative effort between God and humans.



We Have Put On Christ's Righteousness and God Sees now Us in Christ's Righteousness



We do not live the Christian life to earn this right standing with God. It is already secured by Christ on the cross. We stand in grace. Nothing can change our standing in Christ.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, having been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith
into this grace in which we stand;

Whither Our Sanctification

Monergism or Synergism?

Monergism

- * An act of God alone.

Synergism

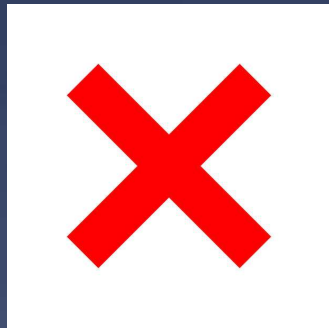
- * A cooperative effort between God and humans.

Whither Our Sanctification

Monergism or Synergism?

Monergism

- * An act of God alone.



Synergism

- * A cooperative effort between God and humans.

A Key Verse on Christian Sanctification: Philippians 2:12-13

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Sanctification: Monergism or Synergism?

Monergism

- * An act of God alone.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, **not because of works done by us in righteousness**, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Synergism

- * A cooperative effort between God and humans. The human participation is necessary.

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling

Sanctification: Monergism or Synergism?

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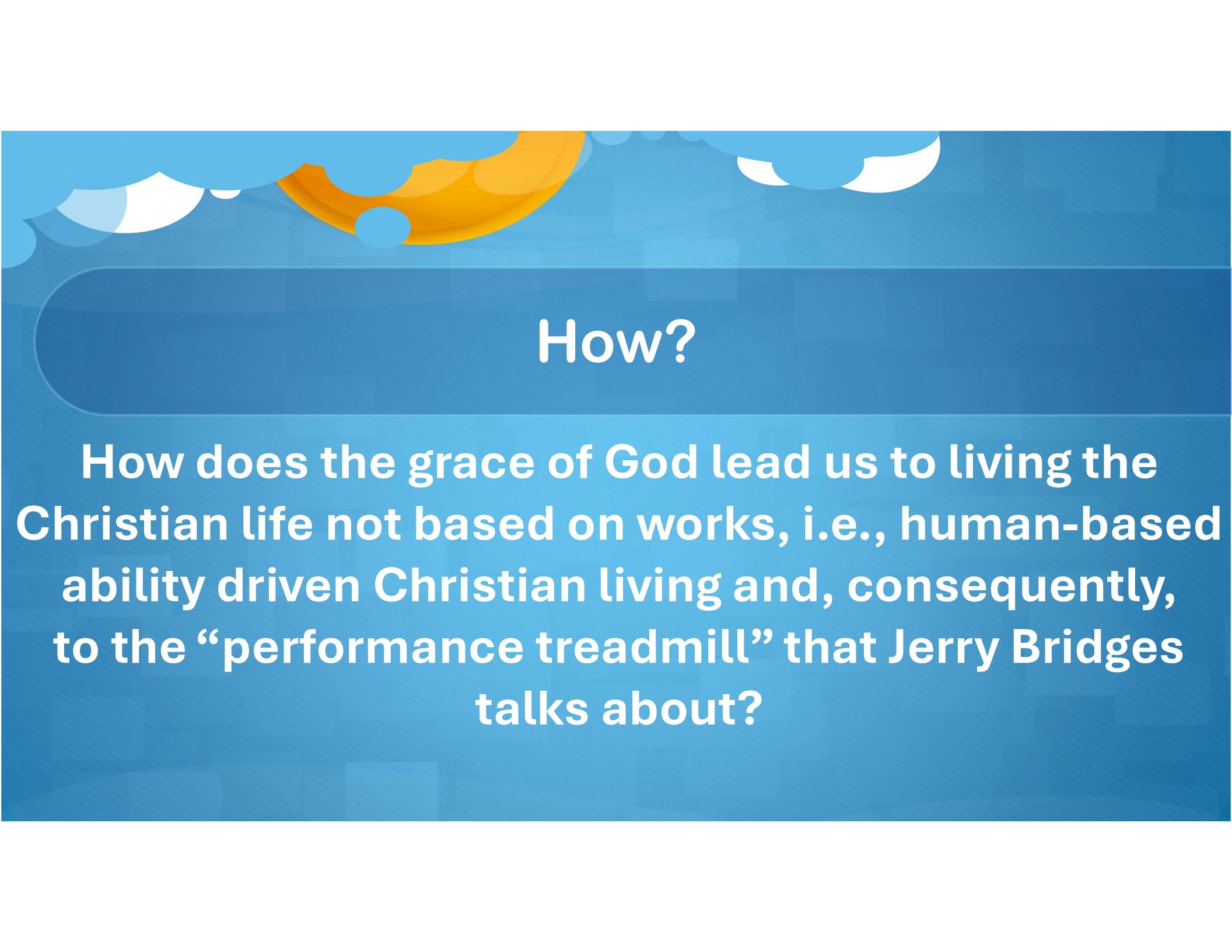
He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Synergism

- * A cooperative effort between God and humans.
- * But this cooperative effort (on the part of the human) is being motivated or empowered by God through what He has instilled or is stirring in the inner life of the believer by grace.

Philippians 2:13

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.



How?

How does the grace of God lead us to living the Christian life not based on works, i.e., human-based ability driven Christian living and, consequently, to the “performance treadmill” that Jerry Bridges talks about?

A THEOLOGICAL THOUGHT TO PONDER:

**WHAT WOULD CAUSE A PERSON
TO HAVE FAITH IN SUCH A RADICAL WAY
SO AS TO COMMIT HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO CHRIST IN
SANCTIFICATION?**

**WHAT WOULD BE THE INNER MOTIVATION FOR SUCH
A RADICAL SELF-GIVING?**

Living the Christian Life is the Constant Valuing of Jesus Above All Else to the Point of Obedience & Self-Sacrifice



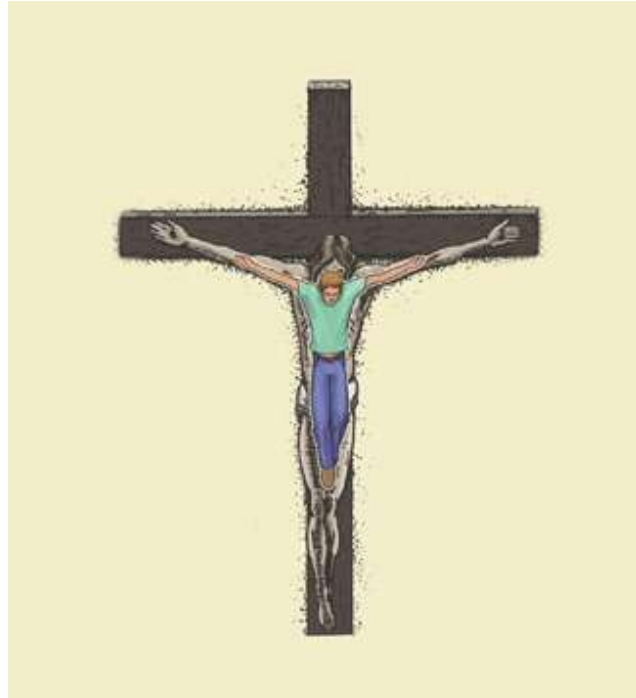
Parable of the Hidden Treasure
Matthew 13:44

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”



Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
Matthew 13:45-46

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

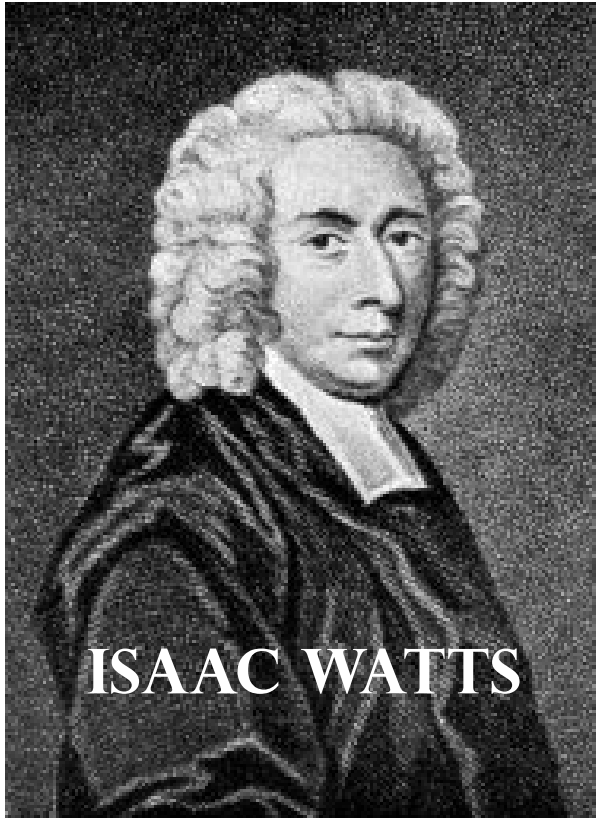


Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

**Living the Christian Life is the Constant Valuing of
God's Grace (Expressed in the Gift of Jesus Christ)
Above All Else to the Point of Obedience
& Self-Sacrifice:**

**The Holy Spirit Brings About This Inner Valuing of
Christ (who is God's Grace) in the life of the Believer**

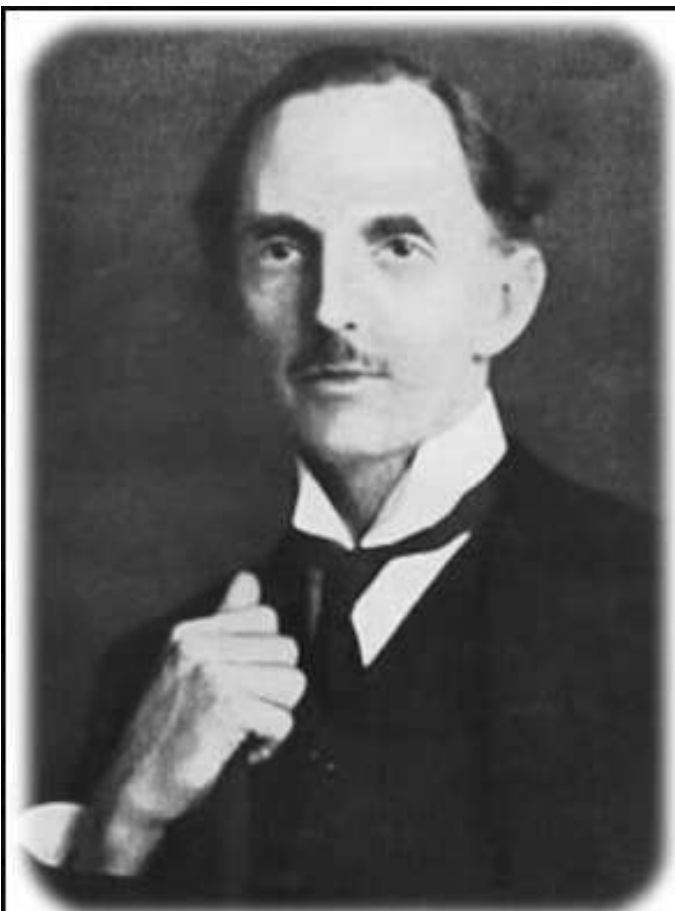


ISAAC WATTS

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain, I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.



If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.

— *Charles Studd* —

AZ QUOTES

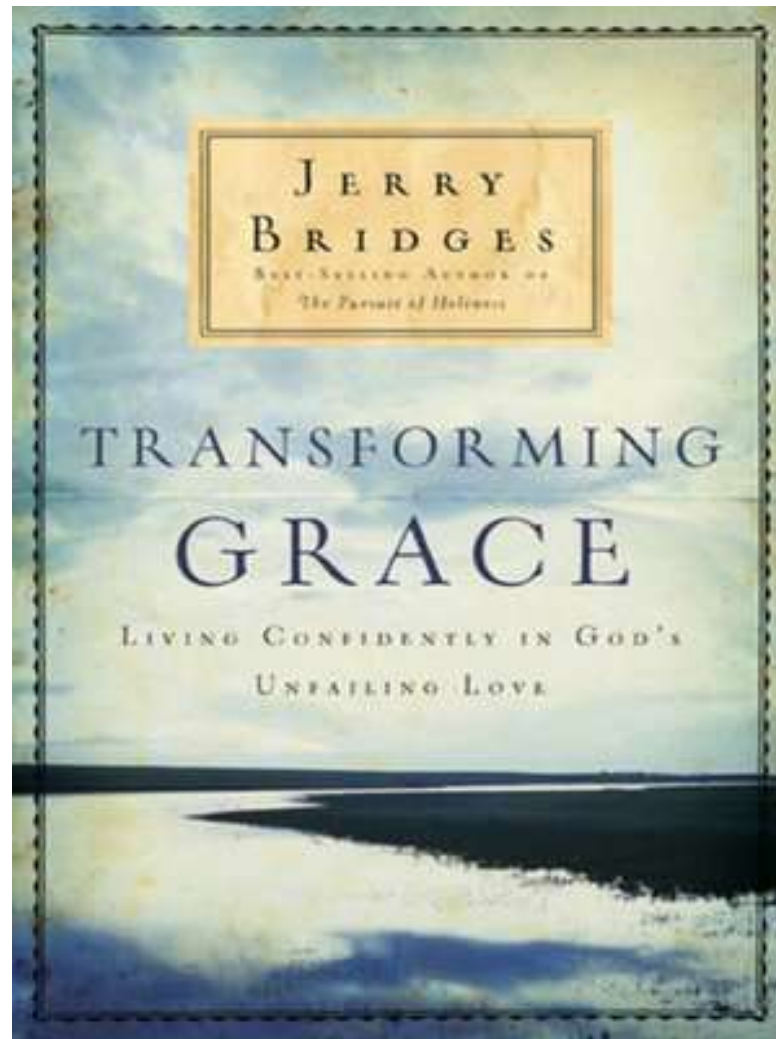
Summary:

There is a reactive quality to grace that is responsive to what God has given and what we have received from Him in Christ.

The more we see (or experience) the magnanimity of what God has given and what we have received in Christ, the more willingly and spontaneously we give of ourselves to Him in Christian living.

This is how the grace of God produce its inner, transformative change in the life of the believer after conversion.

This grace-motivated life then, breaks the mold of a “legalistic” or “coercive” form of Christian living. It sets us free from what Jerry Bridges calls “the performance treadmill”.



More to Come . . .