



# Growing by Grace

A Study in Personal Holiness

Daniel E. Dagan

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## **THE JOURNEY FROM JUSTIFICATION TO SANCTIFICATION**

*“I ask that you grant me the freedom and liberty to declare the fullness of the Word of God as He has so dealt with me. In turn I will grant you the freedom and liberty to take your time to study, think about and pray over these principles and practices of TRUTH. I trust that the Lord of heaven and earth will help us all to GROW BY HIS GRACE.”*

***Daniel E. Dagan***

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*After this is signed by our teachers, ministers and platform worship team, it is then turned in to the Senior Pastor, as an affirmation of your commitment to this bible teaching. As a group of leaders we renew these each year during our January season of fasting and prayer.*

# **An Introduction to “Growing by Grace”**

**(A study in personal holiness)**

**What is legalism, dogmatic teaching and bondage?  
I WILL ESTABLISH WHY THIS IS NOT THAT.**

**Legalism (def)** - strict, literal, or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code the institutionalized legalism that restricts free choice. *(Merriam Webster Dictionary)*

I define legalism as, *walking in the strictness of the letter of the law and the scriptures for the fear of the others. The prideful and self righteous Pharisees seem to impose heavy burdens upon people and never gave consideration to the grace filled PROCESS of sanctification.* (Matthew 23:1-6)

v. 4 “Bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders”

v. 5 “All their works they do for to be seen of men...and enlarge the borders of their garments”

**We should never declare we are “holier than thou”. (Isaiah 65:5) True holiness is rooted in submission and humility.**

Some will say this study goes too far and yet others will say it does not go far enough. Then, many others will appreciate this as a helpful personal study guide to establish stronger commitments to lifestyle practices and dedications. In all teaching settings, I strive to present the Word of God in a comprehensive and accurate way, LINE UPON LINE. I make a practice to be silent when the scriptures are silent on a subject. I also try to stop where the scriptures stop. We should NEVER add to or take away from the Word of God.

1. What does a Christian **act like**?
2. What does a Christian **talk like**?
3. How does a Christian **present themselves**?
4. Are there **different levels of Christian maturity**? If so, please explain.
5. Would you describe this **maturing as a “destination” or “a continuing process”**? If so, why?

# **Growing By Grace**

## **(A Study in Personal Holiness- The Foundation)**

### **Part 1**

## **SECTION 1**

### **THE AUTHOR'S GOALS OF THIS STUDY:**

1. Have Standards of Conduct without Stagnation.
2. Have a Practice of Holiness without Hypocrisy.
3. Have Compassion without Compromise.
4. To teach the scriptures accurately line upon line.
5. Establish principles that we can use to develop life practices.
6. To clearly define some of the elements of a Christian's walk and witness using an accurate APOSTOLIC approach to bible interpretation.
7. TO HELP BELIEVERS TO GROW DEEPER IN GOD THROUGH HIS WORD.
8. To declare, what I believe, the bible says on these subjects.
9. To strengthen those that are striving to walk in these truths.
10. To be faithful in teaching the WHOLE COUNSEL of God.

### **OPENING NOTES FROM THE AUTHOR:**

- All scripture references are King James Version unless otherwise noted.
- The teaching put forth in this study is what I believe the bible establishes as sound doctrine on these subjects. I offer them to you for your prayerful consideration.

### **BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:**

I am a first generation Apostolic Pentecostal. When I was playing Division I college football in Louisiana on a scholarship I was invited to a UPCI church for the first time. **Everything about it was "peculiar" to me.** Through a home bible study taught to me by a new convert and fellow football player, Chris Houston, God filled me with the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in other tongues. Shortly after, I was baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. My father in the Gospel was very patient and kind to me. Eventually, I begin to ask questions why this and why that? As with other subjects like the Oneness of God, New Birth, Family & Relationships, Gifts of the Spirit, Prayer and End Time Prophecy God gave me a great desire to understand holiness, modesty and sanctification. This study has been a work in process over the last several years of my walk with God and ministry, the majority of that time has been in the pastoral office. As a church planter and pastor, God has had to slowly stir wisdom into my spirit on how to handle these subjects. My lovely wife and co-laborer, DaVida, is a fourth generation Apostolic from Louisiana and she has been a great voice of balance and reasoning for me through the years. She has very strong, God given Apostolic convictions and beliefs. The Lord has now released me to share with others what I have taught for years to the church I have been honored to plant and pastor.

In this study, we will look at life style practices and the principles behind them. I will give a biblical explanation of where I stand and what I preach and teach on the subject of holiness and related areas of study. Furthermore, I will explain the importance of teaching these truths to my generation and those that following me. It has been my observation that a growing number of the younger ministers, under fifty, and down have neither a love for or an ability to teach these precious truths.

I am deeply concerned what will become of this great United Pentecostal Church if my generation of ministers do not get rooted and ground in these “LANDMARK” truths. Perhaps, through this study “GROWING BY GRACE” God would use a redeemed heathen to inspire others to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered”.

The bible has much to say about these subject. I have cross checked many bible translations, studied the original languages of the bible, closely examined textual settings and customs, incorporated assorted reference books and considered appropriate historical & cultural articles. The Lord has blessed my wife and I with a library of over 1,200 books. We have been highly favored by great Apostolic Elders that have invested into our lives. Personally, I have listened to, talked to and read a number of things that our Apostolic Forefathers and Elders have given us on this subject.

Suffice to say, it is equally wrong to “ADD TO” or “TAKE AWAY FROM” the Word of God. Eve added to what God said and went beyond even the stated requirements of God. (Genesis 2:17, 3:3) This, among other things, caused her and Adam to sin. Furthermore, we certainly do not need to take away from God’s holy word. Through this study I hope to present a *thorough, balanced and accurate approach* to the subjects of holiness, modesty and sanctification, “line upon line and precept upon precept”. (Isaiah 28:10; Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19)

## **NEW TESTAMENT APOSTOLIC CHURCH IS THE WAY! (Acts 2:42)**

- Ephesians 4:5 “One Lord, **One Faith** and One Baptism”
- John 10:1 “I say unto you, He that **entereth not by the door** into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”
- John 14:6 “I am **the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- Throughout the Book of Acts, Luke wrote of how the First Century Church viewed themselves and were viewed by others as **THE WAY**. (Acts 9:2, 18:25-26, 19:9, 19:23, **24:14, key verses in bold**)
- The New Testament Apostolic Church is INCLUSIVE (makes great effort to reach everyone without respect of persons) but the New Testament Apostolic Church is EXCLUSIVE in message. We literally believe YOU MUST OBEY ACTS 2:38 AND WALK IN THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD. (including holiness and separation)
  - Consider the “ONE WORLD CHURCH” that the False Prophet will set up during the seven years of Tribulation.
  - I have heard some preachers say “there are many paths and they all lead to eternal life, to each their own. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG.
  - I have observed pastors of MEGA CHURCHES in North America when asked if Jesus was the “only way” to eternal life, they paused and struggled to answer the question.
  - THERE IS A WAY OF TRUTH AND WE MUST FIND IT AND WALK IN IT!

## **SECTION 2**

### **THE NEED FOR HOLINESS TO BE TAUGHT:**



My wife has said that God has always dealt with her about this walk being a BEAUTIFUL path that is less traveled and few find it. True enough, it does have some gates and fences along the way and these are for our protection and safety.

They keep the sheep in and the wolves out. (Proverbs 16:6) This is the thought behind the front cover. *“In the spiritual world, there are also gates and fences that define our boundaries and provide structure and security for our lives.”* (Gates and Fences by Lori Wagner)

***Jewish Rabbis say more than Israel keeping the Sabbath, the Sabbath kept Israel!***

***In Haggai 2:12-14 we see that when the clean associates with the unclean this association does not instantly cause the unclean to become clean. But it can make the clean thing unclean. WE MUST COME OUT OF THE WORLD AND BE SEPARATE. We must love and reach the lost but we must remain separate from the world’s unholy influences. We DO NOT need to follow the multitude as they do evil. (Exodus 23:2)***

***As God was giving Ezekiel a glimpse of the Millennium Temple he declared that there is a “separation between the sanctuary and the profane place”. (Ezekiel 42:20, with 43:8, 44:23)***

***Our standards of separation and holiness “insulates” us from the world. We are in the world but not of the world. Our standards serve as safeguards and protections. Consider, in II Chronicles 20:21 when Judah and King Jehoshaphat was under a great attack from multiple enemies, he sent forth the worshippers in front of the army to “praise the beauty of holiness”. It was as if their worship and dedications of holiness were an offense and defense against their enemies. On that day GOD GAVE THEM A GREAT VICTORY!!!***

***When you come to God you make a LIFE COVENANT. He changes everything. (Hebrews 9:6-8)***

***“The Apostolic Church has always been at its best when we were NOT looking around at the culture but were looking to God.” Raymond Woodward***

The founder of the Methodist church, John Wesley, said “the neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness.” On the college campus when I was surrounded by every type of sin, my prayer life, among other things, enabled me to overcome temptation and develop a godly witness. Our desire to be separate from the world is directly tied to and inseparable from our desire to be more intimate with Jesus and to be more like Jesus.

When I was a teenager learning to drive all I worried about was *the boundaries lines* and I was always very nervous about making a mistake. I went back and forth all over the road. Now as an adult “mature” driver, I have learned to just relax and drive. I don’t worry about the lines. I have noticed that it is so much easier to stay in the lines when you just focus on getting to the destination (Heaven). As a believer, that is trying to live a life that is pleasing to God, you do not need to worry excessively about “where are the lines” just relax and enjoy the journey. Focus on your great reward in your heavenly home.

**Israel could not approach Mount Sinai OR touch it.**

***Exodus 19:11-13 (with Isaiah 42:9-24)***

***11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai.***

*12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:*

*13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.*

*Some things are sin and some are just weights.* (Romans 12:1) We won't be judged by God if we go further then is NECESSARY if we do it with a pure and humble spirit. What spiritual boundaries do you have in you life that are absolute? Notice the people were given the charge of guarding the glory of God. If someone touched the Mount GOD DIDN'T stone or shoot the violator but the people were given that charge. **We must guard God's glory.**

*Always remember it begins with the heart.* Have you considered God's servant, Job? Job had a hedge of protection around him because of his relationship and standing with God. The devil had to go to God before he could touch Job or HIS FAMILY!

Remember after the priests had sacrificed to God at the Brazen Altar at the Tabernacle of Moses, their next appointment was the brazen laver. They could not serve under the Tent of Meeting apart from washing at the laver. The laver represents a place and time of washing, cleansing, and sanctification.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. (Ephesians 5:26)

**Preachers must teach the word and allow it to SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE the saints.**

**Remember, the above verse was written to the Church, not the unsaved sinner.**

***THOSE THAT WANT TO BE USED ARE SEPERATED UNTO GOD!***

***Be ye holy for I the Lord am HOLY. (I Peter 1:15-16)***

Remember, God's word stood between Egypt (the life of slavery) and the people on their way to the promise land. It is a protection and safeguard. In China they built the Great Wall to keep enemies out but they forget to address the heart of the *gate keepers*.

**GATEKEEPER:** - porter, keepers of the: watch, door, gate, house, king's palace, wall, charge. As used in the KJV, porter has always the sense of doorkeeper, or gatekeeper, the term used in the NIV. In the later books of the OT, written after the building of the Temple, **the term is applied to the Levites who had the charge of the various entrances.** (I Chronicles 9:17; 15:18)

- Gate Keepers were "at the gates of the house of the Lord, that none which was unclean in anything should enter in". (I Chronicles 23:19)
- "And I said unto them, ***Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot (WHEN YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE WHAT YOUR ARE LETTING IN)***; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, and every one to be over against his house". (Nehemiah 7:3)
- Adam (the Man, later becomes the Husband and even later the Father) was put in the "GARDEN" to dress it and to keep it". (Genesis 2:15)
  - Dress it (defined) means to work or to do labor. (If a branch fell in the "inner garden" he had to clean it up)
    - We have TO WORK in God's kingdom.

- Keep it (defined) means to observe it, protect it and to watch over it. (I.E for evil or hurtful things)
- God has placed “GATEKEEPERS” in our churches and in our families so “that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having a spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be *holy and without blemish*.” (Ephesians 5:27)
- “And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest...” (Isaiah 24:2)
  - LEADERS NEED TO BE THE EXAMPLE!

**NICOLAITANS:** (def) -an early Christian heretical sect made up of followers of Nicolas, who MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE was the deacon of Acts 6:5. The group is mentioned explicitly only in Revelation 2:6, 14-15, where it is equated with a group holding "the doctrine of Balaam," who taught Israel "to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality." Balaam probably was responsible for the cohabitation of the men of Israel with the women of Moab (Numbers 25:1-2; 31:16). Therefore, the error of this group was moral rather than doctrinal. If the "Jezebel" of Revelation 2:20-23 was a teacher of this sect, as many believe, their sexual laxity was indeed strong. Most likely, they were a group of anti-law practitioners who supported a freedom that became self-indulgence. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Greek theologian Irenaeus acknowledges that Nicolas and the Nicolaitans taught that it was okay to “live life without restraint.” Nicolas also seemed to suggest the doctrine of Eternal Security, this was later credited to John Calvin. GOD SAID in Revelation 2:6 & 2:15 he hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. IF GOD IS ON THE RECORD OF SAYING HE HATED SOMETHING, HE STILL HATES IT!!!

**THIS WORLDLY CARNAL APPROACH TO LIFE STYLE PRACTICES AND BELIEFS MAY HAVE STARTED WITH NICOLAS, A MAN THAT ONCE WAS A STRONG APOSTOLIC BELIEVER!!!**

**This spreading of false doctrines must be CONFRONTED in love and wisdom through the teaching of “Sound Doctrine”, as Paul writes about in multiple places.**

**C.S. Lewis said “Freedom in a new cloak (cover) is still bondage.”**

**SOME “CHURCHES” ARE PROMISING LIBERTY AND PROMOTING THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS. They promise liberty but they themselves are under bondage.**

**II Peter 2:19**

On July 15, 2016 at the Florida District UPCI Camp Meeting Paul Mooney was the camp preacher. At present, he is the Assistant General Superintendent from the Eastern Zone of the UPCI. He is also the Senior Pastor of Calvary Tabernacle Church in Indianapolis, Indiana and serves as President of Indiana Bible College and Calvary Christian Schools. At this camp meeting he said *“I have traveled the world over many times and EVERY WHERE there is a resistance to preaching ABSOLUTES”*.

*Jesus came to BE AND BRING a reformation. (Hebrews 9:10)  
The word reformation here means to thoroughly straighten.*

*“The interconnection of all of our core beliefs is undeniable. Just as an understanding of the oneness of God leads to an understanding of Jesus Name baptism, so does a belief in the preaching of the transforming power of full salvation lead to a life of separation from the world. WITHOUT ONE, WE SOON LOSE THE OTHER”.* (Jerry Jones General Secretary-Treasurer of UPCI, August 2018, Pentecostal Life, page 42)