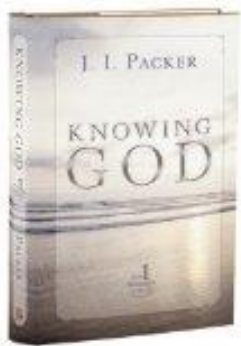
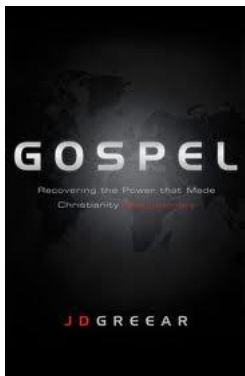


*'We are familiar with the thought that **our bodies are like machines, needing the right routine of food, rest and exercise if they are to run efficiently, and liable, if filled up with the wrong fuel—alcohol, drugs, poison—to lose their power of healthy functioning and ultimately to “seize up” entirely in physical death. What we are, perhaps, slower to grasp is that God wishes us to think of our souls in a similar way. As rational persons, we were made to bear God’s moral image—that is, our souls were made to “run” on the practice of worship, law-keeping, truthfulness, honesty, discipline, self-control, and service to God and our fellows. If we abandon these practices, not only do we incur guilt before God, we also progressively destroy our own souls. Conscience atrophies, the sense of shame dries up, one’s capacity for truthfulness, loyalty and honesty is eaten away, one’s character disintegrates. One not only becomes desperately miserable, one is steadily being dehumanized. This is one aspect of spiritual death.'***



J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Intervarsity Press), 127-128, emphasis added

*'Of course Paul knew, theoretically, that other people were every bit the sinner he was, but he was so much more aware of his sin than he was theirs. **When Paul thought about a need for grace, he didn't think of others first—he thought of himself.** Our counselor explained that both my wife and I saw one another, and not ourselves, as "the chief of sinners." I could see my wife's sin, but I was blissfully oblivious to my own. **If I had understood my own deep need for grace, I would have more naturally extended grace to her.** The counselor's next words exploded in my heart like a bombshell: "**When you really believe the gospel, you see that you are first a sinner and only secondarily sinned against. The problem in your marriage is that neither of you seems aware of how much you've been forgiven. Because you haven't really tasted grace, you won't extend grace to each other. You need to go back to the gospel.**" Our marriage problems were gospel problems.*



J.D. Greear, *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary* (B&H Publishing Group), 114-115, reflections on 1 Timothy 1:15, emphasis added