

**GROW IN THE GRACE
AND KNOWLEDGE OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST!**

**Aron Osborne
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I. “Final” Words For The Start Of A New Year

Why Do Many Christians Feel Guilty All of the Time?

“I know many, many Christians (including the one I see in the mirror) who easily feel bad for all the things they are not doing or are doing less than perfectly. In fact, I’m convinced most serious Christians live their lives with an

almost constant low-level sense
of guilt.

How do we feel guilty? Let me
count the ways. We could pray
more. We aren't bold enough in
evangelism. We like sports too
much. We watch movies and
television too often. Our quiet
times are too short or too

sporadic. We don't give enough.

We bought a new couch. We don't read to our kids enough. Our kids eat Cheetos and french fries. We don't recycle enough. We need to lose 20 pounds. We could use our time better. We could live some place harder or in something smaller.

What do we do with all this behind the scenes guilt? We don't feel stop-dead-in-our-tracks kind of remorse for these things. But these shortcomings can have a cumulative effect whereby even the mature Christian can feel like he's rather disappointing to God, maybe just barely

Christian. Here's the tricky part: we should feel guilty sometimes, because sometimes we are guilty of sin. Moreover, complacency as Christians is a real danger, especially in America.

But yet, I don't believe God redeemed us through the blood of his Son that we might feel like

constant failures. Do Peter and John post-Pentecost seem racked with self-loathing and introspective fear? Does Paul seem constantly concerned that he could be doing more? Amazingly enough, Paul actually says at one point “I am not aware of anything against

myself” (1 Cor. 4:4). He’s quick to add, “I am not thereby acquitted.

It is the Lord who judges me.”

But it sure seems like Paul put his head on the pillow at night with a clean conscience. So why do so many Christians feel guilty all the time?”

~ Kevin DeYoung
TGC Blog

“But grow in the grace
and knowledge of our
Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ.”

~ 2 Peter 3:18

2 Peter 3:14-18

“Peter’s great desire for these people and for us is that we might experience lots and lots of God’s grace; that we might suck it up through our roots and grow by it; that we might soak it in like sunshine through our leaves and grow by it.”

~ John Piper
Sermon

II. Grow In Grace!

“We forget that we have been made alive together with Christ. We have been raised with him. We have been saved through faith alone. And this is the gift of God, not a result of works (Eph 2:4-8). We can be so scared of antinomianism, which is a legitimate danger that we

are afraid to speak too lavishly of God's grace. But if we've never been charged with being antinomian, we probably haven't presented the gospel in all its scandalous glory (Rom. 6:1). So we see Christlikeness as something we are royally screwing up, when we

should see it as something we
already possess...”

~ Kevin DeYoung
TGC Blog

“Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.”

~ John 14:27

II. Grow In Grace!

**A. I am not doing
enough.**

II. Grow In Grace!

**A. I am not doing
enough.**

**B. If we do sin, then
repent!**

“If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”

~ 1 John 1:9

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

~ Romans 8:1-2

**C. These things are
hard to
understand.**

III. Grow In Knowledge!

“...the *surpassing* (better, exceeding, outdoing) worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

~ Philippians 3:8

“I am a spirit come from God and
returning to God; just hovering
over a great gulf; ‘til a few
moments hence I am no more
seen; I drop into an
unchangeable eternity! I want to
know one thing – the way to
heaven...He has written it down
in a book.

O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be *homo unius libri* (a man of one book). O that we might be a people of the book.”

~ John Wesley
Standard Sermons

”The *grace* of our Lord
Jesus be with you all.
Amen.”

~ Revelation 22:21

“Christians in a past day
sometimes spoke about ‘living
below the level of our privileges’.
Growing stronger in living for
Christ depends on understanding
and entering into all of the
privileges that are ours in Christ.”

~ Sinclair Ferguson
In Christ Alone, pg. 111

“You are in me, and I
am in you.”

~ John 14:20

“By this we know that
He abides in us, by the
Spirit whom He has
given us.”

~ 1 John 3:24

“In him we have obtained an inheritance...in him you were...sealed with promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance...”

~ Ephesians 1:11-14

