

UNLIMITED

NEWSLETTER

ACCEPTANCE

HOW TO ACHIEVE SELF-ACCEPTANCE

People often say you have to learn to accept yourself. I've struggled deeply with self-acceptance all my life.

To the world, accepting yourself means becoming comfortable with who you are, how you are, or what you look like. It can also mean being comfortable with how you are today, including your particular personality traits, whether they be positive or negative, and with the poor choices you have made for yourself.

This doesn't agree with the Bible's strong emphasis on the moral corruption of humanity. The human heart is "[m]ore deceitful than all else. And is desperately sick..." (Jer 17:9); and we are all "...sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Ps 51:5).

Even at our very best, these words remain true: "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..." (Isa 64:6).

Christians are easily tempted to focus on the trite pop-psychology slogans of the world as though they represent Christianity. They don't. The Christian message starts with the fundamental premise that we aren't good enough, and we need a Saviour.

How can you accept yourself when you know your own wrong desires, weaknesses, and failures better than anyone? Society tells you to find acceptance *within yourself*. You can't. All you will ever find there are delusional self-justifications of your faults. More fundamentally, how can you see the inherent value of another human being, if they are just like you?

Here is the key: Acceptance can only be found *outside of yourself*. Christianity tells us no matter how flawed we may be, we are deeply loved by God. So much that he sent Jesus to this world to be the representative and substitute of us all. He lived the perfect life, died so all sin could be forgiven, then...

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"...because Jesus was accepted, we are accepted in him..."

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GROW IN GRACE: The Book of Romans, Part 9

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” ▼ Romans 1:16-17 NIV

The Key to Romans

If we can understand the key verses of Romans 1:16-17, we'll be saved from doubts, despair, defeats, and disappointments.

These dark and terrible things are the result of not understanding the Book, the Bible. “You make mistakes because you do not know the Scripture,” says Christ. “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God” (Matthew 22:29 NIV and Mark 12:24).

“You sin, you miss the mark,” says Paul, “because you don't know God who's revealed in the Scriptures.” “Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God - I say this to your shame” (1 Corinthians 15:34)

Notice again the introduction verses 16 and 17:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17 NIV)

Luther's Experience

Luther said, “I pondered this passage night and day. What is the connection between the gospel, the ‘righteousness from God’ and ‘the just shall live by faith?’” He said, “I hated the passage. How could God be just and yet demand of me, a sinner, from conception, that I should love him? I hated God.”

Luther would confess his sins to other monks as much as six hours a day. Finally, his abbot confessed to Luther, “Martin, Martin, it is you who is angry with God. God is not angry with you.” The wise old priest was right.

Martin saw in this passage in Romans that a righteous God demands that we should love him with all our hearts, minds, and souls. In other words, God demanded an impossibility, because we're not righteous. Luther hated that inconsistency.

One day the light burst through. Martin said:

*The gates of paradise were thrown open. I was born anew. I found the key to the whole Bible. I saw that this ‘righteousness of God’ was a **gift** from God. It was given into the hand of faith of all who felt their need of Jesus. This is the gospel - the good news....I was a new man. The Bible was a new book. I had found paradise.*

A Gift for Faith

Now, dear friends, that is the essence of the Christian faith: What you and I don't have by nature, what we can't develop, what we can't earn, is God's gift for the beggar's hand of faith.

A child's hand doesn't earn the apple placed in it. The child's hand doesn't make the apple, or deserve the apple. It just takes the apple. That's what faith is.

Faith is not something you have to work up. Faith is not something achieved by psychological striving, or by logical reasoning. Faith is God's gift to those who hear that God loved them enough to die for them. If you don't oppose that, if you don't resist the gospel, faith is born and reigns.

Faith takes, faith receives. All good things are given into the hands of faith.

▼ DES FORD

To be continued: This series of articles on the Book of Romans was first published in 1995, and is being reproduced serially in Unlimited Newsletter.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Devotional Videos To Spread Gospel In Solomon Islands

Good News Unlimited is excited to work with Pr Jeremiah to spread the Gospel in the Solomon Islands! He will translate GNU resources into Solomon Islands Pijin and share them as devotional videos on Facebook. He says,

I look forward to working closely with you guys and I believe God is going to open doors here in the Solomon Islands.

Pr Jeremiah uses media in various ways to share the Gospel. Currently, he does Friday night preaching at YWAM Solomon's Livestreaming page. God has been doing great things through this ministry. Many have expressed their gratitude with him for his preaching there, and shared how their lives have been touched.



In addition, he's created and managed a number of social media pages, including Islands Bible College Facebook Page, SIKOS Mission History (SSEC Mission History Page) and Kwara'ae Vernacular. He says,

The viewers of these different media platforms ranged from 1000 to 20,000. This is my current targeted audience for the videos plus other social media pages I joined as a member.

Each devotional video Pr Jeremiah makes will be five to ten minutes long. There are many illiterate people in the provinces and through this ministry the Good News can reach them in videos in their language. He says,

I am so thankful to GNU for giving me permission to use the resources on your website to share with my people here in the Solomon Islands....on social media so that my people... can see it and even hear it. And I believe the Word of God will transform hearts and lives.

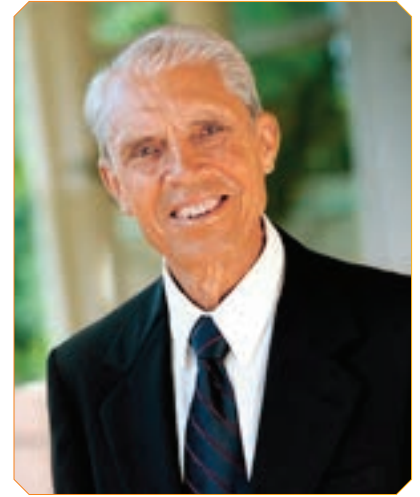
▼ ELLA RODIONOFF

LET DES FORD'S VOICE BE HEARD AGAIN!

During his long lifetime, Desmond Ford's voice was heard strongly for the Gospel, not just through his many print articles and books, but also on radio in Australia and across the United States. Even though his writing was powerful, his preaching was even more so. Many people remember him filling venues past overflowing with people who were thirsting to hear "the good, glad and merry tidings that make a man's heart to sing and his feet to dance for joy."

When Desmond Ford fell asleep in Jesus in 2019, some people thought that his voice would be no longer heard. However, that was not to be, for his ministry continues through the work of Good News Unlimited.

Today, Des' proclamation of the Gospel is being heard by more people and in more countries than ever before. This work is supported by those who understand that if we have feasted at the banquet of salvation, then we must share the feast with others.



As Jesus said, "Freely you have received; freely give" (Mat 10:8)

A recent initiative is Good News Unlimited Radio, in which the main speaker is Dr Desmond Ford. We have been progressively curating all the audio recordings we have of Des' preaching, and placing them on this platform. Here, you can hear them in a radio format that makes Des' Gospel preaching accessible to a more global and contemporary audience.

Good News Unlimited Radio is a digital radio station, which means that you can hear it on any digital device, such as your phone or computer. Last month, people heard the Gospel through Good News Unlimited Radio from the USA to the Solomon Islands, and from Singapore to Liberia!

Every month, more and more people are discovering Good News Unlimited Radio. Have you? If you haven't, you can find it on goodnewsunlimited.com on the top right of the homepage: "Listen to the Latest from GNU Radio". If you have discovered it, please tell others so more and more people can tune in.

Try the GNU App

Now you can take GNU with you everywhere and easily share the Good News with others!

The GNU App makes much of GNU's content easily accessible to anyone with a smart phone. You can even listen to GNU radio on it.

For Android devices, the GNU App is available for free download from the Google Play store. For Apple devices, it's available for free download from the Apple store.

Through these initiatives we hope to reach entirely new audiences with the message of salvation through Jesus.



my gift to spread Good News fast

Eliezer, I want to give a gift so everyone can find hope for the future in Jesus Christ.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.

Giving people
a future and
a hope...

▼ Jeremiah 29:11

HOW TO ACHIEVE SELF-ACCEPTANCE

(Continued from page 1)

...rose triumphantly so death itself should die.

We could have done none of this for ourselves. Jesus did them *for us* and because Jesus was accepted, we are accepted in him; "accepted in the Beloved" (Eph 1:6.)

Trying to find self-acceptance without Jesus leads to frustration and despair. However, when we ground the core of our identity in Jesus who made us acceptable before God, we are truly free. Through Jesus, I am accepted, so I can accept myself. If Jesus has forgiven me, then so can I. If Jesus has accepted others, then so can I.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**



FAITH UNDER PRESSURE

From Eliezer
TO YOU

As I sit here today, I am reflecting on how best to cope under pressure.

At the moment, I am facing some health issues and financial issues, and I am feeling overwhelmed. I am not that kind of ministry leader who will pretend that everything is great when it isn't.

In recent weeks, I have been busily reorganising my employment arrangements with GNU, to minimise the financial burden of my employment, so that GNU can continue to serve the world through the message of the Gospel. I have been trimming down as much as can be trimmed down in our ministry.

GNU is still financially OK but given the very significant downturn in donations over the last nine months or so, we want to ensure the ministry's strength going forward. (I have also been seeing a lot of medical specialists.)

Of course, I really am no different from you. I know that it is easy for you too to feel overwhelmed by the challenges of life. We all face loss, disappointment, and the challenges of health and finances.

A very wise lady recently told me to simply serve God and leave the outcomes to him. They are his responsibility and not mine. That's what faith is all about. I take consolation that although I consider myself to be a person of little faith, sometimes in the stories of Jesus, it's those with that little faith, and who don't let go, who receive the greatest blessings.

And so, I will simply choose to continue to serve the Lord and to leave the outcomes to him.

That's probably the best advice for all of us as we face the dilemmas of life.

Grace and Peace



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Ref: Initial, Surname, & 'Donation' Swift Code: WPACAU2S (for international transfers)

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You can also give securely online at: goodnewsunlimited.com/donate

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