

AM I
GOOD
ENOUGH?

**LEARNING TO LIVE
BY GOD'S GRACE**

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PREFACE

There is a deep need in human circles to grasp the importance of grace. Many are deprived of the joy that could be theirs because they are still trying to somehow earn God's love. They continually ask themselves, "Am I good enough to be saved, or to earn God's favor?" I also see a need to comprehend the full benefits of our salvation in Christ.

These Bible studies cover some of the most basic doctrines of the Christian faith, focusing on grace. The purpose is to make some very profound biblical doctrines easy to understand.

I would like to thank Erika O'Shee for the line drawings, and especially my wife, Angélica, for encouraging me to write the lessons, and for helping to edit them.

The New International Version was used where the Bible is quoted.

May God's GRACE abound in deepening the faith of many people through the study of these lessons!

Viña del Mar, Chile, 1992

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION IN ENGLISH

Over the last twenty years, I have been amazed at the unusual things the Lord has done with this study. For example, it has been translated into Vietnamese, Quechua (Peru and Ecuador), and Bislama (Vanuatu, in the South Pacific), not exactly the languages you might expect! In Peru, a man is using the booklet in a Bible study with people from India! Cuba is experiencing a great revival, and many have used the study¹ in home cell groups across the island. I believe the Lord is making some very unusual cross-cultural connections in our day, and I am overjoyed that this booklet has been a tool for people to come to know Christ and grow in their faith. This has encouraged me to re-edit a second edition in English.

Sue Yarbrough has kindly done some new graphics for the first pages of each chapter. I have also added some introductory readings to each lesson. The rest of the content remains the same.

Miami, 2008

¹ ¿Cuán Bueno Debo Ser? in Spanish, the language in which I first wrote it.

IS GOD LIKE A LIGHT BULB TO YOU?

"Do you believe in God?," I finally dared to ask my friend, after years of being afraid of his answer. He had never recovered his faith since the class he took in philosophy. The professor declared that he would try to convince us all that God did not exist, and he apparently succeeded with my friend.

"What do you mean? What kind of God?"

"A personal God, you know, one who answers prayers," I explained.

"God has never answered any of my prayers. I have seen just as many answers by praying to the light bulb on the ceiling!"

I would have preferred a dagger in my stomach. It saddened me deeply, because I realized that he didn't know God. Although he had grown up in a Christian family, and had attended church twice every Sunday for his whole youth, he didn't have a personal relationship with the Lord.

For many people, God seems far away and impersonal. They feel just as close to a light bulb. How about you?

These lessons will show you that the Bible reveals a God who loves us, relates to us, hears us, speaks to us, and takes care of us. Nothing is more important than developing a personal relationship with God.

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