

# Grace, Vision, Action

by George Verwer

---

*The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a big picture and trusting God to accomplish great things, and challenges listeners to get out of their comfort zones and live a life of obedience and faithfulness.*

**Duration:** 44:57

**Scripture:** Romans 12:1, Revelation 3:14

**Topics:** "Vision"

---

## Description

In this sermon, the speaker, George Verwer, shares his admiration for the energy and dedication of those who spread the gospel. He emphasizes the importance of being passionate and committed to the mission of sharing God's word. Verwer also highlights the need for self-reflection and repentance, using the analogy of lukewarm water being spit out of God's mouth. He encourages listeners to seek spiritual wealth and clarity through God's discipline and correction. The sermon concludes with a reminder that Jesus loves and forgives even when we make mistakes, and the importance of being open to God's calling and committing to serve Him.

---

## Transcript

They had a big mission fest here, it was awesome. And George Verver spoke last night. Amazing guy, he'll go to any part of the world and share the gospel with anyone.

He has been in the ministry for over 50 years I believe. There's a little bio in your bulletin there. The guy's got lots of energy, I love it.

I always see people that are a model when I get older, not saying you're real old there George, but a little older that I want to be able to have that kind of energy. He gets up in the morning early, he goes for walks, he prays, he gets on his computer, he's writing people, he's praying with people and imparting the gospel. His ministry imparts the gospel to millions of people.

They've been touched by this. You know, we Alaskans like our boats. We all have either river boats or we all head to Valdez, but we love boats.

Well, George doesn't have boats, he has ships. And these big ships go around the world. They go to different places where the gospel is needed.

They've been to as many as 140 countries, 1,100 ports, and had over 35 million people visiting their ships. They sell books on the ships. They send teams out.

It's fantastic. It's just one of the missions throughout this world. There's all different ministries to reach everybody.

Everybody has their own way to reach somebody. And this is the vision that was implanted in George. He's an advocate for worldwide globalization of the gospel of Christ.

George is a picture of a man with a vision for Christ and wanting to impart that on all of us and all around us. And we're going to bring him on up. George, come on up.

Amen. Jesus said, Go into all the world, preach the gospel to every person. This meeting this morning is not about George Verwer.

Yeah, I've been at it for a long time, and so God has been merciful, and He's used me for His kingdom. It's okay to talk about that. God uses people.

The Bible is all about people. Did that finish at the end of Revelation? No. And one of the greatest joys in my life is to meet amazing people, and I've met some right here in Fairbanks.

And you can be sure all over the world I'll be talking about Fairbanks. We've already done a blog of me on a dog sled. Mushing.

Is it called mushing? I'll have to come back and try that again, at least pronouncing it. And we're just aware that this is a Jesus thing. Just before He ascended into heaven, He said, When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, even the uttermost part of the earth.

By nature, we're naturally small-picture people. We've got to do little things in the morning, and take care of our health, and make sure our car is going to start. And it's okay to be a small-picture person.

It's a matter of balance. But we also need to be big-picture people. We need to see what God is doing around the world.

We need to see the greatness of God, who created all these galaxies, and black holes, and supernovas, and all these things that we read about. And who's doing great things in the world today. In fact, in the world today, we're in the midst of the greatest harvest of people to Jesus the world has ever known.

More have come to Christ in the last hundred years than the previous 1,900, because partly due to a population explosion. In China alone, there are probably 70 million worshipping Jesus. In other countries like India, where we're working among the untouchables.

We work among many groups in India, but especially among the untouchables. 200 million untouchables, treated worse than slaves in America a hundred years ago. Great cover-up, that this is not really a problem, has been exposed.

And now hundreds of thousands of untouchables are coming to Jesus in Operation Mobilization. We're only one of many agencies God has raised up. People sent out by their local churches.

That's the sending agent. Work in fellowship with OM to get a specific job done, and then birth other churches. And in India, we've birthed 2,500 new churches in three years.

We want you to have a big picture this morning, and I think it will help you in the small picture. You know, I've never had a non-motivating day. I meet people who are boring.

I just look at them and maybe try to get their autograph. I've never had a boring day since Jesus came into my life. Now, I've had boring hours and boring minutes.

And at my age, my wife and I are actually appreciating a few boring hours, especially her. And I have to confess, I have met a lot of boring people, and it should not be. And how is it that the church is often filled with non-creative, boring people who are not willing to take risks, who are not willing to get out of the box? So many want to stay in the box.

Stay in their comfort zone. God wants us to get out of the box and to trust Him and to believe Him for great things. A verse that God especially put on my heart this morning, maybe it's for me because I do, if I'm honest, have a lot of things that are burdening me.

I talked to one of my closest friends who's going through real deep problems right now. I have a son who just walked away from everything he's ever been taught. I have a lot of burdens, and I guess I have had them most of my life.

But God gave me that verse in Peter, and I just love it. It's just helped me through many a crisis. Casting every care upon Him because He cares for you.

Some of you, you're carrying burdens this morning. Be honest. You don't have to tell me.

You can just tell God. Something's bothering you, maybe in the area of money or romance, employment, maybe family. You need to lay that.

Lay that at Jesus' feet. Casting every care upon Him. He cares for you.

He cares for you. The God of creation loves you, and He wants you to cast that burden upon Him. I answered the phone one morning and discovered through that phone call that our ship, the first ship that I ever purchased, that I lived on, fortunately we had had it for 17 years.

But that phone call reported that the ship was lost as it hit a rock way down in the southern part of the Beagle Channel. There it is right down here. Lagos 1. I began to weep especially after the news came that no life was lost.

I couldn't believe that we'd lost the ship and the ship sunk and no one was injured. And I guess the joy, the collision. Do you ever have that when you watch a film? The collision of sadness and joy.

And you end up weeping. Casting every care upon Him because He cares for you. How many were able to be with us at the banquet last night? So this isn't the first time you've heard me.

A number of you. And if I repeat one or two things, those banquet folks won't mind because I did feel I should share a little of my testimony. Our time is limited together.

Though probably I'll give a different message in the second service in case you're into double headers. But we want to give every one of you a book as a gift. I don't get to Alaska much and I've fallen in love with Alaska and I hope to get back here as soon as possible.

And I don't know when that will be. So meanwhile, we'd like to get a book in your hand and I'd like to give you my latest book *Out of the Comfort Zone* as a gift. Just take it.

If you read it or read even part of it and email me. I'll personally read that email and pray for you. But *Out of the Comfort Zone* came as a result of when I wrote it, 45 years of ministry in about 60 nations around the world.

And it's an appeal, and the title of my message this morning is *Grace, Vision, Action*. It's an appeal to have more grace, more big heartedness, more forgiveness, less phariseeism, less legalism in mission work and in our witnessing. Because even missionaries can become legalistic and judgmental.

We have a lot of tensions on the mission field because instead of representing Jesus, they represent their distinctive or their denomination. And the enemy gets in and mission teams fall apart and people get discouraged and immorality takes place. And a recent survey showed that many missionaries are dabbling in pornography which is always seemingly one click away as missionaries are very dependent on email.

So I'd like you to take that book as a gift. And if that book runs out or you'd rather have a different book, pick up *Why Pro-Life* by Randy Alcorn or pick up this fantastic *Skeptic's Guide to HIV-AIDS*. Two areas of ministry that I'm very involved in.

All the other books are just on a donation basis. I learned it from a guy who influenced me named Keith Green. He used to sell his music for whatever you could afford.

It just blew the minds of the music industry. And so the books this morning are available on that basis. And if you're broken in debt, be sure to take two or three and may the Lord bless you.

Maybe you could take that one. That's my other book in which they put three of my books into one. *Revolution of Hunger for Reality* which brought me 25,000 personal letters and no turning back.

But this is the book that really counts. By the way, no one has ever put this cartoon on a church bulletin. There it is.

You're a vanguard people here in Fairbanks. Some character in England did this cartoon and I guess it ended up on my website. And maybe you can take that and I can explain a few things.

Number one, I love double-decker buses. As a senior citizen, I travel all over London and I hope you'll visit me in London. I've got a free place for you to stay.

Then you can go over on one of our ships and stay there free of charge as well. Got 70 cabins or beds just for visitors. But I travel all over London and do my office work from the top section of a London bus.

So I guess that's how I got in there. I distribute literature and books and up to now our distribution figure, we stopped counting 10 years ago, went over the one billion mark. One billion pieces of literature 10 years ago.

Things exploded and we lost count. So that's why I have all those books. But what are these golf clubs doing here? Well, I picked up a book, Midlife Crisis, many years ago.

I was feeling fine till I read that book. And started to get worried about this midlife crisis supposed to come on us, especially on us men, sort of a male menopause type of thing. So I... that was... There were a number of reasons, but I decided to take up golf.

I used to preach against golf as a waste of time. So I took up golf and I developed a whole new way of playing. I usually go to the end of the day when most people are going home.

And I jog between the holes and I make up my own route. And it's just... It's sort of out of the box golf, but it's a lot of fun. So occasionally I do it the orthodox way if I'm playing with a good golfer.

So there's my golf clubs. I live in London, England. There's the British flag.

My burden is to reach the whole world with the gospel. There are 5,000 on our staff now. Started from nothing.

No major money. No major church. Just three of us teenagers went 6,000 miles to Mexico City and back in a short-term mission one summer in an old truck that actually blew up 200 miles down the road.

We prayed for a new engine and some business people. And the story has never been told of what business people have done in terms of world evangelism. It's just amazing.

And they put a new engine in that old vehicle and we continued to use it for many years. And there's Big Ben. And there's the American flag.

I was born in America. My grandfather came over from the Netherlands. He was an atheist.

My other grandfather was Scottish, Irish, and English blood. And my mother's died. Probably toxic.

He was a drunk. My grandmother divorced him. I only met him a couple times.

The final time he was dying of alcoholism. So there's that little cartoon. And I hope you'll put that maybe somewhere in your little Holy Ghost scrapbook and pray for me because I am one needy, semi-dangerous kind of guy.

And if God doesn't meet me every day, somehow in the Word or out when I walk... I've been walking along this beautiful river this morning. You know, it was funny as I walked out to look at the water it sort of started to crack underneath me. So I decided to walk back in the other direction.

I wonder if you ever lose any people this time of the year where they can't figure out where the water ends and where the land begins. What an exciting country you live in. So that my wife could relate to it, I talked to her on the phone in London this morning.

They've had a major blizzard in London, England and freezing cold temperatures unheard of in April. They call it the Alaska factor. Of course, it's all part of global warming.

Yeah. Turn with me now in your Bibles to the book of Revelation. I'm sure that's one of your favorite books.

How many of you read the book of Revelation in the last 12 months? You read the book of Revelation? Let's have another honesty survey. How many of you believe this is God's Word? You love it, but you've not yet read it through once. Just once.

Take 66 hours. Raise your hand. You haven't read it through once.

That's about 30% of you. Hey, this is your moment of destiny. If you read it through once in the next year, one year, and I suggest you read it.

I'm doing it again myself by the way. I suggest you do it in four different places. Then you won't get bogged down in Leviticus or Deuteronomy.

Just have a little of that. Jump to Psalms. Jump to Proverbs.

Jump to the Gospels. Jump to the Epistles. Jump to Revelation.

Jump back to Genesis. It might be confusing, but you'll get through in one year. Send me an email and I'll send you ten fantastic, life-changing, mind-bending books worth over \$100.

Now, I know you don't need that false motivation to read through the whole Bible in one year, so just let that be the cherry on the top of your cupcake. But we need to read the Word of God more. And one of the reasons I got set free from a lot of mess in my life, even as a teenager, is because not only did I get into the Word of God, but the Word of God got into me.

One of the verses that's disturbed me the most is there in the book of Revelation. So turn there to chapter 3. Revelation chapter 3. How many of you brought a Bible or a New Testament this morning? Raise it up. That's great.

It's good to carry that. I did that before I was even saved. I joined this group Baptist Testament League.

So I carried a New Testament before I even knew Jesus. Revelation 3, verse 14. Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea.

This is the message from the One who is the Amen. Who's that? The Lord Jesus. The faithful and the true witness.

The beginning of God's new creation. I know all the things you do that you're neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other.

But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say, well, I'm rich. I have everything.

Everything I want. I don't need a thing. You don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

That's a little blunt, isn't it? Whoa. So I advise you to buy gold from me. Gold that has been purified by fire.

Then you will be rich. And buy white garments for me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness and ointment for your eyes so that you will be able to see. Listen.

I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look, I stand at the door and knock.

If you hear my voice and open the door, I'll come in. I will share a meal together with you as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on His throne.

Anyone with ears to hear must hear or listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches. What He is saying to the churches. And God is still, through His Word and His servants, speaking to His churches.

And one of the most basic, bottom line, simple principles for every believer is that there's reality in Jesus. There's salvation in Jesus. There's reality in Jesus.

There is peace in Jesus. There is fullness of joy in Jesus. There is the promise of eternal life in Jesus.

Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me. And if you haven't yet come to Jesus, you're searching, you've got doubts, you've got questions, maybe you've got a little bit of a cynical streak like me.

I pray that this morning you may come to Jesus and believe on Him with all your heart and put your hands in the hands of the man of Galilee and be His servant and His disciple the rest of your life. It wasn't an easy road for me as a teenager. I was from a totally different background.

At 16 I was moving into the jungle of pornography. I was on my 32nd girlfriend. I was big into wild nightclub dancing.

I was about to become the president of the student council as sort of a radical student. I had an ego the size of the Grand Canyon. And as Chris Ree of the Pop Singers said, I was on the highway to hell.

When a little old lady didn't even talk to me, put my name on her Holy Ghost hit list, not only prayed I'd become a Christian, she prayed that I would become a missionary. Without even talking her over. I don't know if any of you have got a grandmother or an auntie or somebody.

Maybe somebody doesn't like you praying you're going to be a missionary. You need to get that sorted out as soon as possible. You don't want to end up like Jonah in the belly of the whale.

And that wasn't as pleasant as it might seem in a movie. She kept praying for me and not much happened. Somehow a guy rolled into New York City named Billy Graham.

This guy was sort of a combination of Clint Eastwood and Madonna and E.T. Of course, converted. I almost didn't go there. There was such negative stuff about him.

This is emotionalism. Somebody said he's a hypnotist. But I went.

A business person gave me a free seat on a bus. I got this girl who I thought could maybe use some of this. And we went and sat as far away as we could in Madison Square Garden with 20,000 people.

Not a crusade, a one night meeting. And I heard the Gospel. I heard about Jesus.

I'd become quite involved in a local church where they didn't really believe the Bible. Sort of a social club. I don't know if you have any of those in Alaska.

You get even non-Christians go to the guidance counselor in high school. And the guidance counselor after whatever interview says, I think you should be a minister. The guy doesn't know Jesus from a truck.

But his guidance counselor said you should be a minister. And so he goes off to Theological Cemetery. He comes out dead.

And they're pastoring churches around America. One of the greatest tragedies is Christianity without Christ. Men and women who are in religion making money, they've never been transformed.

They've never been born again. And this is the kind of church I was in. I became president of the youth fellowship.

Teach a man to rock and roll right in the church. Then the pastor made me his assistant. Sort of leading the blind club.

And I thank God for Billy Graham who said the Bible is God's Word. And he preached from the Bible. This little gospel I've been reading thanks to that little lady who prayed for me.

It added up with what Billy Graham was saying. And so when Billy Graham gave the invitation to believe on Jesus, I went forward in this huge meeting. I started to weep.

And the Holy Spirit invaded me. And I was saved by His grace. And here's the powerful thing.

That's been a reality every day ever since. Why do I say that? I'm not boasting except in the grace of Jesus. But a lot of people give the idea you come to Jesus, then you have some problems, and you backslide.

I don't know if you've ever heard of that. It's an old-fashioned term. You drift away.

You sort of lose it for a while. Usually a broken romance will do that. Or going broke sometimes does that.

Or you feel the Christians don't love you enough. That's always really difficult as if everybody else does. And so you get away from Jesus.

And then somehow you go to a Christian camp or you bring somebody to town who preaches, and you come back to Jesus. I talked to a guy once. He had been away and back about 30 times.

And some people go away and back and go through several wives, two, three, four wives, and then come back again. Well, praise God for His grace. I don't want to give you the wrong idea.

We're the first mission agency in the world to pioneer recruiting divorced people. There's no second-class citizenship in the kingdom. Well, people said if O.M. preaches that, we're going to be strung out with divorced people.

We're compromising. We've got 50 years' ministry. We've got 5,000 people.

We're almost totally divorce-free throughout the entire world. So you can preach grace, and you can have prevention at the same time. You can preach grace, and you can have truth at the same time.

That's, of course, what the Bible talks about. But the best way, especially if you're like a young believer, you've still got that first love. You're still praising that He ever saved you.

You don't have to lose that. You can be hot for God every day of your life. Not in the absence of tears and mistakes and stupidity.

I got such a stupidity gift thing. I mean, we could write a book. I don't think we'll do that.

Let me just give you one example. When I moved to Europe after Mexico, of course, I got saved that night and a lot of things happened in my high school and my hometown. I went to Mexico.

This work was born, but it was very tiny. And then I went to Europe. My vision was Muslim countries, closed countries, and communist countries.

It was like ridiculous. And I went into the Soviet Union in the summer of 1961. Have you ever heard of Brother Andrew, God's smuggler? He's quite well known.

He's got a book and maybe even a film. He's a close friend of mine. He's 100% Dutch.

I'm only half. And I tried the same thing and due to a stupid mistake, some butter got on the gospel. John, the guy who was with me, just two of us, he said, we can't distribute that.

We're going to send it out through the mail. We had these addresses. We weren't going to give it out.

We knew they'd arrest us on the spot. We had this plan. We had used it in Spain to reach hundreds of thousands of people.

We thought it would work in the Soviet Union. And he said, well, don't. We don't want to give this gospel or send this through the mail.

It's got this big smudge of butter on it. Do you know what he said? He said, let's flush it. We were in a hotel.

We thought we were being watched. He said, let's flush it down the toilet. I reacted, we can't flush the Word of God, the Gospel of John down the john.

How can we? We can't do that. So instead, the next day, as we're driving along, I thought, we'll throw it out the window in the countryside when no one is looking. No one is looking? Soviet Union? We're already being followed by the KGB.

It went out the window. I'll never forget just seeing the gospel flutter out the window. Within ten miles, major roadblock.

KGB, regular police, took us out of the car, brought us in the police station. Guess what? The head of the police already had the Gospel of John. Is this yours? Headlines, American spy arrested in the Soviet Union, the city of Rovno.

Two or three more days of interrogation. They found our printing press. They found other literature.

They were a little upset. They did decide, however, after a couple of days, and I didn't even have my global jacket on, that I was a religious fanatic, and gave me a submachine gun escort to Austria. That's

called failure.

And yet God worked through that failure. There's a book by that title, by the way. Have you seen that? Erwin Lutzer's Failure, the Back Door to Success.

Isn't that a good title? It's a great book. I recommend it, really. I've never actually read it.

Just the title touched my heart. Seriously, some of us who are busy, it's hard to read these books, isn't it? And I want to urge you busy guys, you don't read a lot, get into the titles. Yeah, just read the titles.

And then maybe the back page. The back page is usually good. And of course, if it's got pictures, you can look at the pictures.

And then someone later asks you, hey, have you read that book? You can just say, hey, I'm into that big time. Failure, the Back Door to Success. And I'm trying to drive a point across here that we must not live with a fear of failure.

God, because of that failure, brought me back to Austria extra early. My wife was in Spain wondering what was going on. I lived in Madrid, Spain at the time.

And I went for a day of prayer. Our work up to that time was known as Send the Light. It was very tiny.

This vision Muslims, Communists in closed countries, it wasn't really grabbing that many people. And God gave me a new vision. I was actually in the top of a tree praising God and worshipping.

One of the few places I can sing without bothering people as I don't have much of a voice. And I was just praising God. I thought of the war.

My wife had been killed in the war. And that name out of the war came in my mind, Mobilization. And God gave me the new name.

Operation Mobilization. The vision. Europe.

Work with the church. Work with the church in Europe. Let the church in Europe reach out like Brother Andrew with their European passports into Communist countries and Muslim countries and within the next few years.

That was to happen. I went back to Madrid and in a weekend of prayer in the mountains, I shared this with my few Spanish full-time workers and they agreed to go ahead with Operation Mobilization. I moved to England and God opened the doors at Cambridge and Oxford.

Almost every university in Great Britain. By the next summer we had 200 people. By the next summer we had 2,000 people.

And soon we had 150 to 200 vehicles criss-crossing the entire world giving the Word of God to tens of millions of people because one woman prayed. Because one needy, struggling, natural, backsliding, doubting, promised school kid somehow discovered the reality of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God and by the power of the cross and the resurrection never lost that first love. I want to ask you this morning, are you on fire for Jesus? Are you on fire? So then, it's experience in your witnessing, it's experience in your prayer life.

It's experience when you're criticized. How do you handle criticism? How many for you? Raise your hand. Criticism is really your favorite thing.

Whoa! Just love to get criticized. Knives in the back. Whoa! Anybody, raise your hand.

I don't think so. If you raise your hand, you need counseling. When we experience the grace of God, when we get focused on the Lord Himself, when we experience what I call Holy Ghost big heartedness, we begin to love those who criticize us.

That doesn't mean we can always work together. That's a whole different planet. We can't work together unless we're agreed.

I remember a real extreme Christian guy coming to me that had some strange doctrines. I really loved him. But when he sat down and wanted us to work together in some evangelistic campaign, I knew it just wouldn't work.

But we can let love cover. Paul Bilheimer wrote a book by that title. Send me an email.

I'll be happy to send it to you. It's a little hard to get now. He's gone on to heaven.

And shows how we can graciously disagree and press on. Charles Swindoll talks about that as well in his book Grace Awakening. Another book I'd love to send you.

So my testimony is that God saved me here in Madison Square Garden and I've experienced His grace every single day all these years. It's a miracle. I still understand that God could use me at all.

I still have some of my same problems. I have to watch out for pornography. I have to watch my bad temper.

I get huge doubts, even doubting whether God even exists. Why doesn't He do something in the Darfur? Why isn't He settling this Iraq thing? Millions are praying about it. What is God doing? So I have a lot of struggles.

I have a lot of questions. Once I was going through a time of doubting the Bible and I was traveling to India before we had our own ships. I was traveling on a ship and I was feeling seasick and when I lay down... I don't get seasick if I'm laying down.

So I lay down and I listened to these tapes by Dr. Francis Schaeffer, a brilliant philosopher who was a wholehearted follower of Jesus. And in this series of tapes, he gave the problems of the person who doesn't believe the Bible. I was dwelling on some of my problems because certain verses seemed strange and I didn't understand them and I couldn't understand the ways of God even among some of my friends.

When I heard that series of tapes, the problems for the guy who doesn't believe the Bible, I was just filled with faith. This is God's Word. There are mysteries.

There are things we don't understand. One of the passages that's helped me in my pilgrimage through struggles and doubts and many other things are those words found in the book of Romans. I was always preaching from Romans 12.1, the great chapter calling people for commitment.

We touched on it last night when about 200 people in this room at the banquet stood up after we talked from Isaiah 6 and prayed a prayer of commitment. Here am I. Send me. This was a God thing this weekend.

A hundred thousand people around the world follow me in prayer. I'm very committed to the Mission Fest movement, a global phenomenon that especially exploded in Vancouver, Canada where I preached at their 25th anniversary a few months ago. And 30,000 people were involved in that Mission Fest event.

And I hope if somehow you missed it this year because your discernment antenna is broken, that you'll get involved in Mission Fest next year because it's a God thing. Different people from different churches coming together for a weekend and exhibits and prayer and seminars. And I believe that God is wanting to make Fairbanks a great Antioch.

We read about Antioch in Acts 13. We touched on that last night. And He sent out Paul and Barnabas from Antioch.

God has already been sending out workers from Fairbanks. We've had them on our ship from Fairbanks. But I believe He wants to do greater things at Mission Fest.

Not in any way in competition to your own local church Missions Conference, but in symphony moving together to touch the nations of the world from this unique part of God's great globe. And so we often looked at Romans 12, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God you present your bodies as a living sacrifice. But I was especially helped in moments of struggle and trying to understand what God was doing from the last verses of Romans 11.

Look at these words. Romans 11 is sometimes referred to as the doxology. Verse 33, Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand the decisions He has made or His ways.

Did you get that? That helped me to incorporate more mystery into my faith. When five people you're praying for have cancer and one gets healed and you're jumping up and down and praising God about it, and the other four die. Some people don't like to talk about that.

But I'm into reality. I believe we've got to talk about both the positives and the negatives. And there's times in your life as my wife and I, in the disappointments we've had in our lives, we leave it with God.

It's a mystery. We are not God's advisors. We worship Him.

And someday, as it says in the Word of God, we will see face to face. For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give Him advice? And who has given Him so much that He needs to be paid back? For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All the glory to Him forever.

Amen. If God can take a character like me with my struggles and my doubts and somehow use me and keep me on fire, not the same level of emotion. Listen, this might be the most important phrase in my feeble sharing with you this morning.

No matter how filled you are with the Holy Spirit, you're incredibly human. And our humanness, especially characters like me, very idealistic, large, major goals, our humanness can intimidate us and sometimes

almost paralyze us. I was reading about Harry Truman, the president when my mother was all excited about things.

And to survive the enormous pressure of the presidency, he would develop mental foxholes. It was a survival mechanism. When I was both the director of the ships, living on the ship, and the director of the whole movement, I came into a new level of stress that I had not had before.

We had sailed this ship around Africa. We had problems between the chief engineer and the captain. Huh, what's new? We were running out of money.

Some people were very upset. Some were accusing me of this and that. And my stress level went up.

And then I was reading a book about Chris Bonington and some guys that conquered Mount Everest. How people who were total strangers came together as a team from different backgrounds, and they could sometimes barely stand each other, and yet they conquered Everest. And I thought, I need to rethink some of my spirituality which was getting into super spirituality and really foolishness.

And I realized on some days, I shouldn't plan any great things for that day. I should get into my mental foxhole and just pray that I can get through the day without doing something stupid. And if you have a battle with lust like I have, in one day you can wreck it all.

Billy Graham in speaking at Urbana, the strongest message I've ever heard him speak, in touching on the subject of moral purity, said if you lose this battle, you lose the number one battle of your youth. And by God's grace, through the Word, I was able to win that battle at 16, 17 years of age, which meant later on, I was able to be totally faithful to my wife for 48 years. And stay as a leader in a youth movement where of course, there would be a higher level of discipline and reality expected from you in leading such a movement for 46 years.

His grace is sufficient. His strength is made perfect in weakness. My brother, my sister, God wants to use you.

He's brought me from London, England to Fairbanks, Alaska to say this to you. And I wish I could say it to you personally. If you send me an email, I will.

God wants to use you. He has bigger plans for your life than you perhaps have captured yet. It may not be big the way the world thinks.

It may be a behind-the-scenes thing like my own wife. But it's big in terms of the kingdom. Because God measures things in a different way than we measure them.

People often ask me, how do you stay motivated? And some people think it's because I had this ship dream and it became a reality. And I had this dream for India and it became a reality. And God just kept blessing our work and our budget went up every year.

But that's not really what keeps me motivated. What keeps me motivated is that Jesus loves a character like me. And when I fail and I do something stupid, I know He still loves me.

I told this story last night, but I have to tell it again because it's so powerful. Tony Campalo sent it around on an email. It was about a family in a thunderstorm.

Have you ever been in a really bad thunderstorm and lightning and all that? Anyway, even the adults were a little nervous. Then suddenly they realized the little girl was upstairs alone, a little seven-year-old in her bedroom. They ran up the stairs, they opened the door, and there the little girl was looking out the window at the lightning and listening to the thunder with her ear against the pane.

They said, are you okay? She said, I'm fine. I think God is taking my picture. I want to ask you, have you ever thought of that? Have you realized God loves you? He cares for you? He's taking your picture? Even when you fail, do you think when you fail He walks away from you? His grace is sufficient.

And if some sin, some weakness, some failure has been hindering you, been keeping you from blossoming, it's been keeping you from the fullness of Jesus in your life, of course, you'll still be human when that happens. I pray that this morning may be a moment of the same. That as we bring this to a close and as we sing something at the end, that you'll just surrender in a fresh way.

Ask Jesus as it was in Acts 4.31, to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit. Some people speak of the baptism of the Spirit. Some people speak of the fullness of the Spirit.

Some speak of the anointing of the Spirit. Some speak of the gifts. Some speak of the fruit.

Tremendous controversy about the Holy Spirit. It's a trick of the enemy. Billy Graham, my spiritual father, said, in speaking about the reality of the Holy Spirit, I don't care how you get it, just get it.

And if a character like me can know this reality, we can all know this reality. I don't have all the gifts. I don't even understand it all when I read it.

God meets me daily. We take up the cross. We follow Him.

Theo Moody was preaching about the Holy Spirit and he would go on and say, you need to be filled again and again. And a little old lady once said, well, why do you say be filled again and again? And Moody looked her in the eye. I'll never forget reading this.

He said, madam, because I leak. Whoa! Help. Hope for me.

One needy, leaky Christian leader. But hallelujah! I know where the free refills are. And there's free refills this morning.

And you and I need to be refilled to worship Him in greatest power, to know greater victory in our lives, to be able to run this marathon race, and to keep our eyes focused on the Lord Himself. Another reason I stay so motivated is little things are just so exciting. My life is mainly little things.

When I go to my daughter's house and I have a lot of complexity with my daughter for various reasons you can imagine. But anyway, when I go to my daughter's house, the first thing I do is get a plastic bag and I get a poop scoop and I go out. We call it a garden.

You call it a yard. I go out in the garden and I pick it up and I put it in the plastic bag and I know my daughter always appreciates me more at that particular moment. My gopher, some of you met Mark Roberts, he does anything I ask him to do.

And he said, well, hey, when he was there at my daughter's house, I want to do that. No way! This is my job. Isn't life so full of little things? And I pray you'll see Jesus in the little things.

You'll see His love. We can memorize Scripture often when we're doing these things. I've been dancing around lately with my little discman listening to these hill songs.

This group from Australia, have they hit Alaska yet? We've got to get them up here. Hill song worship music. I mean, if the Apostle Paul had had this music, our Bible would probably be twice as big.

It's so amazing what God is doing through the whole praise and worship movement throughout the world as millions are swept into the Kingdom praising and worshiping Him filled with the Holy Spirit, touching the poor and the needy. For we married proclamation with social concern. And that's why we have books about pro-life.

That's why we have books about HIV AIDS. That's why we're involved with the poor and the suffering and the abused children and the abused women around the globe. And we'd love to send you a book that we forgot to bring here called True Grit, all about women.

But now, it's Jesus and the need for us to make a greater commitment to Him. Let's stand. Let's sing.

And as we sing, you pray your prayer of commitment. Ask Him to fill you afresh with your Holy Spirit. And God will give you the grace.

Heavenly Father, guide us as we pray in our hearts and sing and worship at the same time that we may take steps of faith, maybe some, toward believing on You in the first place as I did 53 years ago. Maybe others that feel they've lost their first love and they need to surrender and be filled afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Maybe others that feel they've discovered some area where they've had crooked thinking and you've sorted out their thinking and they're going to go from here a more focused, grace-awakened, biblical, discerning thinker and worshiper.

We believe You're working in different people in different ways. Bless us as we surrender, as we pray and worship in Jesus' name. Amen.

Let's do that. Hallelujah.

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/19/SID19648.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/grace-vision-action/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**