

ISSUE 2 2025

INSIGHTS



FROM THE BIBLE-TEACHING MINISTRY OF PASTOR CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

ISSUE 2 2025

INSIGHTS

IN THIS ISSUE

3 THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE: BOUNDLESS GRACE

This Month's Letter from Pastor Chuck Swindoll

4 WHICH BIBLE TRANSLATION?

Pastor Nathan Potts Answers Your Questions

6 THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

By Pastor Nathan Potts

7 IFLA MINISTRY REFLECTION

Reflections on the impact your support provides

8 HOPE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL: GUIDED BY GRACE

Ministry insights from Chuck's Daughter

10 CELEBRATING WITH MY FELLOW FELON

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Insights is published by *Insight for Living Australia Ltd.* the Bible-teaching ministry of Pastor Charles (Chuck) R. Swindoll. Pastor Charles R. Swindoll has devoted his life to the accurate, practical teaching and application of God's Word. Copyright © 2025 *Insight for Living Australia Ltd.* All rights reserved worldwide. No portion of this newsletter may be translated into any language or reproduced in any form without prior written permission from the publisher. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture passages are taken from the NLT. Article author insets of Pastor Chuck Swindoll & Charissa Swindoll Gaither by Edmonson Photography. Cover image: Forest Caves, Phillip Island VIC. Printed in Australia.

THIS MONTH'S MINISTRY LETTER FROM PASTOR CHUCK

Dear Friend,

Christ died for you. Yes, you read it right – Christ died for you. Can any of us really grasp the enormity of that statement? Imagine, for a moment, putting your beloved child or dearest friend on a cross, willingly sacrificing their life to save others.

It's staggering to ponder, isn't it?

Every time I reflect on that truth, my heart swells, and my eyes well up with tears. Yet, this is exactly what He did for every single person reading these words right now.

JOHN 3:16 SAYS,

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Wouldn't it be amazing if more people could truly understand the depth of His love? Instead of raging with anger or wallowing in disappointment over life's challenges, they could embrace the boundless grace that is offered – if only they would open their hearts to it.

Every day, we have the incredible privilege of sharing this life-changing message across the globe. Your faithful gifts are the lifeblood of this mission, allowing us to share God's grace with those who are desperate to hear it.

Together, let's amplify that message even more!

As a listener-supported ministry, we rely solely on the generous contributions of compassionate individuals like you. We're not just another religious organisation; we are a family, united by a common purpose and a heartfelt commitment to serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our family!
Let's keep making a difference **together**.

Grateful for His grace,



Pastor Charles R. Swindoll



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS?

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS – BY PASTOR NATHAN POTTS



I'm often asked the question about different Bible translations. Questions such as; *Which is the closest to the original text?* or *Which English translation is the most literal translation?* or *Are our modern translations to be trusted?*

These are all great questions as it shows a desire for searching the Scriptures with diligence and discernment.

Our first English translation was published by William Tyndale in 1525. Tyndale was martyred for his faith in 1536 as the religious elite attempted to get rid of the

English translation of the bible. By 1611 King James had authorized the printing and publication of the King James Bible (KJB). The KJV is an excellent translation compiled by a committee of 54 scholars with skill in the original languages. This committee also leaned heavily on other English translations such as the Geneva Bible (1557), Bishops Bible (1568), Tyndale (1525), The Great Bible (1539) Coverdale Bible (1535).

All these translations are literal and formal in their translation philosophy based on the available texts of the time¹.



ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

In the last 100-years most new English translations apply the “Critical text” as the basis for interpretation. The critical text takes the oldest manuscripts and most difficult readings as being the most accurate from all three sources². Two major translation philosophies have also been applied.

1. **Formal equivalence** – word for word translation.
2. **Dynamic equivalence** – phrase by phrase translation. A method that prioritizes conveying the meaning and impact of a source text on its target audience, rather than strictly adhering to the source text's wording and structure. It aims for a natural-sounding translation that resonates with the target reader in a similar way the original text resonated with its audience.

Examples of modern translations that apply formal equivalence are: New American Standard Bible (NASB, 1971), English Standard Bible (ESV, 2001), New English

Translation (NET, 2005), Legacy Standard Bible (LSB, 2024). The reading of these texts can seem somewhat “wooden” and slightly removed from everyday language.

Examples of dynamic equivalence translations are: New International Version (NIV, 1978), Today's New International Version (TNIV, 2005), New Living Translation (NLT, 1996). These texts are easier to read but can become interpretive by nature.

All these translations can be trusted as the truths of God's word are evident in both translating philosophies. I would encourage everyone who studies God's word to have two or three of these different translations before them as they study. Insights will be gained through different wording and concepts.

The LORD's precepts are fair and make one joyful. The LORD's commands are pure and give insight for life. (Psalms 19:8 NET)

¹ Donald L. Brake and Shelly Beach, *A Visual History of the King James Bible*, (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2011), allude to the following: In 1611, the Greek text available to translators was the Byzantine text, known as the Textus Receptus. This document was compiled by the Catholic theologian and humanist – Erasmus of Rotterdam. During this translation period the translators had not been aware of the three distinct text-types or families of NT texts. (1) Alexandrian (Egypt), (2) Western (Roman Empire), (3) Byzantine (Asia Minor and Greece).

² (1) Alexandrian (Egypt), (2) Western (Roman Empire), (3) Byzantine (Asia Minor and Greece).



THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

BY NATHAN POTTS



No other letter in the New Testament commands more attention with relation to the definition of the gospel than Paul's letter to the Romans. As Pastor Chuck Swindoll says in his commentary on Romans, *"From Origen of Alexandria in the third century to Barnhouse of Philadelphia in the twentieth, countless theologians will pen innumerable pages of exposition and meditation on the apostle's magnum opus... (it) will spark a revolution in the heart of Martin Luther, who will reintroduce the truth of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."*

This letter expounds and defends the gospel that comes as a gift of God's grace. Paul explains that his very apostleship is by God's grace (*Romans 1:5*). When as believers we place our faith in Christ we are justified by God's grace through faith (*3:24; 5:2*). Sin has entered this world through Adam and sin reigns because we all die, but God's grace reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ (*5:21*). As believers we now live under grace and not the law, therefore sin is no longer our master (*6:14*). It is also by grace that all believers receive gifts for ministry to serve others (*12:16*).

The gospel is God's saving work as a gift of His grace accomplished by the work of Jesus our Lord. This gospel reveals the righteousness of God, the grace of God and the love of God through his sovereign will in all matters of salvation. His mercy is immeasurable and his one and only Son is put forward as the atoning sacrifice for sin. ***Oh, what grace!***

This gift of grace through Jesus Christ our Lord is the only thing that deals with the effects of human sin. Christ's righteousness becomes our righteousness; our sin becomes Christ's sin in this great substitutionary exchange. ***Oh, what grace!***

God empowers the believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit transforming us by his grace. Grace strengthens on a daily basis and it is this grace that truly sets us free. God's grace is inexhaustible and is truly amazing.

Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: Insights on Romans* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 3.



MINISTRY REFLECTION

AS WE REACH TOWARD THE END OF 2025 AND LOOK BEYOND
WE REFLECT AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE FOLLOWING...

- The meeting of our ministry needs through the faithful generosity of our listeners' giving.
- New *Searching the Scriptures* study workbooks to complement each broadcast series.
- Pastor Chuck Swindoll continues to be in good health.
- Newly released book, *Looking in All the Right Directions*, containing five culminating sermons from Pastor Chuck's Pulpit
- Our opportunity to support Christian Broadcasting at the annual CONNECT Media & Arts Conference.



GUIDED BY GRACE

HOPE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL

BY CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER



Dear Friend,

As you read this story, you are engaging in the promising future of Insight for Living.

After 46 years, our consistent messages are just a glimpse of what lies ahead—with God's grace guiding us along the way.

I am confident our Lord is leading us toward a future filled with hope as we develop resources that reflect God's love and purpose in life's challenges.

I am thrilled for you to read the heartfelt piece penned by my daughter, Charissa Swindoll Gaither. Her words deeply moved me, and I know it will resonate with you as well.

Please support us – through your prayers – knowing that your petitions profoundly impacts others, guiding them to experience the transformative grace of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your steadfast faith in our ministry.

In His grace,

Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

At Insight for Living, we find ourselves standing at a pivotal moment in our ministry—a moment ripe with potential, filled with the promise of what lies ahead. Our mission centres on a simple yet profound truth: we serve a God of hope, and it is through His Word that we can illuminate the paths of those weary from trials. Inspired by the hearts of our founders, Chuck and Cynthia Swindoll, we are called to carry the torch of truth, to share the comfort and conviction of His Word, and to embrace every opportunity to touch lives, both at home and around the world.

Imagine a world where the truths of Scripture are gracefully spread like seeds, planted into the fertile soil of homes from every corner of the globe. Through thoughtful resources and innovative technology, we aim to provide practical and spiritual wisdom—devotionals, Searching the Scriptures Bible-study materials, and multimedia content designed to strengthen faith and cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ.

Our desire is for every person to feel the warmth of God's embrace, through fostering an environment where His Word is accessible and applicable. This is our call: to ensure that no one thirsts for the living Water of Life without access to it.

Equally important is our commitment to mentorship,

a calling deeply rooted in Chuck's own journey. Just as Chuck was gracefully guided, mentored, and encouraged by those who saw potential in him, we too are called to invest in the next generation of leaders, servants, and believers. Imagine congregations where seasoned followers of Christ step boldly into the lives of the young and the struggling, offering wisdom, guidance, and genuine friendship.

**THIS IS OUR CALL:
TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE
THIRSTS FOR THE LIVING
WATER OF LIFE WITHOUT
ACCESS TO IT.**

– CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER

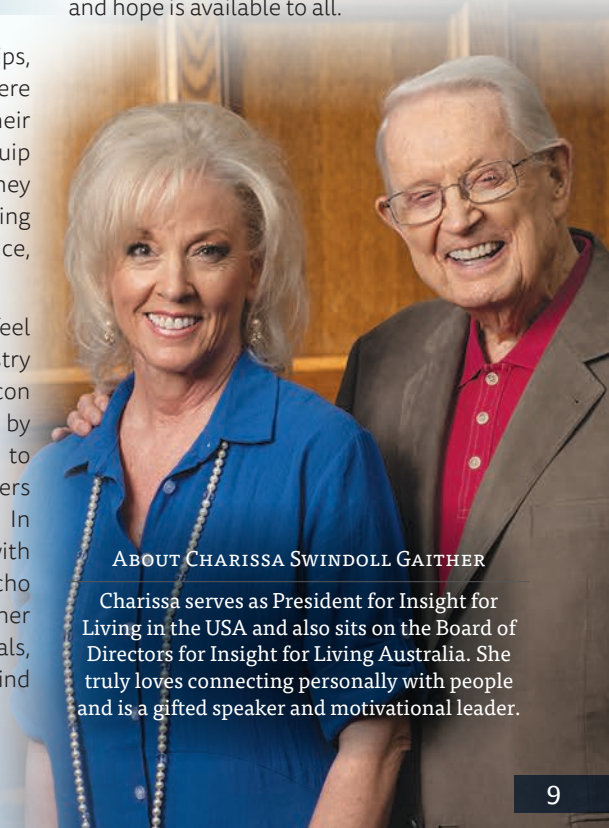
Our vision is to cultivate these relationships, creating a network of support where individuals can discover and grow into their God-given identity and calling. We will equip mentors with the resources and training they need to effectively guide others, encouraging interaction steeped in love, patience, and grace.

Life's trials and tribulations can feel insurmountable, but through the ministry of Insight for Living, we strive to be a beacon of hope for those feeling overwhelmed by their circumstances. We are dedicated to anchoring our hearts and the hearts of others in the unshakeable truth of Scripture. In moments of despair, we will be there with messages of encouragement that echo the comfort found in God's Word. Whether through our broadcasts, written materials, or special events, we aim to gently remind

every soul that they are never alone in their struggles. We will continue to provide tangible support, fostering a community that stands shoulder to shoulder in faith, lifting one another up in prayer.

As the Lord continues to gracefully guide our steps, let's move forward together with unwavering passion and commitment to this vision. Using the teachings from Chuck Swindoll, we will continue to provide profound ministry tools that transcend borders, nurture the next generation through intentional mentorship, and offer hope that pierces through the darkness.

Together, we will champion Chuck's life-long ministry—one that shares God's love and light with a dark world in need. Guided by grace, we proclaim hope is here, hope is real, and hope is available to all.



ABOUT CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER

Charissa serves as President for Insight for Living in the USA and also sits on the Board of Directors for Insight for Living Australia. She truly loves connecting personally with people and is a gifted speaker and motivational leader.

CELEBRATING WITH

BY PASTOR CHARLES R. SWINDOLL



As I drove to my friends' house, I recall thinking out loud to my family that it was a most unusual party we were to attend. My friends, a wonderful couple, were celebrating the homecoming of their son, who had been paroled after seven long years in prison. While he was guilty of the charges against him, the sentence he received was extraordinarily harsh when compared to the crimes of other inmates. No matter. He was home. And his exuberance for life energized everyone around him. The experience that so often hardens men and turns them bitter had refined and softened this young man. What emerged from the crucible of prison was a serenely repentant, mellow, humbly grateful child of God.

He spoke freely of his experiences, beginning with the moment the judge accepted the jury's verdict and slammed the gavel down. As everyone else gathered their belongings and headed for the parking lot, he was led through a side door and then placed inside

a cage. Next, he was stripped, searched, photographed, printed, shackled, and then put aboard a tan prison bus. For the next seven years, he bore the title "convict," and for rest of his life, he will be called "ex-con" or "felon."

As I reflect on this young man's experience, I must ask myself, "How are he and I different?" There are several differences. His record of wrongdoing is a matter of public record; mine is locked away in heaven. He suffered punishment most can scarcely imagine; I will not endure a single moment of retribution for my wrongs. The world will forever count him the least among its citizens; I am unjustly celebrated. "Where then is boasting? It is excluded" (Romans 3:27)! For the felon and I are more alike than different. My heart is no less depraved than his—or yours. Earthly courts saw fit to place him behind bars, but you and I are no less guilty before our almighty Judge. Truth be told, you and I deserve far worse.

MY FELLOW FELON

CAN WE BOAST, THEN, THAT WE HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD? NO, BECAUSE OUR ACQUITTAL IS NOT BASED ON OBEYING THE LAW. IT IS BASED ON FAITH. SO WE ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD THROUGH FAITH AND NOT BY OBEYING THE LAW.

Romans 3:27–28

Therefore, if we dare boast in the presence of my paroled friend, let us boast with him. Let us join him in bragging on Jesus Christ and His inexplicable gift of grace. Let us see ourselves as his equals, paroled felons enjoying undeserved freedom. For “where then is boasting?” Not with us. Not in our goodness. And may I remind you once again? Salvation is a gift, and this gift demonstrates the goodness of the Giver, not of those who receive it.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (Romans 3:23–25)

Content taken from Swindoll's *Living Insights New Testament Commentary: Insights on Romans* by Charles R. Swindoll. Copyright © 2015, Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. All rights reserved. For more information about how to purchase this book please visit www.ifl.org.au/store

INSIGHT FOR LIVING AUSTRALIA IS HERE TO
CONNECT YOU TO GREAT BIBLE-TEACHING.

ON THE BROADCAST

ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

8 August - 16 December

TUNE IN

TO FIND A STATION NEAR YOU VISIT
ifl.org.au/broadcasts/where-to-listen

STAY CONNECTED

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AT
facebook.com/InsightForLivingAustralia

MORE WAYS TO LISTEN



ONLINE
ifl.org.au/broadcasts



ON YOUR DEVICE
ifl.org.au/mobile-app



SEARCH FOR: *Insight for Living Australia*
on Spotify & Apple Podcasts

MESSAGES CLOSE
to *Pastor Chuck's Heart*

TO SHOP THIS & MORE VISIT
ifl.org.au/store



INSIGHT FOR LIVING AUSTRALIA | www.ifl.org.au
PO BOX 474 Ringwood, VIC 3134 Australia | +61 3 9762 6613 | 1300 467 444
Australia | New Zealand | South Pacific | ACN 681014559 | ABN 57813130585