

# Unveiling Jesus

*Beholding Him in His Amazing Grace<sup>1</sup>*

by Tricia Gunn

## **Dedication**

*Unveiling Jesus* is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Martha Ann Kenny Bland.  
Thank you, Jesus, for giving me a Mama who taught me about You.

## Endorsements

This book is a banqueting feast inviting the reader to partake of the Lavish Grace of God. Tricia is an outstanding communicator with an effortless style, unveiling truth in such a way as to draw the reader on a journey of discovery and encounters of the extravagance of God's Love, Grace, and eternal plan for them and releasing them through revelation from the treadmill of performance Christianity. This book brings clarity and gives you a solid foundation to have confidence before God. If you want more of God - this book is for you. If you need clarity on the truths of Grace - this book is for you. If you have labored under guilt and condemnation and disapproval then, YES, - this book is for you. Lastly, if you have already been introduced to Grace and want to grow deeper in this revelation - this book is for you. Tricia, thank you for devoting your gift to God to benefit countless people and bring them into the Freedom Christ paid for. Thank you for standing in the midst of many voices and hearing and obeying The One Voice to Unveil this magnificent Message.

Your friend, Glenda Rufus.

Wife, Mother, Grandmother

Pastors with her husband, Rob Rufus, at City Church International, Hong Kong

Co-founder of InResonance360, A Global Grace Alliance

I love the title of this book! *Unveiling Jesus* is exactly what Tricia does in this life changing study. The person of Christ and what He accomplished through His finished work is clearly presented and brilliantly expressed. I believe Tricia Gunn will soon become one of the most listened to women in the Body of Christ. I pray that to happen because what she has to say is utterly transformational. Please read to this profound presentation of truth that will leave you wanting more from this exceptional teacher!

Clark Whitten

Pastor of Grace Church and author of *Pure Grace*

Tricia is one of my all time favorite Grace teachers. Her biblical knowledge and understanding of the Finished Work of Jesus is among the best I've heard. The way she weaves together Grace truths is simply beautiful. She pulls not only from her personal studies but shares on a personal level her journey in Grace. *Unveiling Jesus* is the perfect title for Tricia's book, because unveiling Jesus is all she talks about! This is her way of shouting from the mountain top "Look at how great our God is!!!" She is a treasure to me, and I believe to the body of Christ. Grace isn't just a topic to Tricia, it's the song of her heart!

Abigail Dolbear  
Worship Pastor of Grace Church

As I read *Unveiling Jesus*, it's like the sails of my soul open up and I breathe in sync with the Spirit. My appetite for the word and revelation of my intimacy with Jesus - because of Jesus - springs up as I enjoy each page of this book. Tricia's teaching style, deep understanding of the Father's heart and love of the word overflows on each page. Grace flows from every sentence in this book.

Leah Waggoner  
Pensacola, FL

**WARNING: DO NOT READ THIS BOOK IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR LIFE RADICALLY CHANGED!**

I am forever grateful for the message in *Unveiling Jesus* that God has given Tricia. I am blown away by her desire to study the scriptures and the revelation that He has given her. It is powerful and contagious. It is miraculous, healing, loving and full of grace. This book is a "must read"---and this revelation is a "must get"!

Laura Vogtle  
Birmingham, AL

What you hold in your hands is a gift that I cannot wait for you to open! After 36 years of being a believer, I had learned a lot and assumed I had heard it all when this gift so graciously came to me. I did not even know that I wanted it. As Tricia's message gently unfolded and became revelation for me, everything in the gospel made sense, and it was as if I had been born again after all of these years. This message of the finished work of

Jesus has changed my family as well. The way we talk, the way we relate, our passions, our motivations, our love, our future, and the way we read the Bible have been transformed by the beautiful message of God's deep love and grace, the gift of his son Jesus. We will never be the same. And we will never tire of it. Enjoy the gift!

Heather Downey  
Birmingham, AL

The magnitude of God's grace and love is something that is impossible to put into words. Once you have experienced how freeing it is to live in grace, you can't fathom falling back in living to please God by your works. Our journey as a family has not been an easy one. We grew up in a Christian home and we were good, rule following, Bible reading children, but there was always an underlying works-based mentality. When our mom, Tricia, had an amazing grace encounter from God, it not only changed her life, but it changed our whole family's life. This book is an excellent representation of our family's journey of learning about God's grace and how it really can change your life!

Martha Ellen and Nate Johnson, Ann Claire Gunn, Frances Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Neil Gunn  
Tricia's amazing kids

## Acknowledgements

The *Unveiling Jesus* journey has been one I will cherish forever. I am forever grateful to my Lord Jesus for opening my eyes to His love. There really aren't words to tell the story of how He has changed me and how He has revealed Himself to me, but this book is the beginning of a lifetime of attempting to articulate what I am discovering about my Lord and what it means to be a new creation in Him.

I thank God for my husband Mark, my knight in shining armor, who has encouraged me, protected me, listened to me, and supported me with his unconditional love and partnership throughout the last few years of ardent Bible study and personal transformation. Our wonderful children have been on this journey with us, and nothing brings more joy to my mother's heart than to watch each one grow in amazing grace.

My heart also rejoices in the fellowship of friends around me who have unabashedly embraced undiluted grace. The only thing better than having a revelation of God's grace is having people around you see the same thing. We are having a blast together!

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Bill and Von Jenkins who have partnered with Mark and me to share *Unveiling Jesus* with as many people as we can. They have been the best friends in the world. I've never known a couple so unified and focused on the Gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ going forth across the world. Together we have big vision for Jesus to be unveiled to the nations. May *Unveiling Jesus* be an instrument that God uses in this revolution of grace!

Tricia Gunn

## Forward

*Unveiling Jesus* is a verse by verse study of the pure gospel of Christ, leaving one forever changed and more in love with their Savior than ever before. It is an amazing journey of love, identity, and freedom in Christ.

I became a believer as a child and grew up attending church on a regular basis. I have lived a blessed life, with a wonderful husband and family. As a wife, mother, and grandmother, I have had very few worries, and have known happiness most of my days.

About five years ago something began to change. The change was subtle, but I began to feel as if I did not love Jesus like I should. Having grown up in church, I knew the commandment “love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your might.” It wasn’t a question of whether or not I loved Jesus. God had been so good to me — why didn't I love him more?

Through the years I had heard many testimonies of people who had been delivered from addictions or who were going through personal tragedies in their lives. Through the process they cried out to God, and God in His faithfulness met them right at their point of need. The result always seemed to be just a sweet, pure relationship with Jesus.

I longed for that same kind of relationship with Jesus. Yet for me, there was no apparent outward driving force causing me to get to know my Savior in this way. I wanted to know Him more, but I felt almost passive by comparison. Looking back now, I can almost see Jesus smiling. While self-effort couldn’t create the drive to love Him more, He through the Holy Spirit was slowly but surely opening my eyes to see Him more clearly and draw me to Himself.

I looked at the many times in Scripture that Jesus said, “I say nothing unless I first hear My heavenly Father say it. I do nothing unless I first see My Father do it.” Wow! What a picture of unity — Jesus and the Father — totally one, totally unified. I began asking, “Lord, is it possible for me to know You like that? If it is, please show me.”

As I cried out to the Lord, I began to have a better understanding of just what Jesus really accomplished for me when He died on the cross. In the Scriptures I saw clearly the many exchanges of the cross.

- Jesus died — that I might have abundant and eternal life.
- Jesus bruised — that I might be healed.
- Jesus was punished — that I might be forgiven.
- Jesus became poor — that I might walk in abundance.
- Jesus was rejected — that I might be accepted.
- Jesus was shamed — that I might walk in glory.

But the scripture that touched my heart the most was found in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “God made Jesus who knew no sin to become sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Jesus became sin — that I might be made righteous.

It was an exchange, a gift from God. All I had to do was believe that He had taken my sin upon Himself, all my sin: past, present, and future. He gave me a gift — His perfect and holy righteousness. It was a gift, not dependent on my behavior or my actions, but on His behavior and His actions. As I pondered all these things and wondered if it could really be true, Jesus seemed to wrap me in His arms of love. In the months that followed, each night as I climbed in bed, tears of joy would stream down my face.

The story of Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan became personal. As Jesus came up out of the water, God the Father said: “This is my Son, whom I love, and in Him I’m well pleased.” As I thought about this familiar account, it took on new meaning. It was almost as if I heard the Father say, “Von, you are my daughter (identity), whom I love (acceptance), and because you are in Me, in you I am well pleased (approval).”

As the revelation of how much Jesus loved me unfolded within, everything changed. The questions I had struggled with for five years vanished in a moment. I realized the gospel is all about Jesus: how much He loves me, how much He accepts me, and how He has placed me in Him and in Him I now have full approval. He has forgiven me of all my sins and made me righteous. He became sin with my sinfulness and I became righteous with His righteousness.

Now I find myself thinking about Him all the time with effortless love. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that if we behold Him, He will change us into His image from glory to glory. All we do is “behold Jesus.” That’s so easy when we understand how much He loves us!

*Unveiling Jesus* is a must read. The truths from this book will leave you beholding Him, and you will see God's grace in action in your life. It tells the story of God's amazing plan of redemption. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe. I believe *Unveiling Jesus* will help you know and experience the pure gospel of Jesus Christ in a way you have never known.

Von Jenkins

# Introduction

One encounter with Jesus, our wonderful Lord, can change everything. It did for me! Just as the blind man said following his encounter with Jesus, I too can say: I was blind and now I see ... and what I have seen I can never un-see for my spiritual eyes now see with greater clarity than ever before.

## My Testimony

Several years ago, I was “successful” in ministry according to anyone’s standards of measurement. I wrote Bible studies on deliverance and prayer and led conferences that thousands of people participated in. The numbers were good, the momentum was strong, and there was no reason to doubt that the future would be bright. At least that’s how it appeared. Yet, with the prospect of such a promising future how and why had I become so discontented?

I was frustrated ... stirred to the point of almost exploding ... so miserable and burnt out ... struggling with my thoughts and desperate for the joy of my salvation to return ... Fasting, praying, worshipping, serving God and the church more and more, trying to fix myself..

And then someone shared a song with me entitled, “Not Guilty Anymore” by Aaron Keyes. The first time I listened to it, something amazing began to happen: my heart began to soften as the truth captured in the song washed over me. Some of the phrases from the song that touched me so deeply said:

It doesn't matter what you've done;  
It doesn't matter where you're coming from;  
Doesn't matter where you've been;  
Hear me tell you I forgive.  
You're not guilty anymore,  
You're not filthy anymore,  
I love you, mercy is yours,  
You're not broken anymore.

Can you believe that this is true?  
Grace abundant I am giving you.<sup>2</sup>

The lyrics of the song went on with a similar theme to remind me that I am spotless, holy, faultless, whole, righteous, blameless, pardoned, and His forever. I listened to that song hundreds of times over the coming months. No exaggeration, I listened to the song in the car. I listened to it at home. I sang it from the top of my lungs everyday. It was so much a part of all my daily activities that I made everyone else listen to it, too. In fact, it became the theme song of my ministry during that season. I played it at every prayer meeting, every planning meeting, every training meeting, at the conference. But the song was mostly for me. My hard heart was breaking. All my own efforts to “fix myself” were beginning to crumble as I began to understand who I was in Christ.

As weeks turned into months, my heart became more pliable and I was encouraged by what was happening in my life. I was starting to feel alive again spiritually, not realizing that all of this was only preparation for what was ahead.

### **A Life-Changing Encounter**

Then ... a few months later, it happened: an encounter with the Lord like I had never had. I was on the beach walking and praying after listening to a message called, “Let’s Put the Amazing Back into Grace.” Someone had shared the CD with me before I left for my vacation. Normally I wouldn’t even have listened to this message — people were always giving me stuff to listen to or read and I never “had time,” but God had another plan and this time I listened. The message was on grace, and I had never heard the clarity of the Gospel taught like this before. So much of what I heard in that message was what we would say in church, and it was terminology I had used my entire life as a Christian. Yes, the words were familiar but the message was different ... very different.

At that time in my Christian life I was in the habit of praying what was called the “Tabernacle Prayer Format.” It’s a method of praying where we would symbolically start at the “gate” and end up in the “holy of holies.” There we could experience the presence of the Lord. It was “seven steps to the presence of God” and was patterned after the Tabernacle system of priestly sacrifices in the Old Testament. The prayer format included lots of confession of sins and asking for forgiveness, and praying things like, “Search me and know my heart, Lord. Let me know if there is any wicked way in me.” After listening to the message on grace, my eyes were beginning to open to this marvelous revelation on the Gospel, and somehow I felt tension in my prayer format. Were there seven steps to the

presence of God? I asked the Lord, “Where is the moment of encounter with the Spirit of Grace in my prayer format?” I was getting very close to the encounter with Jesus that I had been waiting for my entire forty-five years of life.

I could sense the presence of the Lord walking with me on the beach, and I heard Him say, “Start at the brazen altar.” Eager to obey, I did that. I saw my sin being punished in the body of Jesus. I saw the enormity of His sacrifice and the absoluteness of God’s forgiveness. I was touched more deeply than ever before as I let this truth penetrate my heart. After years of teaching others, I was finally getting it myself! I said, “Lord, is this it? Is this the encounter with Grace?” I was a blank slate, and it was as if I was starting all over.

He said, “No, the brazen altar is My mercy. I took the punishment that you deserved. Go on to the laver.” The laver in the Old Testament tabernacle was a large bowl, lined with mirrors and filled with water that stood outside the entrance to a tent, which was comprised of two parts, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. So the priest would have to wash in the laver before he could take one more step towards the presence of the Lord.

I started my routine “approach-the-laver” prayer: “Search me and know my heart and let me know if there is any wicked way in me...” However, it seemed inappropriate to pray that way because I had just seen the Lamb of God take away my sins at the brazen altar. The Lord said, “STOP praying that, and just look down in the bowl.” I stopped and looked down and was blown away. It was the most pivotal moment of my entire life — and continues to be even to this day! I felt like I was born again at that moment! The joy of my salvation returned in an instant! As I looked down through the water into the mirrors of the laver, I saw what Jesus saw: perfected, blameless beauty. It was glorious. And then I was speechless. “But Lord, (and I motioned back to the brazen altar) but Lord! Look at all my sin! This can’t be!” He smiled at me.

I looked at Him and I said, “I don’t deserve this. This can’t be right! This is the most unfair thing I have ever seen!” All of a sudden my first love returned, and I exclaimed, “I love You, Lord. I love You! I will do ANYTHING for You. I want to live for You forever.” His response: “Tricia, I just want you to rest.” All of the pressure I had felt disappeared. All the heavy burdens fell off, and I felt so free that it seemed almost like I could fly. For me at last there was no more “HAVE to” ... no more duty-bound obligations. The need for man’s approval, all the exhaustion, the do-do-do mentality, the need to please the Lord all dropped off of my shoulders. With that freedom came the realization that He was pleased with me and had been all along. Nothing else mattered to me at that moment except His love, His acceptance, and His approval.

On the beach that day, Jesus gave me revelation of the great New Covenant reality: by His blood all my sin has been removed. All of my condemnation was nailed to the cross. Now I was like Him, raised and seated in heavenly places. I had known the theological facts, but I encountered the Person of Grace, and my spiritual eyes were opened. In that glorious moment my life changed forever.

Every day since then has been a more amazing day than the one before. Each day has been full of joy explosions on the inside — even when I have messed up, even when I have had trials, even when I have been hurt by others. Ever since that day, I have been hidden in the secure, peaceful wings of my Father. I am under Grace. I am not perfect in my behavior, but I can say this: I am learning what it means to love Jesus with all my heart, all my mind, all my soul, and all my strength as I experience His love for me. However, I am no longer laboring to convince Him or anyone else of that. I love Him that way because I now know that He loved me that way when He took all my sins away and died in my place, and He continues to love me that way every second of every day. I am in a forever season of gratefulness.

Now I know there is only ONE step to the presence of God: the cross of Jesus Christ.

The veil has been torn, and I've entered into God's presence. Now I'm inside ... forever.

*Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. (Colossians 1:22-23, NLT)<sup>3</sup>*

This is a passage of scripture that I have read countless times over the past few years because it so clearly states what Christ has done for us. Paul wrote this statement to the Colossians to combat dangerous heresies that were becoming popular in the community of Colosse. One of those heresies denied the deity of Christ. Another heresy was the mixing of law with faith for salvation. Paul wanted the believers to know that Jesus Christ, although God, became a man with flesh and blood so that He could die our death and raise us up in Him. Having finished the work for our redemption, we can say we are in His presence NOW. We are blameless and holy NOW. We are without a single fault NOW. Paul pleaded with the Colossian church to stand firm in this truth because the truth sets us free!

## **A Revelation of Grace**

Since this revelation of God's grace began to unfold in my life, I've learned to rest in His timing of the process of discovering His great love for me. There seemed to be so much undoing that needed to take place from decades of believing a mixed up gospel. I had lost the assurance I had received when I first believed.

For me the revelation of grace was such a paradigm shift, I felt like I needed to relearn almost everything I'd ever been taught. It seemed like everything I knew was from the perspective of an unfinished work. My spirit "got it," but my mind had to be renewed to it. This takes time.

Just so you know, I'm not a theologian. I'm a wife and a mom. I've raised five wonderful children and have been married to the love of my life for twenty-nine years at the time of this writing. My family is the greatest evidence of God's grace in my life, and I wouldn't trade the value of family and real life experiences of God's love and grace for anything that might give me greater credentials in the eyes of man. Out of brokenness and desperation I was immersed in God's grace.

Over the past few years, God has provided time and space for me delve into the scriptures for hours a day to learn about and get to know this amazing Person of Jesus Christ in a way I had never known Him before. He is my Best Friend. No one compares.

I have listened to many teachers of the pure Gospel of grace during this time of immersion in the scriptures. I have many mentors, some whom I have had the privilege of knowing and some whom I have never met, all of whose revelation of God's word have changed my life. They have sown seeds of the truth of God's grace and watered them. These seeds of grace have weathered the storms of hardship and persecution, establishing deep roots of grace in my heart. I can never go back.

We need teachers. It's a God-given gift for the body of Christ, and I thank God for all of them. They have led me on this treasure hunt where I have found one priceless gem after another. In this process, God has given me nuggets of wisdom and revelation in the secret place of His presence that have given me inexpressible joy explosions on the inside and have been so fresh and tailor-made to me that they seemed brand new. However, there is nothing new under the sun. The truth has always been there. I just didn't see it.

Having said that, always search the scriptures out for yourself, and never let any human teacher or preacher take the place of the Holy Spirit.

*But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)<sup>4</sup>*

While we read books (even this one!), listen to sermons, and attend Bible studies, we need to know that every believer has the indwelling presence and voice of the Holy Spirit. He will guide us into all truth, and if we listen, we will know truth and it will set us free.

My prayer for you as you make your journey through *Unveiling Jesus* is one that the apostle Peter prayed for believers who were dispersed throughout the ancient world of his time:

*Grace [the unmerited favor of God] and peace [completeness, soundness, welfare, safety, health, and prosperity] be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (2 Peter 1:2, brackets mine)*

The word “knowledge” in the original language of the New Testament scriptures is the Greek word “epignosis”<sup>5</sup> which means FULL knowledge. It means “a greater participation by the ‘knower’ in the object ‘known,’ thus more powerfully influencing him.” The fuller the knowledge we have of our Lord Jesus Christ, the more the grace and peace of God will influence us and flow in our lives.

May you experience joy explosions as you get to know our Jesus more and more. I encourage you to rest and allow grace adequate time to grow in your heart. I pray that this study will plant and water seeds that will burst and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit of grace in your life. May grace and truth be exponentially multiplied to you in the intimate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> Keyes, Aaron. “Not Guilty Anymore.” *Revive*. Integrity Music, 2009

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<sup>5</sup> Vine, W.E. “knowledge” (epignōsis), Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Minneapolis, MN, 1984. Print.