

**"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)**

Dear Partners,

We can't thank you enough for your prayers and support. Many have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through your support. It is wonderful to have the opportunity everyday to be part in what God is doing in saving people lives. I can't tell you how much joy it is to see the face of prisoners week after week light up because they are hearing the truth that sets them free spiritually and mentally.

I still teach 6 days a week at one Nashville Prison and three jails. Just finished a Charis Bible institute 1 year church leadership class in Narrowsburg, PA. I am getting reports from the graduates of that class of the fruit that CBI training has brought for the glory of God. One graduate is now teaching truth at a women drug recovery center in the area, and the Women Prison Ministry is going great in Honesdale, PA.

Please know that with much fruit comes much opposition. We have had our share of opposition and testing in the past six months but God is faithful and provides grace to endure. So many are under Satan influence these days including believers, and that makes things so difficult but God's power, and grace always prevails.

I am always encouraged to know that there are people out there who believe in what God is doing through GPM. Thanks for your support. Please keep us in your prayers.

Christ's servant and yours,

Keithian L. Starling

*We are to remain confident at all times, that the work God has started in us at salvation He will finish it until the day Christ returns no-matter what circumstance we find ourselves in. Thus, we are to rejoice in all things. Come! Lord Jesus Come!*

## *What If God*

What if God only showed acts of kindness when we met His standards  
 What If God treated us as we treat others  
 What if God expected from us what we expect from others  
 What if God rejected us when we forget to speak to Him daily  
 What if God rejected us when we did not listen to Him  
 What if God rejected us when we forget to tell Him we love Him  
 What if God held grudges for months because we offended Him  
 What if God gave us what we deserve  
 We do not love as God loves but what if... People will come to know Christ's love

*by Keithian L. Starling*

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## Letters from the Inside

Dear Keithian,

I would like to thank you for helping me as well as other inmates find Christ at a time where we need him the most. Please continue to be an encouragement to all who seek repentance and forgiveness for all sins! Again, thank you and God bless you.

Georgia

Grace Prison Ministries,

I am at CDC and come to church when everyone is called for church. It has been two weeks now going on three since I've been coming. Keithian L. Starling of Grace Prisons Ministries is the real deal. He teaches how to apply the Bible to life. Keithian gives us understanding of the way God wants us to live and that is the way our Lord Jesus Christ lived. He gives us the true light on how to apply the Bible to life. He made me understand the Bible better than before. I'm glad that I've meet him. I thank God for sending him.

Tennessee

Dear Grace Prison Ministries,

I am very grateful for Keithian and his testimony. It seems like every time I go to his class he says exactly what I need to hear. His ministry has comforted me many times. I hope he continues on for my sake and for other inmates, who I am sure get a lot out of hearing him preach, teach, and give his testimony. THANK YOU.

GOD BLESS YOU

Tennessee

Dear Grace Prison Ministries,

I'm at CDC and every Monday at 1:00 pm. For 4 months my Bible teacher has been Keithian Starling. Thanks to the teaching he presents week after week I have a new attitude, and believe God will give me another chance. Right now I have more faith than I ever had and its growing daily. Thank you for your teachings.

Tennessee

Dear Pastor Keithian Starling,

I am a babe in Christ striving to learn about God and Jesus Christ. I truly appreciate any help that you will be willing to give me. I've been misled by another pastor for the past 5-plus years. He never taught me the way that you teach me. He focused on what one could do for his church, not for God, and how to break free from a life of sin. I give God all the praise and glory for all that I have learned under you. I want to study with you when I get out.

Tennessee

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I am at CDC and have been coming to your 1:00 p.m. service for about a month now. I want to thank you for helping me understand through the teaching of God's word that although I'm incarcerated and at my lowest I can praise God. He is in control and can meet my need. This teaching turned my life around. Thanks!

Tennessee

Keithian,

I am currently at Valdosta State Prison in Valdosta, Georgia. I attended church services at Dougherty County jail in Albany Ga. I have been doing the Bible lessons faithfully. I have learned a lot of valuable things about the Bible and how I can apply it to my everyday walk with Jesus. I thank you for the opportunity to complete the lessons and for your encouragement. Thank you again. God bless you, your ministry, and your staff.

Georgia

Dear Keithian,

Hello my fellow brethren. Thanks to you and glory to God for helping me grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The studies have really helped me grow in my spiritual life. I pray that God blesses you in what you are doing for us born-again Christians. You are a blessing to me brother. Thanks.

God bless you with brotherly love,

Tennessee

Dear Grace Prison Ministries,

I'm in the Tennessee Prison for Women. I'm working on the Bible studies through Grace Prisons Ministries. I've been working the studies for about 7-8 months. These studies have helped me understand the Bible more. Most of all it helped me to have a better relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. God bless.

Tennessee

Hello,

I am 21 years old, and a mother of a two year old daughter. I am instituted at CCA on a 4-yr. sentence that was just put into effect on January 3, 2012. I have been attending different church services since being at CCA. Wednesday night service, with Keithian Starling, is the one I attend through Grace Prisons Ministries. I have attended his class twice so far, and it's the best. It helps me understand the word by breaking it down and simplifying it. My whole life has been nothing but sin. I have repented my known sin and unknown sins to Christ and have asked forgiveness for them. Keithian Starling has helped me realize that God loves me no matter how many times I have sinned, and that I am still a beloved child of God. I also learned that God himself can help me understand his word. God has been answering all my prayers as I confess my sins, pray, and stay on His path.

## Impact Essays from C.B.I Students

There were several things from this course that left me amazed. Some were good and some were not. The first was the Catholic religion. It opened my eyes to what false religion can do to influence people with fear and control. It made me sad for those who are dominated by false religions. Second, the way Christianity was spread throughout history-God even used wicked people to spread his word. Nothing was wasted and for God all had a purpose. It was a real life example of Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

CBI Student  
Narrowsburg, New York

This was an amazing study. I love history and this was a very interesting perspective of history. Only God could have preserved the church throughout the never ending attacks from various "religions", mostly Roman Catholicism, who did all they could to destroy the true doctrine. The politics, power struggles, immorality and evil that has continued for almost 2,000 years is such a clear picture of satanic attack. It is surprising to me, and disturbing to see how rarely the real truth was being taught. This made me examine what I believe and how I interpret scripture to see in what areas I may be deceived. I've been praying for guidance because I DO NOT WANT to be holding on to any false doctrine. With all the deception in the world it seems like we are fighting a losing battle. I like to remember 2 Corinthians 13:8 "For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth." Thank you Lord for that!

CBI Student  
Narrowsburg, New York

It's hard to pin down what impacted me most in this course. I loved hearing about the history of the church, all of the turmoil, abuses, and failures, etc. But the most amazing thing was seeing God's plan unfold despite all of it! I could also see how Satan uses the same tactics today. It has made me more determined than ever to take care of my personal walk with the Lord, so as not to ever be deceived by all the lies that are out there to distract me from God's plan for my life. I am so thankful that God has led me to the proper teaching of his word. In the times ahead, as our nation is in decline, we will need more than ever, a strong trust in His power and might to see us through. These courses have helped me focus more on really studying God's word, not just reading it!

CBI Student  
Narrowsburg, New York



## What is Pride?

- ◆ *Pride is being independent of God and others.*
- ◆ *Pride is rejecting the authority and leadership God has placed over you. Believing you know more than that leadership*
- ◆ *Pride never admits failures or accepts failures*
- ◆ *Pride always emphasizes self not God and others*
- ◆ *Pride sets goals without God's input*
- ◆ *Pride is arrogance or preoccupation with self*
- ◆ *Pride is self promotion*
- ◆ *Pride is lack of giving to God and others*
- ◆ *Pride is bragging about what one has as though it is the source of happiness*
- ◆ *Pride is selfishness*
- ◆ *Pride is thinking you know all the answers and facts*
- ◆ *Pride realizes no need of God's help*
- ◆ *Pride can't handle receiving a compliment*
- ◆ *Pride is refusal to listen to advice from mature believers*
- ◆ *Pride is lack of submission to those in authority*
- ◆ *Pride is rebellion against God*

*God's Word warns us about pride  
(Proverb 11:2; 29:23, Prov. 16:18-19)*

# Patience: Preserving The Unity Of The Spirit

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“Patience is a virtue, possess it if you can, seldom found in woman, never found in man.”

This may be a humorous statement, and part of it is true; patience is a virtue, and it can be possessed, but it is not found inherently in anyone, male or female! At least not the kind the Bible refers to.

**Definition:** Patience is the state of bearing up under provoking until it is past.

It is impossible in our own human strength to bear with those who continue to provoke us to retaliate in anger through immaturity in Christ. Through God’s power we can love those who provoke us to anger.

Patience is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22 – 23), and can only be possessed by someone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is filled or “controlled” by the Holy Spirit, and is abiding in the Vine (Christ).

The Apostle Paul calls us to have patience towards one another under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1 – 3)

So, how do we have patience and “preserve the unity of the Spirit”?

The key words in this verse are “being diligent”. The first step toward true unity in any local assembly, is to be sure we are abiding in the Vine (in fellowship with Christ). John 15:5

Abiding in the Vine implies diligence in studying the Word, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, applying it to life. This is true fellowship with God.

The word diligent means, constant, careful, steady effort. As stated earlier patience isn’t something we can work up ourselves. It must be produced in us by the Holy Spirit. As we are controlled by the Holy Spirit He produces the fruit in our lives. Our responsibility is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is our perfect example of patience. Where would we be if He had not demonstrated perfect patience, in love and forgiveness, toward us when He willingly went to the cross in order to bring us to Himself?

Paul made this truth clear in writing to the young pastor Timothy:

“Yet, for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, (sinner) Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.” (1Tim.1:16)

Even though Paul was the chief sinner, Jesus Christ demonstrated patience toward Paul as an example to us. He did everything provoking Christ to wrath but in return He received patience.

We are the body of Christ, and our objective is to demonstrate His life to others, believers and unbelievers alike. If we are not serious about our study of the Word, and our personal walk with the Lord in application of His word to life, how will we have the power to show patience to others in our local assembly, who may be weak or baby believers, and in need of our patience and encouragement?

Everyone isn’t at the same level of spiritual growth and maturity in Christ. Some in the body are in great need of patience from maturing believers.

When we neglect our personal spiritual life, it’s easy to fall prey to the temptation to criticize others, to tear down rather than build up and encourage, causing disunity in the body.

We have been called to be lights to the world! We have to guard our hearts and our minds from the temptation to neglect our responsibility to grow in the grace and knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:16; 2 Peter 3:18); and thus, being a contributor of disunity in the body of Christ.

When we walk faithfully in the path God has designed for us, the Holy Spirit can then produce in us the fruit of the Spirit, which is; “love, joy, peace, PATIENCE, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”.

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” (Col.3:12 –14,&16)

God’s love in action is the perfect bond of unity.

– Kathy Rish





## Grace Prison Ministries At-A-Glance

Grace Prison Ministries Inc. is a Christian, grace-oriented, nonprofit organization incorporated in Tennessee which focuses on changing the lives of prisoners and their families through evangelism and sound Bible teaching.

GPM travels to jails, prisons, and youth detention centers throughout the United States; evangelizing individuals with the message of Jesus Christ at four to five institutions per month. This activity is important because the message of Jesus Christ brings hope, forgiveness, and change to those incarcerated. This way, those incarcerated can become law-abiding citizens and good role models in our society. Upon our visits we provide Bibles for those in need of Bibles. In conjunction with the above activities GPM has the following ministries which are designed to bring glory to Jesus Christ and edification to believers:

### Discipleship through Mail

The Discipleship through Mail outreach is designed to equip new believers in the basic fundamental doctrines for living the normal Christian life. Bible lessons and resources are mailed to individual students in various prisons, jails, and youth detention centers, providing them an opportunity to learn and grow at their own pace. These lessons are reviewed and then mailed back to the students with comments that will provide a greater understanding of Bible truths. There are nearly 500 students enlisted in this program nationwide. D.T.M. is also designed to help develop the serious students who have already completed the basics, by creating personalized studies and providing more biblical resources to help them continue their growth to maturity. Upon completion of the basics, students are rewarded with a study Bible, which is hard for some to get in prison.



Discipleship by mail

### Operation Impact Lives

Operation Impact Lives is a group of believers partnering to impact the lives of prisoners. O.I.L. is comprised of pastors, evangelists, and biblically sound seminaries. Periodically, conferences are held in prisons, jails and youth detention centers where pastors, evangelists and passionate believers join together to fulfill the great commission (presenting the Gospel and equipping the saints). We take the gospel, sound Bible teaching, and resources to them which gives prisoners hope, purpose, and a new way of thinking.

Once inmates respond positively to Bible truth, they need to be built up in the faith. We partner with seminaries willing to give free tuition to those serious students that are incarcerated. GPM, as God provides, will help with the textbooks for their studies. Upon the release of those incarcerated, it is the desire of GPM to offer a scholarship program for ex-inmates with seminaries willing to collaborate, so that they may be educated and prepared to work in ministry upon release for those who are called to do His work. We also accept theological books and Bible dictionaries that can be used by these students. The great commission is about teaching the faithful so they may be equipped to teach others.



Operation Impact Lives



## Grace Refuge Transition Facility

In an effort to assist recently released inmates, GPM offers temporary housing, food, clothing, and limited transportation. By God's grace, GPM has a 2400 square ft. house on 1 acre of land in Madison, TN. This facility is temporal housing for those recently released inmates that have been proved and are positive towards learning and applying the word of God to life. Most of those housed are individuals who have expressed interest in getting trained so they can find a job and become self-sustaining. They are allowed to stay three to six to twelve months. Those who want to get a job and become involved in the work of the ministry are allowed to stay longer.



Operation Impact Lives

## Charis Bible Institute

Grace Prison Ministries partnering with Bible Training Centre for Pastors formed Charis Bible Institute in June 2011 which seeks to extend non-formal theological training free of charge by forming Bible institutes in prisons for those growing to maturity in Christ and have expressed interest in getting training for local church ministry and missionary work aboard. The best pastor, evangelist, and teacher is one who came from that culture and properly trained. We are now extending our service to churches.



Charis Bible Institute

## Spreading the Word

GPM welcomes any invitation to come spread God's word and to share what God is doing through GPM. Keithian and the GPM team are willing to travel to any state to disseminate His message to those who are lost and without hope and those interested in learning about this ministry. Every day that is given to us is an opportunity to share His word and make an impact in the lives of the others. Preaching and teaching opportunities are not limited to youth detention centers, jails and prisons. Keithian has also taught at churches, conferences, youth camps, schools, retirement homes and hospitals. We need your continued support both in prayers and financial contributions.

Thank you to all who have shared with this ministry in the dissemination of the word of God. This is a grace ministry. We trust God to meet our needs as they arise. Please learn more about our ministry on our website [www.graceprisons.org](http://www.graceprisons.org).



Keithian at a Nashville Jail



Grace Prison Ministries

**Financial Policy:** Grace Prison Ministries is a Christian non-denominational, mission minded, and Bible teaching non-profit tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). All contributions to this grace ministry are tax deductible. G.P.M. offers its services free of charge. We trust God to meet the needs of this ministry. We do not solicit funds but operate entirely on voluntary contributions. When understanding the need to reach lost souls with the good news and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.



# Biography

Keithian L. Starling is a native of Albany, Georgia; and grew up in a single parent home in a poor neighborhood of drugs, gangs, and violence. Keithian came to know and trust Jesus Christ personally as his savior while incarcerated as a youth. Keithian was too far behind in his school work to pass to the eighth grade. Due to constant incarceration, he dropped out of school. He went to a life of drug dealing, partying, and crime. He spent most of his young adult life incarcerated.

In 2000, while incarcerated on drug charges in Albany, Georgia, Keithian began to examine his life. He saw that bad decisions had ruined his life.

The only hope he thought was to turn to God. He confessed his sins and prayed and asked God to reveal His ways to him and a few days later he had the privilege of receiving books by R.B. Theime Jr. from Ernest Smith of Lost & Found Ministries. These books opened his eyes to salvation—by grace, through faith—and how to live the unique spiritual life through the power of the Spirit and the word of God. When he understood the doctrine of “Faith alone in Christ alone to be saved, confession of sins & keep moving, Faith-rest, How to be controlled by the Holy Spirit for life change, and other doctrines taught by R.B. Theime Jr., he became a lover of truth and burdened for those suffering for lack of truth. Keithian started teaching the doctrine he was learning with the inmates, and guards. When he was released from prison in 2003, he continued his pursuit of doctrine at Albany Bible Church where Pete Daughtry is the Pastor-teacher.

From 2003-2006, while attending Albany Bible Church, God opened doors for Keithian to visit schools, prisons, jails, youth detention centers presenting the gospel and basic procedures to living the Christian life.

In 2004 Keithian attended a community college and got his G.E.D. and started pursuing a diploma as a radiology technician. After the first two courses he dropped out and enrolled in seminary through extension at Tyndale Theological seminary in order to be a better trained minister of the Word.

From July 2004 to August 2006, Keithian worked for Nanze Springs Water Company as a salesman. While working at this company his daily route brought him in contact with many who needed the gospel. This kindled his desire to do full time mission work. He began to see what the Lord meant by “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few”.

In May, 2006, Keithian moved to Nashville Tennessee to partner with Moses C. Onwubiko, founder of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. While working for Grace Evangelistic Ministries and reading many letters from prisoners all over the world, Keithian sensed the call by God to go back into the prisons, jails, and detention centers, taking them the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and sound Bible teaching that changes the way they think. Therefore he incorporated Grace Prison Ministries.

Currently, Keithian lives in Nashville TN with his wife and three kids and teaches weekly at two Nashville jails and two prisons. He travels to youth detention centers, youth camps, jails and prisons in Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida and where ever God opens the door. He also conducts conferences in prisons and jails around the country. In 2011 Keithian started a Bible Institute in Tennessee to train men released from prison for the ministry. Keithian shares our Lord’s heart for the lost, and a heart for prisoners. He has already walked a mile in their shoes and knows that the only way for them to change is by becoming a new creature in Christ and renewing their minds. The grace and love of God have transformed his life and now he is reaching out sharing the truth that set him free.



*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into service...It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” (1 Timothy 1:12, 15)*