

# Hindrances to Growing in Grace

by David Wilkerson

---

*To grow in the grace of Christ, we must remove bitterness, wrath, anger, evil speaking, and malice from our lives.*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 3:8, James 1:19

**Topics:** "Growth in Grace", "Heart Issues"

---

## Description

David Wilkerson emphasizes the critical need to address heart issues that hinder our growth in grace, as outlined by Paul in Ephesians 4:31. He explains that bitterness, wrath, anger, evil speaking, clamor, and malice must be removed from our lives to avoid grieving the Holy Spirit and becoming spiritually stagnant. Each of these issues represents a deeper struggle that requires intentional effort and repentance to overcome. Wilkerson encourages believers to engage in this process of growth, recognizing that it may take time and that failure is part of the journey. Ultimately, he calls for a commitment to healing and restoration in our relationships.

---

## Transcript

In Ephesians 4:31, Paul lists things we must remove from our lives if we are to grow in the grace of Christ: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

We dare not skip over these issues on Paul's list. The apostle says we absolutely must face these things if we are to grow in grace. If you ignore the heart issues Paul mentions here, you will grieve the Holy Spirit. Your growth will be stunted, and you'll end up a spiritual zombie.

The first three items on Paul's list--bitterness, wrath and anger--are self-explanatory. Bitterness is a refusal to let go of an old wound or forgive a past wrong. Wrath is a stronghold of resentment coupled with a hope to gain revenge. Anger is exasperation--either a quick explosive outburst or a slow burn of indignation toward someone. Evil speaking are words that tear down--it is the opposite of edifying someone or speaking words of edification; evil speaking is malicious, hurtful.

Clamor is a sudden outburst over nothing--an unnecessary hubbub, a loud noise made for no purpose. We cause a clamor when we make a big issue out of something insignificant, or cause a scene rather than trying to help or heal.

The final item on Paul's list is malice. Malice is the desire to see someone else suffer. For many Christians malice means hoping God will punish someone who wounded them. It's a devilish spirit, and it's usually hidden deep within the heart.

When Paul says "Put away all these evils from you," he's not talking about a quick fix. He's describing a process--a matter of growth that takes time. At times, we may fail at ridding ourselves of these evils. But if we will quickly repent, and commit to making things right with the person, over time these issues will fade away.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/david-wilkerson/hindrances-to-growing-in-grace/>

# *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)**