Paul's Six Steps To Grace

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, teaches the necessity of six steps of obedience to the good news preached by Jesus...

The passages below contain Paul's words in Romans, and the words of Jesus in the four gospels. Check them out in your own Bible.

1. Hearing Christ's word
   (Romans 10:8-17, Matthew 7:24).

2. Believing — having faith
   (Romans 1:16-17, John 3:16)

3. Repentance from sin
   (Romans 2:4-5, 6:1-2, Luke 5:31-32)

4. Confessing Christ
   (Romans 10:8-10, Matthew 10:32)

5. Being baptized
   (Romans 6:3-4, Mark 16:15-16)

6. Ongoing commitment

Patience and Suffering

By Ron Graham

You wait at a bus stop. It's pouring rain. The bus is running late. Your kids are squabbling. You've just realized that you left your credit card at Woolworths' checkout. It's moments like these that patience is a virtue hard come by. It's easy to be patient when the weather is perfect, the bus runs on time, the kids are like saints, and your purse is in order.

In the same way — in your spiritual life — it's easy to be patient with God when your church is wonderful, your neighbors are tolerant, your prayers are all answered, your sins are few and forgiven, your spouse and family share your faith, you have no enemies nor opposition, and you are blessed with love, health, and money. But it may not be that way for you, and certainly that's not how it is for many Christians.

Paul, and the people he served in the gospel, did not have an easy time in their faith, otherwise why would he exhort them to be "rejoicing in hope, patient in troubles, devoted to prayer" (Rom 12:12)?