

GRACE or FAITH Which Is It?

Samuel H. Nodal

We Need Both; God's Grace and Faith

For **by grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast**. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:8-10) ESVS

First Let's Define what Grace Means

Grace means - Un merited Favor! This means, we don't deserve it. God's Grace means that God loves, forgives, and saves us not because of who we are or what we have done, but because of what Jesus Christ did on the CROSS for us! We are forgiven by God's Grace Alone, not by our earned goodness because we have none. Our very best goodness is as filthy rags in the eyes of a Holy and Righteous God.
(Is. 64:6)

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (John. 1:16,17)

Why do I Need God's Grace?

Why do I need God's Grace? I'm a good person, I've never killed anyone, I go to Church, I take the Eucharist, I give money to the Church, I try to help others in need, etc, etc, etc...

God Declares; All Have Sinned and Come Short of the Glory of GOD

Heaven is a perfect place, where sin does not exist. Every sort of beauty and love live there. Heaven is God's house, that's where He lives. Sin cannot exist there.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: (Rom. 3:23)

Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. (Dan. 9:11)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom. 5:12)

*Have you ever told a lie, have you ever had a bad thought, have you ever had ill will against somebody, and are you perfect? Well, **then you've Sinned!***

For by Grace you have been Saved...

God's Grace takes on two meanings, one is to cleanse you and forgive all your sins, and the other is to give you power to accomplish the will of God for your life.

Only God's Grace (Unmerited Favor) Can Get you to Heaven

In Heaven Sin does not exist, but we know we are sinners, so how can God who is Perfect and Holy let us into Heaven? Long before God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) created the Earth and man, knew that man was going to sin and in His Great Love for man developed a plan to redeem fallen man. The Second Person of the God Head (Jesus Christ) volunteered to sacrifice Himself on a Cruel Roman Cross and pay for man's sin. The Holy Spirit volunteered to empower the entire operation, and the Father volunteered to oversee the entire situation.

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. (2 John 3)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor. 13:14)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.
(Titus 2:11)

It is the Gift of God, Not a Result of Works, so that No One may Boast

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Gal. 2:21)

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.** (Jam. 4:6)

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. (Heb. 12:15)

We then, **as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.** (2 Cor. 6:1)

But not as the offence, so **also is the free gift.** **For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.** (Rom. 5:15,16)

Grace Comes Through Knowledge (Bible Knowledge Manifests His Grace)

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. (2 Pet. 1:2) *means both knowledge and experience!*

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.** But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.** (2 Pet. 3:17,18)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (understanding): because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hos. 4:6)

Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works of Grace

Take note; we are not saved by works, but once we are saved by Grace we joyfully volunteer to serve God as a bond servant. God Himself will Grace us with His gifts so we can accomplish His will!

Whereof **I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.** (Eph. 3:7)

And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:** (2 Cor. 9:8)

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Pet. 4:10)

For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**
(1 Cor. 15:9,10)

Well Then; How Does Faith Fit Into the Picture?

We need faith to access the Grace of God. Without faith we cannot enter into the Grace of God. Many church folk are in hell today because they did not receive Him by Faith! Grace (Unmerited Favor) is God's part, but Faith is our part.

*God's Grace is not automatic, **we must take action and receive it!** Yes, the Grace of God was given to the entire world at Calvary (past, present, and future), but all that Grace will not do you any good if you don't humble yourself and receive it. It's like receiving a beautiful gift, the transaction is not complete until you open it and receive it! And don't forget to thank the person that gave you that gift (God).*

Therefore **being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:** By whom also **we have access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom. 5:1,2)

Therefore **we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.** (Rom. 3:28)

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it. (Heb. 4:2)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **which according to his abundant mercy** (*Grace*) hath begotten us again unto a lively hope **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith** unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet. 1:3-5)

Grace Will Get You to Heaven, but Faith Unlocks the Door

Faith unlocks the door to all the Grace that God has for you. Not all Christians will enter Heaven the same way. Some will enter defeated, others will enter with very little fruit to show the Lord, and others will enter into Heaven with great Victories. We know that we all have received God's seed (Holy Spirit) that is God's divine nature at salvation (Born Again). The condition you enter into Heaven, whether victorious or defeated will depend on how well you developed that Divine seed that God placed in you by faith! A seed will eventually grow into a huge tree if you follow and obey God's rules. The God seed has already been deposited by Faith in every believer. How big your tree gets depends on how hard you work to bring it forth by Faith. You can't be a casual Christian and expect a glorious victorious life. God's divine seed has already been planted in you but you must work it out by Faith.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** (Phil. 2:12,13)

*In order to produce a great spiritual tree we must work out that divine seed. So then, how do we work it out? We work it out the same way you received it **By Faith!** You were Born Again by Faith and you work it out by Faith. Everything in God's Kingdom is accomplished by Faith! What is the definition of Faith?*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. (Heb. 11:1)

Notice Faith is a substance you can't see. When you plant the seed in the ground you can't see the fully grown tree, but you are hopeful that if you follow God's rules you'll see the manifestation of that fully grown tree in the future. The moment you add sight you no longer have Faith. Because if you have sight you no longer need faith. So Faith deals with something you cannot see but yet you know it's real.

But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** (Heb. 11:6)

*So Faith has two handles, one, we must believe that He exists (He's Real); and two, that He responds (rewards) Faith. Without Faith you cannot fellowship with God. God's desire is that you trust Him completely no matter what happens. God wants us to live by the Integrity of His Holy Word. God cannot lie, His Integrity is at stake. "**for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**" (Psa. 138:2)*

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (Prov. 3:5-8)

Faith is simply to believe in God's Word (The Bible). Faith is measured by your walk not your talk! God will reveal Himself to you by Faith. Faith will reveal the invisible God and make Him a reality.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

The Just Shall Live by Faith

*You were Born Again by Faith and you will live by that same Faith until you reach Glory and see its conclusion. We need to live by God's Spirit and not our carnal nature. So every Grace that God gives us comes from Faith. **No Faith, No Grace!***

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.** (Rom. 1:17)

For we walk by faith, not by sight: (2 Cor. 5:7)

Faith Without Works is Dead

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, **O vain man, that faith without works is dead?** (Jam. 2:14-20)

So then, we see that it is possible to be a Christian and have a weak or useless Faith. God is not calling for more feeding programs, He wants you to walk out your calling by faith. Faith is based on what God says, not someones opinion.

Faith Gives Access to the Grace in Which We Stand

Therefore **being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** (Rom. 5:1,2)

Seeing that Faith is so Important, How do we Receive it?

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Rom. 10:17)

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: (Is. 28:10)

Faith is Not Forcing God to Act on your Behalf (this is Un-righteous faith)

thank you Andrew Wommack

A great mistake of the Church is thinking that faith is something we do to gain a response from God. If your trying to make God move, by your self will, that will never happen, this is not Biblical faith, it is a works mentality or self performance which God will never agree with. Thinking well, if I do this God has to do that.

Faith is not making God agree with you, and forcing Him to move on your behalf. God is sovereign and all knowing. How can a simple sinful mind like ours that knows nothing command the God of Heaven and Earth. This type of faith will stop the power of God from flowing in your life. You can't make God do something in your life because your acting holy or following a set of rules. Biblical faith is just Trusting God through His Word and believing God is good, all knowing, and all powerful. Godly faith is Not exercising your will on Him, but rather letting His will flow through you according to His Word. Biblical faith doesn't make God act, it releases God's mercy and goodness found in the CROSS toward you according to His Word. We cannot force God to do something, this is not Grace (unmerited favor). You will insult God by trying to please Him with your holy attitude and self righteousness. Without God we are nothing but filthy rags in Hell! (Is. 64:6): Our faith must be totally dependent on what God has already done on the CROSS of Jesus Christ! God has already provided everything we need through Christ and what He did on the Cross for us!

And GOD Rested on the Seventh Day (Gen. 2:1-3)

*What does this mean? Was God tired and stopped creating? Absolutely Not; God doesn't rest nor sleep, nor slumber. God rested because His work was perfect and complete. Nothing could be added! Everything we will ever need has already been provided by God's Grace! Food, habitats, oxygen, blessings, etc: Faith is the action we take to receive God's Grace by His Word. For instance, God will not put food in your mouth, you have to get the banana He created, peel it, and put it in your mouth. That's faith in action, moving on what God has already provided. **Faith without works is dead** (Jam. 2:20): Likewise it takes faith (action) to move on what God has already provided in the Bible. Scripture has already said, "every promise of God is yes and amen!" (2 Cor. 1:20):*

Through Grace, God has already provided everything we need on Earth to be Victorious over the world, the flesh, and the devil. But we need to Trust Him (His Word) and receive it by faith! Grace is God's part, but faith is our part. Don't pray for more Grace, God's love has already supplied all the Grace you will ever need, through His Knowledge (The Word). We need to believe God's Word and receive it by faith.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet. 1:2-4) 7

Fear, Disobedience, and Unbelief will Curse your Blessing from God

Fear, disobedience, and unbelief will nullify God's blessing in our lives. God never intended Israel to spend 40 years in the wilderness wasting their lives away in fear. This was Not God's will for their lives, they did that to themselves through fear, disobedience, and unbelief.

While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. **But with whom was he grieved forty years?** was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

(Heb. 3:15-19)

God is using what happened to Israel in the past to teach us today; so we don't commit the same mistake and suffer the consequences. God will not Bless unbelief and disobedience! You have to mix faith with the Word of God in order for it to release it's power. Many read the Bible like any other book with their mind being the focus (facts, theology etc.): But God wants you to meditate on His Word with your heart not your mind, believing what He said!

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.** (Rom. 10:10,11)

There is a Godly Rest for All Those Who Believe

There is a spiritual rest when Jesus enters our heart (Born Again). So, like God rested on the seventh day providing everything we need (Gen. 2:1-3), we also enter into His rest through the CROSS of Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:7-11)!

He again sets a certain day, "**Today,**" saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "**TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.**" For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. Consequently, **there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let's make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the same example of disobedience.** (Heb. 4:7-11) NASB

Resting in what God has done for us means we relax (no anxiety), we enjoy that peace that God has given us. It means we Trust Him in every aspect of our lives (body, soul, and spirit): God rested on the seventh day because all creation was perfect and complete.

Like wise when we are Born Again, we are to rest and Believe on what God has already done. The God Head (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) planned the CROSS before the foundation of the World. God knew everything ahead of time and provided a way of escape from the horrors of Sin.

Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.** (1 Pet. 1:18-21)

According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:** (Eph. 1:4)

One Final Important Point

I do not believe in this modern hyper faith movement. Where they claim it and receive it. Blab it and grab it doctrine. I take the conservative view where yes you believe all of God's promises in the Bible, but you Trust God's timing for the answer. He knows when and how to answer our prayers. God is a wonderful perfect Father who loves us dearly and knows what we really need. God just want's us to Trust Him in everything, and that's what I Will Do. Praise God!

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (Prov. 3:5-8)

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: (2 Cor. 1:9)