

GRACE or FAITH Which Is It?

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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)

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.

One Final Important Point

I do not believe in this modern hyper faith movement. Where they Blab it and Grab it. 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)

FAITH is God's Greatest and Most Powerful Gift to Man

*If this is the case and it is! **What is Faith; really!** Faith is basically Trusting God no matter what happens to us. Faith is relying totally on God's Power and Love toward us in the good times as well as in the bad times. Unless you are mature in Spirit and in Truth (WORD) that will be impossible! God's definition of Faith is much different than the ones Churches and preachers declare today. When you look at the early Church and its Patriarchs you'll see how the modern Church philosophy and commitment are not the same..... (Hebrews 11)*

*by faith Abel was murdered by his brother Cain for the correct sacrifice: (v.4)
by faith Enoch pleased God and was taken - raptured: (v. 5)
by faith Noah obeyed God and condemned the world and saving humanity: (v.7)
by faith Abraham obeyed and trusted God for a city whose maker is God: (v.8)
by faith Sara conceived past her age because she judged Him faithful: (v.11)
by faith Abraham offered Isaac to God as a sacrifice: (v. 17-19)
by faith Jacob when dying blessed the sons of Joseph and worshipped: (v.21)
by faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter: (v.23-29)
by faith the harlot Rahab perished not by protecting the spies: (v.31)*

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

(Heb. 11:32-39)

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Heb. 11:13-16)

The commitment to God's work in today's Churches (in general) is lukewarm at best (Laodicean Church - Rev. 3:14-22). It is said that 20% of the people in Church give 80% of the funds to keep God's work going in preaching the Gospel. This means that the other 80% are free loaders and just sit around sucking up air. I wonder what their Judgment before the Lord is going to be like? Not very good I'm afraid! Everyone was given a gift from God to build up God's Church. It is extremely dangerous to willfully bury your gift and not use it to further God's Kingdom. (read Matthew 25:14-30)

Let's Look at God's Definition of FAITH

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Heb. 11:1)

We apply faith to the physical world in which we call science. We believe in science (True Science) remember there is a false science the humanists have created which is based on false information. But we can see (prove) some things are true through science though we can not see them.

For instance Gravity, we cannot see gravity but we can prove it is real. For since the Earth existed what goes up must come down. Today we understand what Gravity is because of science. Another example is Air. We cannot see it but if we lack it we are going to die. Through science we understand what air is and that it has mass and takes up space although we cannot see it. When the wind hits your face you can feel it but cannot see it, proving it has mass and weight. Well then my friends, Biblical Faith works the same way! Biblical Spiritual Faith can only come from God's Word and God's Spirit! You will never see God and His Kingdom without Faith. Your Faith must be on what Jesus did for you at the Cross. Once you believe that; God will forgive your sins and manifest Himself to you.

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)

So True Science and Biblical Faith work the same way. As a matter of fact, True Science was produced by Biblical Faith. In Study # 20 (Who's Right? GOD or the Evolutionists?) you can understand how True Science was produced by the Bible. The Bible gave birth to True Science!

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)

Notice verse one; God is telling us, that, if He promised you something in His Word wait for it because it will come to pass in His perfect time. God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). Don't give up on your Faith because it hasn't manifested! Nothing is impossible to God (Luke 1:37). God's Love for you will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5).

Examine verse six; God is telling us, that, faith in His Words is what pleases Him. Faith will bring about two things, one, your faith on His Word is solid because God is Real, and two, your faith understands that God will answer when you seek Him with all your heart. God answers Prayer and keeps all His Promises!