

SAVED by GRACE Through FAITH

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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

Grace means - Un merited Favor! This means, we don't deserve it but God's Love will give it to you anyway! God's Forgiveness and salvation is given to us freely, 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)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

(Titus 2:11)

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

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)

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)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Gal. 2:16)

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

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

Let's Trace and Examine the Word FAITH in the Scriptures

*First; lets understand that Faith is a **Substance** that can be felt and experienced! Faith changed your life and direction, Faith gave you spiritual insight, Faith let you see and experience things you were blind to before! Something has happened to you, you were blind and now you can see (spiritually). Faith is the evidence of things not seen before.*

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. 11:1,2)

*Second; Faith comes by Hearing the Word of God. If you want to grow in the Holy Faith you must read and understand the scriptures. People pray to God all the time; "Lord I need more Faith," in which He replies okay, **Read my Word!***

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

(Rom. 10:17)

Thirdly; Faith brings the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. God will not accept any ministry that is Not Done by the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us; anything that is not done by the power of God will burn up as dung at the Judgment seat of Christ. Your good works for Christ done in your carnal nature are as filthy rags to Christ.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Is. 64:6)

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, **crucified among you?** This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** **Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain?** if it be yet in vain. **He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** (Gal. 3:1-5)

*Fourthly; Faith is composed of two simple elements. (to **Believe** and to **Seek**) We know what it means to believe, but, what is it to seek Him? The scriptures command us to seek Him while He might be found!*

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) It is by Faith that God gives us the desires of our heart. God's hands are moved according to the Faith found in the scriptures and not by our own prideful will.*

Fifthly; True Faith permanently abides in Christ and just doesn't visit Him on Sundays for a couple of hours. To abide in Christ means you obey Him 24/7 No matter what difficulties come up. He lives in you and you live for Him!

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (John 15:4)

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:6)

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7)

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (John 15:10)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

How Can One Tell if a Person is Really in the FAITH?

Faith is simply to believe in God's Word (The Bible). Faith is measured by your walk not your talk! Faith is Not something you say; Faith is something you do! Faith will reveal the invisible God and make Him a reality in your daily life. Since most Churches use that word so liberally, it's lost the True meaning. Some people in Church say they have faith but yet don't trust the God of the Scriptures!

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

(Luke 6:46)

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt. 15:7-9)

The Process of FAITH. (Faith is a long process, not a quickie)

1. Listen to God - God is always speaking but most don't hear because they don't want to. People live a distracted life in the world and could care less about the things of God.

2. Trust God - Satan has deceived the whole world by not letting them see who God really is; God is an All Powerful Loving Father to all who come to Him. Nothing is impossible to Him. God want's to Love you and Bless you.

3. Obey God - God's purpose with man is to have a family in His image that Loves Him and Obey's Him. If you say you know Him and have fellowship with Him, how then can you ignore Him!

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!

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

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)

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 in us at salvation (Born Again). But, 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 nourish it by obeying 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 your faith to bring it into fruition. 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)

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 tell's you to do, not someones opinion.

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 force God to 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 are True; 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!

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)