

3 Crucial Elements About Salvation

Text-Ephesians 2:8-10

Introduction: Belief without following Jesus is simply belief...anyone can believe in God intellectually—in fact even those who hate God can believe He exists, Ex. Satan and his demons... **James 2:19** *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble..* There's a difference in someone saying I believe in God and truly being saved.

Ephesians 2:8-10 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

1. The Basis Of Salvation Is Grace

Without grace, salvation is not possible. Whose grace? If this is a fallen world and we are fallen men and women, we can produce nothing good apart from God, then this grace has to come from outside of us. This is God's grace. Grace must come from the one you are indebted to.

The Lord who knew His creation would turn against Him loved it enough to carry out a plan across thousands and thousands of years to deliver them and fulfill His promise through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son on a cross. Death was defeated and eternal salvation was made possible for all those who believed through faith before Jesus' resurrection and after.

The dead can come to life...this is grace by way of substitution. This substitution—Jesus paying the penalty of sin instead of you—is a gift, and by this extraordinary gift (called grace) your debt has been paid.

2. The Instrument Of Salvation Is Faith

So in order to have faith, you must first receive grace. As expressed, both grace and faith come from God. Saving grace was made possible through a one-time act of substitution, and faith is something God can produce in you through the Holy Spirit. So it is God who opens your eyes to His grace and gives you the means to have faith.

Through faith you believe that Jesus is who He said He is and that He did what the Bible said He did. You believe in Him for your salvation that He alone can remove death's hold on you.

Someone said, ***"Faith is the hand that lays hold of Jesus. It's the belief that Christ has accomplished it all, just like he said he did, and simply resting our hope on that."***

*One of the best pictures of this is in the Old Testament—where all the best pictures are. When you brought a lamb to sacrifice for your sins, the priest would put it on the altar. Then, you would reach your hand out and put it on the head of the lamb, and you would begin to confess your sinfulness. As you confessed, the priest would take a knife and cut the throat of the lamb, and the blood would drain out. Your hand symbolized your **sinfulness** (not individual sins) being transferred onto the innocent lamb."*

Compare **Luke 18:13-14** *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me **a sinner**. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

He confesses not what he had done but who and what he is before God, "a sinner" needing mercy.

3. The Result Of Salvation Is Good Works

Those who are saved believe in Christ through **faith alone** by **grace alone**, and they seek to follow the Lord through obedience and good works. However, obedience and good works are not done in order to receive something or to climb the ladder higher than other believers. Believers obey and do good works because they are already saved; it is the response of a transformed soul to God's eternal love and grace.

We're not saved by works; but if we are saved, we will do good works. Remember **James 2:17** *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

God gives us grace and the means to believe through faith, our faith is acted out through good works, which we do in obedience because of God's great love for us. Because God's promises are true and lasting, we can have complete assurance in our salvation and our Saviour.