



Grace and Faith – Gifts from God

(July 28, 2013)

For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Words of Grace from God are number one, and then He also gives us Faith to believe that we can be saved by that Grace.

This is not something that we can earn through our own efforts or through our own will power, but rather something that we simply receive by trusting and believing God's Word. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

It sounds so very easy, and it is. Yet the devil (with the help of some preachers), have made it very complicated and hard to understand.

God put salvation, and all the blessings that are ours in redemption, on a faith basis, so that it would be the same for everybody regardless of culture, intelligence, and natural abilities.

As a matter of fact, it can sometimes be easier for the simple, untrained mind to accept what God says in His Word, when it sometimes sounds unobtainable or too good to be true, for the educated mind.

Paul talks about this by the Spirit of God, when he writes to the Corinthians in his first epistle.

For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty.

That no flesh (human) should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:26-27, 29)

Paul was a highly educated man but he had to humble himself. Paul had to submit to and accept God's Word as final authority, superior to what his education taught him, in order to receive Grace from God by faith.

Again, we see that redemption is a gift from God. It is Grace, an unmerited favor, received by faith after that we hear the Word (Romans 10:17). We do not deserve it, but God still gives it to us because He loves us.

This is true about all the gifts that the Lord gives to us. It is by Grace through Faith!

So, is it then a great thing if we give him our lives that we have received from Him to begin with?

The Spirit of God touched my life in a special way when I was a teenager. I felt a desire to give God everything that I had, to surrender everything to Him. Shortly after that, I started to receive clear direction on what I was to do with my life. Each time I yielded to what I sensed was the leading of the voice of the Holy Spirit, that voice would become even clearer and stronger in my heart. I could see that the Lord had a detailed plan for my life that exceeded that which I had perceived before. He had given me the desire to get closer to Him, and involve Him in the daily decisions of life. Actually, this revelation for His great plan for my life came after I drew closer to Him. Later on, the Lord instructed me to increase my developing of faith in Him, by meditating, confessing, and doing His Word in the face of both opposition and success.

The Apostle Paul gives all the credit to the Grace of God when he says that God's Grace had done more through him than through anybody else. ***His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.*** (1 Corinthians 15:10)

What boldness! What a wonderful thing to say about God's Grace! Paul was giving the Lord the credit for everything good that Paul had accomplished for the Kingdom of God through all the hard work that he had done by Faith through Grace.

May the Lord help us also as He helped Paul, to be bold as lions, and to do great things for The Kingdom of God by His grace, and through His Faith, and to His Glory, in Jesus name, Amen!