

GRACE, FAITH, AND WORKS

To have Christ in the heart is to have the character of Christ in the life. To be a Christian means to be like Christ. When we behold the matchless love of our Saviour and believe in Him as our Friend, then we will, through beholding Him, become changed into His image. Faith in Jesus, as revealed in His Word, will produce the character of Christ in our lives, and our good works will be the result of His working in us. As we walk in faith, good works are the footprints we leave.

A. THE BEAUTIFUL GIFT OF GRACE

1. Who supplies us with grace?

Psalm 84:11; Acts 15:11; John 1:17

Definition: *Charis* [the Greek word *grace*] is “the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.” Strong’s *Greek Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grace is the power of God in us, enabling us to live as Christ lived.

2. How does God’s grace become ours?

Ephesians 3:7; Ephesians 2:8

3. How many people are offered the gift of grace?

Titus 2:11

4. How does Paul describe God’s generosity in giving His grace?

1 Timothy 1:14; Romans 5:20

5. When we accept the grace of Jesus Christ in our hearts, what is done for us?

Romans 3:24

Note: When we sincerely confess our sins, Christ forgives us, cleanses us, and stands in our place. We then stand before God just as if we had never sinned. 1 John 1:9. This work He does for us is called justification.

6. Beyond forgiveness, what does grace us power to do?

Romans 1:5; Titus 2:11-14

Note: Christ offers us the gift of grace in order that we may have forgiveness and cleansing from sin (justification), and also the power to overcome all sin (sanctification) through His strength. Thus, as we abide in Christ, we will grow in the likeness of our dear Saviour, and His very character will be reflected in us. Ephesians 4:7, 12-13

B. ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF GRACE BY FAITH

7. Through whom do we have access to God's grace?

Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:18

8. What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1, see Romans 4:20-21

Note: Faith is to believe in the ability of Christ to save us amply and entirely; it is to embrace the promises and blessings of God as though they were a present reality. This is the faith of Jesus.

9. Upon what are we to establish our faith?

Romans 10:17

Note: The Bible tells us that we are to base our faith solely upon the Word of God. We are not to base our faith upon feelings, because they may betray us. Neither are we to base our faith upon the opinions of men, for finite man may be far from God's truth.

10. Who is the central figure upon whom we are to base our faith?

Hebrews 12:2; Acts 16:31; Revelation 14:12

11. By truly believing in Jesus Christ, what kind of life will we experience?

1 John 5:1, 4

Note: Faith is the hand which lays hold upon the strong, invincible arm of Jesus, who gives us the power for victory over all sin during every step of the Christian

C. FAITH THAT WORKS

12. By what divine principles does faith work within us?

Galatians 5:6

Note: We are only accepted through Christ's merits. Our works are the fruit of our faith, growing out from our love for Him. It is the merit of Christ that makes our good works acceptable to God, and His grace enables us to do those works for which He will reward us. Thus, while we cannot be saved by our good works, none of us will be saved without good works.

13. Of whose workmanship are the works we may do in faith?

Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 2:10

14. What will we do when the love of God dwells in our hearts?

John 14:15

15. How does our faith strengthen and grow?

James 2:17-22

16. How can we identify false prophets (teachers)?

Matthew 7:15-20

Note: A fruit tree is expected to bear fruit; and so is the one who professes to follow Christ. All that was unholy is joyfully replaced by righteous thoughts and behavior through faith in Jesus Christ. It is sobering indeed to consider Jesus' act of condemnation upon the fig tree that did not bear fruit. Matthew 21:19; Luke 13:6-10

17. What of faith that produces no fruit?

James 2:20; Titus 3:8

Note: Another way of saying "faith and works" is "faith and observable faith." More than belief is necessary, for even devils believe in God. Our faith and belief in God leads to godly action. James 1:22-25

18. When we have the faith of Jesus, what will be our response to the law of God?

Romans 3:31; Revelation 14:12

SUMMARY

The gift of grace is the enabling power of God in our lives. We shall take hold of this grace when we believe that Jesus is our personal Saviour who ever lives to save us individually from the iniquity and sorrow in this world.

All heaven is interested in our salvation, and Christ stands ready, waiting, longing to free us from the slavery of sin and guilt. Let us believe that His promises in the Word of God are meant for us, and that what He says, He will do. By faith let us go forward, never wavering, ever trusting, holding firmly to His strong arm. As we follow Him in faith, continually beholding His character, His power will then work in us, and through us others will see Jesus.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today I surrender my will to God's great sacrifice, asking Him to provide me with His grace that I may, by faith, work His works of righteousness.

Signed: