

GRACE, FAITH, WORKS

“By what are we saved?” The question has prompted many and varied answers.

The New Testament teaches that we are:

Saved by grace

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). Ephesians 2:5

Saved by faith

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Saved by works

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12

A close look at each answer, and the scriptures used to support them, will provide an accurate, complete and clear picture.

GRACE (*Favor, mercy and pardon (undeserved and unearned).*)

Grace of salvation is an act of love on God's part. Tit.3:7

It is given to all men. Tit.2:11-12 (Joh.3:16)

God desires all men to be saved. 1Ti.2:4

He wishes none to perish. 2Pe.3:9b

Saved by grace is not an unexplainable process (better felt than told).

Grace involves teaching the Gospel. Tit.2:11-12

The Gospel contains the power unto salvation. Rom.1:16

This explains the phrase "obey the gospel". 2Th.1:8, 1Pe.4:17

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE

FAITH (*Belief, reliance upon, trust in.*)

Second use of word: system of teaching, doctrine. Jde.:3

Our heart-felt response to the message. Rom.6:17

Belief in the Son. Joh.8:24, 6:69, 14:1

Trusting in Lord for salvation. 1Ti.4:10

Without faith, we cannot please God. Heb.11:6

Our faith saves us. Eph.2:8

Faith (personal belief) is not something God gives to us!

If it is, then God is at fault. Souls are lost because He didn't give them faith.

What God gives us is "the system of teaching, doctrine." Rom.6:17

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH

WORKS (*Mental or physical activity directed to some purpose or goal, labor, toil.*)

Some say, "Works has no part in salvation, it is a gift from God." Rom.3:24, Eph.2:8

Two categories: God's work and our work.

GOD'S

The Father prepared the time and a nation for the coming of His Son. Gal.4:4

The Son came and died vicariously for us. Rom.5:8

The Holy Spirit revealed the truth through inspired men. Joh.14:26, 16:13-14
Their united work of love for mankind is evident.

Love, to be of value, has to be activated.

OURS

Hear the message of God's work (demonstration of His love). Rom.10:17

Believe [See definition above]. "Do" Act.16:30

Respond (obey) to the Good News. Mat.7:24

Work out own salvation. Phi.2:12. Live a righteousness life, Gal.2:20

Faith, to be of value, must be activated [work].

God's works were the initial acts to bring salvation to man. 1Jn.4:10

Initiated by His love, not by our goodness. Eph.2:4-5

Man's works are the response to God's works, to effect salvation. Jam.2:24

Our works do not prompt God to save, nor obligate Him to save.

WE ARE SAVED BY WORKS

PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER

We are saved by:

God's GRACE

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). Eph.2:5

Our FAITH

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God. Eph.2:8

His WORKS and our WORKS

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Col.2:12

You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. Jam.2:24

All three are necessary. Beware of anyone saying "only" to any of them.

Titus 2:11-14

For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **instructing us** to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, **Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us**, that He might **redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for **good deeds**.