

# Grace And Faith

By Andrew Womniack

*“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” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Grace and faith are totally dependent upon each other. These verses in Ephesians 2 show us that we are saved by grace through faith, not one or the other. I've heard many people who have centered their teaching on grace or on faith, but God's Word teaches us that they must be combined. **Failure to do this has been the reason for much frustration.**

First we have to have a common understanding of what these terms, grace and faith, mean. It is most commonly accepted that grace literally means God's unmerited favor. **It is something God has accomplished for us totally without our help and independent of what we deserve.** You can't earn God's grace.

Faith has many facets, and many, many books have been written trying to define it. In its simplest terms, **faith is your positive response to God.** Many sincere Christians have made a major mistake in thinking that faith is something that we do to earn or gain a positive response from God. **God does not move in response to your faith. God has already moved through His grace, and your faith is simply your response to what you believe God has already done.**

[This is totally different from thinking that God is waiting to move according to our faith!]

Let's take an example. Ephesians 2:8 says that we were saved by grace through faith. God, by grace, made atonement for our sins. It was not based upon something we had done to deserve it. Quite the contrary, God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). **It was totally God's grace that provided salvation.**

But God's grace alone doesn't make salvation a reality in us. Ephesians 2:8 says it is by grace through faith. **God's grace doesn't change us until we respond to it in faith. As we mix faith with what God has already provided by grace, then the miracle of the new birth takes place. But there must be grace (what God has already done) plus faith (your response to God's grace).**

[We are not getting God to do for us; he has already done for us...we are therefore responding to it.]

Titus 2:11 says that God's grace has appeared, or come, unto all men. **If grace alone saved, then all men would be saved.** But, you see, **all men have not responded to God's grace in faith.**

**Your faith didn't make God move to provide salvation for you. It was provided by grace before you were ever born.** This is the reason you were able to believe for forgiveness of sins so easily. **All of the burden to produce was upon God, where it should be.** Your only requirement was to believe. **Your believing didn't move God. Rather, it moved you.**

**By His grace God has already blessed us with everything we'll ever receive from Him (Eph. 1:3).** Faith changes us and circumstances and demons and puts us in agreement with God. **But faith doesn't change or move God.**

[We struggle with trying to get God to do something by our faith that he has already done...]

Many people who are becoming aware of faith today have **made this mistake of thinking that God beholds our faith, and when it reaches a certain level, then He moves to answer our prayers.** They think, “Lord, I’ve been fasting and praying. I’ve gone to church, and I’ve paid my tithes. Will you heal me now?” They are actually **putting faith in what they have done instead of what God has already done through grace.**

[We feel that if people received healing from God somehow they earned it by having greater faith...]

If we had approached forgiveness of sins that way, we would have never been born again. **We came to God not on the basis of what we had done or with a bargain to present to Him about what we would do.** But we came just as we were and put our total dependence on His grace (unmerited favor), and we received the biggest miracle we’ll ever receive, the new birth. If we would continue to keep our faith in Him the same way, then we would continue to see the same results (Col. 2:6).

When it comes to prosperity or healing, most Christians think, “I know He can provide this need, but I haven’t prayed enough, or haven’t been living the way I should.” Well, let me ask you this: When you came to the Lord for forgiveness of sins, had you been living the way you should? **Had you fasted and prayed enough to earn God’s unmerited favor?** Of course not, Galatians 3:3 says, “Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” **If we would just continue to put faith in God’s grace, we would see every answer to prayer manifest in the physical realm.**

**God our Father has already provided everything by His grace.** If you need healing, God won’t heal you. **He has already done it!** First Peter 2::24 shows that we were healed by the stripes that Jesus took on His back. When you pray to be healed, Jesus doesn’t get off the throne and

take more stripes so you can be healed. **It's already been done. That's grace. All you have to do is respond to that grace in faith, and your body will manifest what Jesus has already provided.** Joshua 1:8 tells us that when we meditate in the Word day and night and observe all that is written in it, then we make our way prosperous, and then we have good success. God, by His grace, has already released His prosperity upon every person on the face of the earth (Titus 2:11). **But as we get in God's Word and act on it, it changes us so that we can receive by faith. God doesn't need to be changed; He's already on our side!**

If you will put faith in God's grace, you will always overcome the world (John 16:33 and 1 John 5:4).

My response (Pastor Tate):

I reprint this article for our benefit. This message takes the pressure off of us having enough faith, the right faith, in order to get God to answer or move on our behalf. **The issue isn't getting God to do anything; he has already done everything we need and more.** The issue now becomes being convinced that God's grace already covers whatever the need is. Our faith then responds positively towards God's already provided promises and will.

**When we know something is already included we are far more able to pursue, claim, and remain steadfast until it is received.** Like the provisions in an Insurance policy. When the need arises for insurance we don't go the company to ask them to cover the need—they already do. **We go to the company to make our claim.** We are asking for coverage for something already covered. We seek and expect knowing we are entitled. With God's Grace then, it is already covered now we are going for the claim. Insurance companies often use claims forms or some kind of process to complete the deal and fulfill obligations. Even when insurance companies play games by denying claims that are

covered and we have to resubmit or press our argument, they will eventually pay. Jesus said this is similar to when the widow kept coming to the unjust judge saying, "Avenge me my adversary." The Judge eventually gave into her because he didn't want to be continually bothered by her coming. Jesus went on to say if an **unjust** judge will grant what belongs to you **how much more your heavenly Father who loves you and by his grace has already provided for you?** Further more, realizing all that God has done in sending His Son to suffer, die, and be raise from the dead to provide it, we should know God wants us to have it. The Blessing, the answers, the healing, the protection, the provision, the guidance, and the direction have already been provided. Our job then is to accept and get into it. We walk in God's grace by faith. Amen.

Website: **awmi.net** Andrew Wommack Ministries