

The Relationship of Faith and Grace

In the same way the divinity and humanity of Jesus are forever linked in union with one another, so is grace and faith.

Grace and Faith Work Together - Faith accesses grace.

Romans 5:2 – “Through Whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Faith does not produce things. It accesses the things grace has provided and produced. Faith is a manifestor of grace and the many benefits that Jesus has made available to us.

Grace comes before faith always.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” **9.** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The basis of our salvation is grace—grace being, God’s undeserved, unmerited favor toward us as expressed in providing redemption through Christ Jesus.

The means of God saving us is through faith. Through faith we accept God’s free gift of salvation that was provided by grace. So, we are saved “by grace through faith.”

Faith grants us admission to God’s grace. Without faith, God’s grace is wasted, and without grace, faith is powerless. Faith in God’s grace has to be released to receive what God has provided through Christ.

God’s grace is the same toward everyone. **Titus 2:11** says, “the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men.”

So all (mankind) have had salvation provided for them and extended toward them by God’s grace, but not all are saved. Why? Because not all people have mixed faith with what God has done for them by grace.

God has provided Salvation to all, but not all are, or will be saved. The reason is because Salvation is a gift and it must be received, by faith. **(Romans 5:12-18)**

God gives us a choice to choose salvation. He's provided provision for salvation to all mankind but it does not just come because of grace. Faith must appropriate, or take as its own, what grace has already provided, God leaves the choice up to us.

I Timothy 1:14 – “And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

God gives faith, but He won't do our believing for us! He will not violate our free will, or our authority, or the principle of love. Love does not force someone to choose but accepts their choice.

Faith is based on the finished work of Christ offered by grace.

We've seen that The Law is not of faith. So What will produce faith? Hearing about the message of Christ and His finished work, that's what produces faith.

Faith is a means of receiving, not a currency of exchange. Faith Receives the unseen provisions of grace. God freely provides everything by grace to us through Jesus and faith simply receives what has been freely provided.

So many people struggle to receive from God because the provisions of grace that have been already provided through Christ... are in the unseen realm. **But they are real and available.**

The difference between religious faith and Bible faith.

Religious faith says I need to see and then I will believe.

Mark 15:32 – “Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.’ Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.”

John 6:30 – “Therefore they said to Him, ‘What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?’”

Bible faith is the opposite of religious faith.

John 11:40 – “Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’”

Bible faith believes and then sees!

Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” Don't put God on your time clock or your payroll.

Everything we need in this life is already provided.

Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

This spiritual blessing is in the heavenly places in Christ. This means it is in the unseen realm!

II Peter 1:3 – “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

Revelation knowledge is the way we appropriate, or take as our own, all the things that pertain to life and godliness.

I Corinthians 2:12 – “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

Holy Spirit has come with a spiritual flashlight and He is shining light on the things that are already ours.

I Corinthians 3:21-23 – “Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

Philippians 4:19 – “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” That means spiritual and natural needs.

Faith is heart assurance that you have the provision of grace now even though you cannot see it yet.

Two Opposing Principles.....Law/Works and Grace/Faith

We either relate to God based on grace and faith or based on the law and works. The two ways don’t mix.

Romans 11:6 – “And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.”

The Law is based upon commands to be achieved. The New Covenant is based upon promises to be believed and received. If we are trying to use our faith to accomplish or achieve something, we have slipped under a law mentality.

We should exercise our faith to receive what has been accomplished and provided by Jesus through grace... because faith receives what grace has already provided.

Key Thoughts

- A. Faith without grace becomes works. Grace without faith becomes unfruitful.
- B. Grace always precedes faith.
- C. There is real Bible faith and then there is religious faith.
- D. The Law and faith do not mix.
- E. Grace and faith work together.