**By Grace Through Faith**

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Introduction**

1. **Ephesians 2:8-9** is a wonderful and essential truth for all to know to receive salvation. However, it is sorely abused by those in the world today.
2. **General interpretation by denominations** – God saves us, and we aren’t to do anything regarding our own salvation, nor can we, besides faith (*which they define as merely giving assent to the facts*).
3. **Being saved by grace through faith is a simple principle which is seen many times throughout the Bible.**
4. Understanding Terms
5. Definitions
	1. **By** – preposition – pre, position – it is a word which introduces a subject – it seeks to get us to a point.
		1. “Through, or through the medium” (Webster)
		2. **It is getting us to the medium through which we are saved.**
	2. **Grace** – *charis* – graciousness of manner or act (Strong).
		1. Favor bestowed upon one who is undeserving.
		2. **Unmerited favor from a benefactor – God.**
	3. **Saved** – *sōzō* – to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction. (Strong)
		1. Salvation from sin.
		2. **Ephesians 2:1** – You were dead, but He made alive.
	4. **Through** – preposition – another which looks back to “saved,” **and forward to that whereby, or through which we have been saved.**
	5. **Faith** – *pistis* – persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (Strong).
		1. While the word inherently means belief in someone or something, scripture’s use of the word gives it a greater depth of meaning.
		2. **As we will see, not solely belief.**
6. In Context of Scripture
	1. **Grace** – what does God’s word say about grace?
		1. **Titus 2:11-12** – The unmerited favor from our great Benefactor is a revelation which tells us what to do.
		2. Teaches us how to live before God.
		3. Of necessity, teaches us how to come to God.
		4. ***“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)***.
		5. **This instructive grace of God *“brings salvation.”***
	2. **Faith** – what does God’s word say about faith?
		1. **Romans 5:1-2** – God’s word shows an intimate connection between grace and faith, as we already observed in our text.
			1. **Justified** – a state before God regarding a cleansed state from sin – **one justified before God is saved, one saved is justified**.
			2. **Faith justifies us.**
		2. **Access** – entry gained into something.
			1. ***“into this grace”*** – what does this tell us? Grace must be accessed, i.e. not unconditional.
			2. ***“by faith”*** – entry into grace is given through the medium of faith.
		3. **Faith** – **Galatians 5:6** – faith which works.
			1. ***“working through LOVE” – is that which “avails.” (Is effective.)***
			2. **Love** – **John 14:15** – keeping commandments – **which brings us back to the grace of God’s teaching in the word!**
7. **All these connections are seen in the history disclosed to us in Scripture.**
8. History of “by grace through faith”

**In these examples found in Hebrews 11, there is an intimate connection between God and man, i.e. between grace and faith. Salvation comes when man’s faith unites with God’s grace.**

1. Noah
	1. **Hebrews 11:7** – He prepared an ark.
	2. **Where is God’s grace?** – Noah was divinely warned!
		1. ***“And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth’” (Genesis 6:13).***
		2. Instruction given to avoid destruction – ***“Make yourself an ark” (v. 14).***
	3. **Where is Noah’s faith uniting with God’s grace?**
		1. ***“Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did” (v. 22).***
		2. Noah was saved by grace through faith.
2. Abraham
	1. **Hebrews 11:8** – Called to go out, and went.
	2. **Where is God’s grace?** – Abraham was called.
		1. **Genesis 12:1-3** – Get out to the land, and receive a nation, and be part of the Seed which will bless the earth.
		2. The Lord gave instruction/command – ***“faith working through love” – “if you love Me keep my commandments”***
	3. **Where is Abraham’s faith?** – ***“So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him” (Genesis 12:4).***
	4. Abraham’s faith was united with God’s grace which led to the fulfillment of promise.
3. Israel
	1. **Hebrews 11:29** – Passed through the sea, and were delivered from Egyptians.
	2. **Where is God’s grace?** – God commanded Moses, and he commanded Israel.
		1. **Exodus 14:13** – Moses’ assuring Israel.
		2. **(v. 15)** – God commanding Moses to command Israel.
	3. **Where is Israel’s faith?** – **(v. 22)** – Israel obeying God through Moses’ command.
	4. **(vv. 30-31)** – God saved Israel.
	5. Israel’s faith was united with God’s grace. If not, they would have perished.
4. Israel at Jericho
	1. **Hebrews 11:30** – Walls of Jericho fell.
	2. **NOTE: First generation did not have their faith unite with God’s grace** – **cf. Numbers 14:11-12** – After being intimidated by the Canaanites, God said they didn’t believe in Him **– their faith did not unite with God’s grace**.
	3. **Where is God’s grace?** – God commanded them what they should do.
		1. **Joshua 6:2-5** – Specific instruction given.
		2. If they did as God said, they would prevail.
	4. **Where is Israel’s faith?** – They did what God said!
		1. The walls fell.
		2. **When? After they did what God said to do – their faith united with God’s grace.**
5. **These truths remain for us today. God provided us something, and gave us instruction to receive it. Our faith must unite with His grace to produce salvation!**
6. Saved by Grace Through Faith
7. God’s Grace
	1. **He gave His Son Jesus:**
		1. **Ephesians 2:7** – Showed His grace in Jesus Christ.
		2. **Sacrifice:**
			1. ***“without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).***
			2. **Hebrews 10:8-10, 14** – Prepared a body for Jesus – body offered on the cross – blood let out of body – ***“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Ephesians 1:7).***
		3. **Romans 6:23** – gift of God is life through Jesus’ sacrifice.
	2. **He gave the gospel:**
		1. **Titus 2:11-12a** – Grace that brings salvation teaches us. How?
		2. **Gospel:**
			1. **Romans 1:16-17** – Righteousness of God is revealed in it.
				1. **Just** – justified before God, safe/saved.
				2. **Shall live by faith** – those who are FAITHFUL to God’s word are justified.
			2. **Romans 7:24-8:1-2** – Deliverance through Jesus through the ***“law of the Spirit of life.”***
				1. Deliverance is through Jesus, but what gets us to Jesus? 🡪
				2. The law of Christ – the gospel!
	3. **He gave/gives time:**
		1. **There are those who do not know the gospel, and those who have delayed in obeying in who God wants to be saved.**
		2. **2 Peter 3:9, 15** – He is longsuffering toward us – gives us time to be saved.
8. Our Faith
	1. **Mark 16:15-16** – Preach the gospel – the grace of God – believe and be baptized.
		1. This is part of God’s grace in the message given for us to act upon.
		2. **The message is – unite your faith with God’s grace by doing what He says!**
	2. ***“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28 – FOR).***
	3. ***“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Chris for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38 – FOR).***
	4. **Blood** = for remission of sins; **Baptism** = for remission of sins.
	5. **Baptism gets you to the blood** – ***“we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand” (Romans 5:2).***
	6. Our faith is united with God’s grace with the result of salvation when we obey the gospel of Christ.

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible says we are saved by grace through faith.
2. We must submit to the formula that is grace through faith salvation if we wish to be with God for eternity.
3. We must believe what God says on the matter, and obey.