

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE IS A WALK BY FAITH

We must begin to understand how to receive of God's grace wherein we are saved. It is through the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of John 14:6 Jesus said unto Thomas'
" I am the way , the truth , and the life: no man cometh unto the Father , but by me."

In John 6:44 Jesus said , " No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

V45 " It is written in the prophets , And THEY SHALL BE ALL TAUGHT OF GOD. Every man therefore that hath heard (heard the Word of God), and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me.

V47 "Verily , verily , I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

It begins by our believing in Our Lord Jesus Christ's gospel, it is the gospel of Christ that makes known God and the power of God onto salvation.

It is the gospel that makes known His Son Jesus Christ, and it is all by God's Word. It is by hearing the Word of God that our faith comes.

Let's go to Romans 1:1-6 which reads as follows: " Paul a servant- (doulos', one who does the will of his Master) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

(Which he had promised afore by His prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: <this is where your faith comes in, to believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.>

V5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for the obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:(this is your calling of God in Christ if you have faith, believing, obedience to God.)

V6" Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ;

V16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it <The gospel of Christ> is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(It is the gospel of Christ that God has given that we receive God's promise of salvation in Christ Jesus).

V17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.'
< By faith in the gospel of Christ, that he is the Son of God with power and that God raised him from the dead.

Romans 10:9-11, 13 says; " That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED. < He shall not be ashamed of his confessed belief of the Lord Jesus and that God has raised him from the dead, you won't be ashamed to speak it and to tell this truth to others or anyone.

V17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

So then, we now have faith, but what of God's grace ? Faith is the work of God's grace in us, as Charles Spurgeon so eloquently stated. Let's look at the record that God gives of faithful Abraham which gives us a clear account of our faith by grace.

We begin in Romans 4:1-25, I've written out the scriptures in order for you to follow a lot easier instead of having to look back and forth from scripture to teaching.

V1. " What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh , hath found?

For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory: but not before God.

For what saith the scripture? ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.< that is his believing, his trust , and his obedience to God and His Word.>

V4. Now unto him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him (God) that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Saying, 'BLESSED ARE THEY WHOSE INIQUITIES ARE FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED.

BLESSED IS THE MAN TO WHOM THE LORD WILL NOT IMPUTE SIN.

Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

V10 read(Question of how was it reckoned)

V11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised: that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

(Abraham was totally obedient to God, and he did exactly what God had directed and commanded of him, Abraham never questioned God's authority or purpose.)

V13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

V16. Therefore it is of Faith. that it might be by grace: to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

V17 As It Is Written, 'I HAVE MADE THEE A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS,' before Him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth (Makes alive) the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, 'SO SHALL THY SEED BE.'

V19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, < Didn't consider his body being past and beyond age> when he was about An hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

>The point and focus of our Faith> V20. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; <Unbelief is what hinders anyone who doesn't trust and obey what God has promised in His Word.> but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

V21 And being fully persuaded that what He (God) had promised, He (God) was able also to perform.

< It is God who is able to perform whatever it is He has promised, we are to be fully persuaded in our hearts by faith in Him>.

V22 And therefore IT WAS IMPUTED <Set to Abraham's account.> TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Now it was not written for his sake alone, that is was imputed to him;

V24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him (God) that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

V25 Who was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification.

It is by way of faithful Abraham, is what true faith looks like.

It is in Jesus Christ that we have our faith of God through the hearing of the gospel of Christ.

In Ephesians God reveals to us that it is by Grace (God's Grace) that we are saved through faith.

Ephesians 1:4 says, 'According as He (God) hath chosen us in him (in Christ) before the foundation of the world (Age) , that we (we who are in Christ) should be holy and without blame before Him (God) in love;

V6 To the praise of the glory of His (God's) grace, wherein He (God) hath made

us accepted in the beloved <Jesus Christ>.

In whom <Jesus Christ> we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His (God's) grace:

Chap. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

V7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

V8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

*It's not of any mans works or good deeds, it's not of how far you travel to sing in a choir, it's not how good you profess to be, it isn't because you are the pastors son or daughter, it's not by anything you have done or accomplished. It's about who and what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us by becoming the only sacrifice that God would accept as perfect and pure, His only begotten Son. By faith our Lord knew that God would raise Him from the dead, even as Abraham knew God was able to raise Isaac from the dead, for with God all things are possible.

It is by God's grace through faith, it is by your believing confession of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel that God has given of him, that God has raised him from the dead.

V9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

In Galatians 3:6 It is further written of Abraham and of our identification to him by seed.

V6. Even as Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

V7. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Let's continue on through to verses 8 to 14.

V8-14 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto faithful Abraham.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT CONTINUETH NOT IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO DO THEM.

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.

And the law is not of faith: but, THE MAN THAT DOETH THEM SHALL LIVE IN THEM. <The man who wants to serve in the law (Mosaic law) is bound to do everything that is written in the law>.

V13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for

us: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE:
(DEUTORONOMY 21:23)

V14. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles (heathen) through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Let's take a look at Galatians 2:19-21 It is how we ought to live and think that we do not frustrate the grace of God.

2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

V20. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I do not frustrate the grace of God; for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Could it be any clearer than that? We are alive and live by the faith of the Son of God, God's Grace to us is by the faith of Jesus Christ, Abraham was the starting point and Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith.

And without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is an active response on the individuals part to act upon the information he or she has received of God to do it being fully persuaded of the information received of God via revelation from God or from His Word.

In Colossians 2:4-7 tells us that we are not to be deceived by any man concerning our faith in Christ, we are to be rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith of Christ.

2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile (deceive) you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Hebrews Chapter 11 is considered by God to be the Faithful Hall of Fame.

Hebrews 11:1 Says, "Now faith is the substance<the stuff, or the main ingredient> of things hoped for, the evidence<proof>of things not seen.

V6 Without faith it is impossible to please Him<God>, for he that cometh to God must believeth that He is<Must believe that God truly exist>, and that He <God> is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Looking unto Jesus (by close examination) the author and finisher of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It is a walk in loving obedience for the one who died for you and for all men, we are to walk and be like him in love, in righteousness, by faith, trusting in God's Word as the only source of truth to live a godly life. It is a walk by the spirit in faithful obedience, God requires worship in spirit and in truth, so why not live for the one who died for you in love.

Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you, continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.
(John 15:7-10)

This is the response we are to have to God for His Grace, we are to walk in love as He has loved us towards each other and towards all men.

Love is the bottom line, love was the driving force in our Lord's heart towards people and His disciples.

It is the genuine love of God in our hearts, and in our lives that people will see and hear. So live for God by the faith that is in Christ in love, and preach the gospel of Christ to all without shame. Amen.

Jesus Christ said, ' He who has ears to hear, let him hear what God says'.

To let oneself hear is to take the time to hear and digest what God's Word says, and that means to take the time and to make the time to receive it and live it in love.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (Which is the Word of God).

A walk in grace is a walk by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

In His Service and Love,
George S. Holder