

Grace, Sin & Eternal Security

The Purpose of Grace for a Believer

A. Introduction

- ✦ There are many views about the security of a believer.
- ✦ Can a believer lose his salvation?
- ✦ If so, under what circumstances?
- ✦ Does the Grace of God prevent one from losing his salvation?

B. What is Grace?

- ✦ God's Power in someone's life to enable them to have or achieve something they could not otherwise have.
- ✦ Ephesians 2,8-9: You are saved by **grace through faith**, and that not of yourselves. It is the **gift of God**. Not of **works**, unless anyone should boast.
- ✦ Grace qualifies a person for salvation, who on their own merits or works would not qualify.

4 Important Points:

We are saved
through the
grace of God.

Grace is freely
given. It cannot
be earned.

Grace is God's
part. He freely
provides it.

Faith is our part
of salvation. We
receive His grace
through faith.



Our Salvation, Grace through faith, is a major theme in the Bible.

Romans 4,2-4 & 16a:

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace.

Abraham was declared righteous through the grace of God because of his faith and not because of his works.

Romans 5,2:

Through Him we have
also obtained access
by faith into this grace
in which we stand...

He saved us, not
because of works done
by us...so that being
justified by grace...

Titus 3,5-7

C. Other Blessings of Grace

- ✦ We are redeemed and forgiven of our sins, Ephesians 1,7.
- ✦ We are freed from spiritual death and made alive with Christ, Ephesians 2,5.
- ✦ We are justified, Romans 3,24.
- ✦ Grace overcomes the depths of sin, Romans 5,20.
- ✦ It frees us from the dominion of sin, Romans 6,14.
- ✦ Grace declares us righteous, Galatians 2,21.

God's grace takes us as we are, freely forgives us of our sins and helps us overcome them.

D. The Grace of God continues with us throughout our lives.

God does not save us, and then expect us to live in our own strength without His grace, trying to be righteous on our own.



This is clearly explained by the Apostle Paul as inspired by the Holy Spirit. In writing to the Galatians, he had to confront a false doctrine that said that after we are saved, we must live by our works (by keeping the Law) in order to stay saved.

Here is what he said:

Galatians 2,21-3,3: I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

E. The Grace of God is received only when a person is in faith.

- ✦ God freely gives us His grace. This grace saves us and keeps us saved.
- ✦ Grace is God's part of salvation.
- ✦ Grace is only obtained when we are in faith. We access and receive grace through faith.
- ✦ Faith is our part of salvation.

E. The Grace of God is received only when a person is in faith (Cont'd)

- ✦ Abraham is the example the Apostle Paul uses.
- ✦ He obtained grace - was declared righteous - because of his faith.
- ✦ Faith is not only acknowledging something is true.
- ✦ Faith is obeying the truth we acknowledge.
- ✦ If Abraham had not obeyed what God told him to do, he would not have been declared righteous.

Hebrews 11,8: By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

James 2,20-21: Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?



It would be foolish to think that Abraham would have been justified in the sight of God if he did not do what God wanted him to do.

We too must have appropriate responses to God and His Word and His ways in order to receive His grace.

Appropriate actions for a Christian

Anyone who is a Christian should:

- ✦ Have a hunger and desire for God.
- ✦ Seek Him on a regular basis.
- ✦ Read His Word.
- ✦ Fellowship with other Christians.
- ✦ Live a life separate from the world and dedicated to God.
- ✦ Witness to others.
- ✦ Be sorry for and confess their sins.
- ✦ Depart from sin.
- ✦ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

Christians deal with temptation and sin every day. And it is a Christian's job to identify and deal with his shortcomings, confessing his sins and to lay these things aside. And our Heavenly Father is so faithful who recognizes our weaknesses and patiently helps us to grow up into the image of Christ.

And Christians are not perfect. There are many examples in the Bible where God forgave and restored His children who failed Him in a great way.



“The righteous falls seven times and rises again,” Proverbs 24,16

Sometimes however, Christians take the grace of God lightly and follow after the things of the world and of the flesh. They live for the things that satisfy their sin nature.

Those who do this on a consistent basis are in danger of losing their salvation.

I. Be not deceived....

God's Word contains many warnings about being deceived, thinking we can live a lifestyle contrary to God's Word. Being deceived means that we think something is true when it really is not. Look at what Scripture says about those who think they can practice sin and still inherit the Kingdom of God:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6,9-10

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 5,5-6

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Galatians 6,7-8

In these passages, Paul lists some very serious sins, such as fornication, drunkenness, idolatry and so on. God warns us that we should be deceived, thinking that we can practice these serious sins and still inherit eternal life.

J. The clear testimony of Scripture

Passages in Scripture such as Hebrews 6,4-6 and 2 Peter 2,20-22 clearly state that a person may lose his salvation:

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. Hebrews 6,4-6

Here, the writer lists five characteristics of a person who was saved yet fell away:

- ✦ They were enlightened.
- ✦ They tasted the heavenly gift.
- ✦ They partook of the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ They tasted the Word of God.
- ✦ They tasted of the powers of the world to come.

J. The clear testimony of Scripture (Cont'd)

2 Peter 2,20-22 has the following:

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

The word for "knowledge" here in the Greek language is "epignosis" and means "thorough or intimate knowledge of someone or something." John 17,3 equates knowing God and Jesus Christ with salvation. So they were saved through the knowledge of God, but lost their salvation, becoming entangled again in the world.

K. Why this teaching is necessary...

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This teaching is necessary for two reasons:

1. Some ministers in the body of Christ teach that the Grace of God is so encompassing, that a person can knowingly live in sin and still be saved, as long as he does not verbally deny Christ.
2. Some attempt to lead people to Christ without a true heart repentance of their sins. They “accept” Jesus, but do not follow Him or obey His Word.

The grace of God is available for every Christian! However as we have seen, the grace of God comes to us when we walk in faith and obedience to His Word. When a person obeys and follows the sinful desires of his flesh, he is walking contrary to the Word of God thus outside of the realm of grace and can potentially lose their salvation.

K. Key Points to Remember

1. There is a big difference between struggling with sin and living in sin. The carnal sin nature will always try to rule our lives. The Bible says in Galatians 5,16 that there is a war between our spirit and our flesh. This is normal Christian living. Those who are in danger of losing their salvation set their hearts and minds on the things of the flesh and live after them. (Romans 6,16 & 8,5-8)

2. Temptation and sin are not the same thing. The devil is vicious in his dealings with Christians. He is called, “the accuser of our Brother.” He will accuse you day and night any way possible. When tempted, we should realize that it is not sin, and run to God and not from Him! (Revelation 12,11 & Hebrews 4,15-16)

3. There is grace to overcome the greatest sin! As soon as we confess our sins, we are forgiven. However, the temptation might still be great to follow that sin. The Christian should take steps to deliver himself from this sin. These include a) Renewing our minds by stopping sinful thoughts from taking root; b) Waiting in the presence of the Lord so He changes us; c) Cleansing ourselves with the Word of God; d) Becoming active in Christian work. (1 John 1,9; Romans 12,1-2; 2 Corinthians 10,3-5; 2 Corinthians 3,18; Luke 18,1; John 17,7, Matthew 6,33).

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