

A CURSORY VIEW OF GRACE

Definition: Favor or kindness shown in spite of what a person deserves.

Much of the religious world teaches salvation apart from obedience. You'll often hear them quote a portion of Ephesians 2:8 saying, "*For by grace you have been saved...*" When they're called to respond to the "...*through faith*" part of that same Scripture, they ascribe "Faith" to believing only!

"Faith" encompasses Trusting in GOD and being Obedient to His word!

James 2:14-22 clearly teaches us that faith by itself is dead, and that faith is made perfect when coupled with works. This "works" referred to by James, speaks of action..., it speaks of obedience, as illustrated in the text when Abraham willingly obeyed God by offering his son Isaac on the altar by the command and will of God (Gen 22:1-14). Now, bible students know that God prevented Abraham from literally killing his son, but in his mind and actions he would have surely offered up Isaac (Heb 11:17-19). And because of his "Faith" (Trusting God and being Obedient to His word), God's righteousness was imputed/credited to Abraham and thus he was called the friend of God (James 2:23). Bear in mind, "...*Even the demons believe [only] and tremble*" – James 2:19

So again, Grace is the gift of God (Eph 2:8 / Rom 6:23) attained through Faith when we obey God!

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In the New Testament there are a plethora of Scriptures, which illustrate for us that those in biblical days believed that to attain Salvation (which is *by Grace through Faith* – Eph 2:8), one must do something:

- Luke 10:25
- Luke 18:18
- Acts 16:30
- Acts 2:37

In each reference above, there was something individuals had to do... Access to God's Grace requires our obedience to the word and will of GOD!

The bible declares that "...*the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*" – John 1:17

Although the Christian is free from the OT Law system, being under Grace, we can still trace GOD's Grace in the Old Testament:

- Genesis 6:8 - Noah found Grace
- Genesis 12:1-3 / Gen 22:16-18 / James 2:23 - Abraham found Grace
- Genesis 19:17-20 – Lot found Grace / wife rejected Grace through disobedience (looked back)
- Exodus 33:12-17 – Moses found Grace
- Deuteronomy 7:7-9 / 12-14 – Children of Israel found Grace
- Joshua 2:12-21 / 6:22, 25 – Rahab's house found Grace
- Psalm 51:1-11 – David found Grace
- II Samuel 9:1-13 – Mephibosheth found Grace