
1. Is there a Separate Saving Grace?¹

A. Definition of Saving Grace:

Saving grace describes a special grace that brings a person into the family of God through Jesus Christ. It comes from the scripture in Ephesians:

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANYONE SHOULD BOAST. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

B. Historical Perspective:

We need to understand the historical perspective of the term saving grace and the historical perspective of when Paul was writing this.

Paul was addressing major issues across the church's of the region which were being countered by Judaism. Judaism required the following of the law - the question of circumcision.

ACTS 15:1

AND CERTAIN MEN CAME DOWN FROM JUDEA AND TAUGHT THE BRETHREN, "UNLESS YOU ARE CIRCUMCISED ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF MOSES, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED."

So Paul was addressing the problem of a works based salvation from your sins. The Jewish believers were saying that the Gentile believers needed to do works like circumcision and attending the Sabbaths (See Law 103) and feasts (See Law 104, 105, 106)

C. Luther's Reformation:

Central to the Reformation by Luther, is the sound spiritual truth that "salvation is not by works but by grace". This ministry states this as a foundational truth in its Statement of Faith.

EPHESIANS 2:8

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FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

¹ Much of this teaching is derived from the excellent book "Systematic Theology for the New Apostolic Reformation" by Dr Harold R Eberle. P549-563 "Sola Gratia" except that I have defined favour differently from Dr Eberle



However we need to remember that Luther's reformation was a reaction to the extremes of the Roman Catholic Church which had gone into deception. They were stating that to be saved required works, for the service of the church.

Therefore the reformation was a reaction - and when there are reactions it can result in opposite reaction that in itself can lose its original meaning.

2. Penal Substitution View of 'Saving' Grace.

A. What is the Penal Substitution view?

Martin Luther and later John Calvin works' resulted in a "Penal Substitution" View that needed a special saving grace, rather than just grace.

Penal substitution teaches that God is just- so He MUST punish sin. therefore, in the Penal Substitution View, a new believer in Christ gets a 'free pass' from the judgment of God, and that Jesus is the "asbestos suit" against the fiery wrath of God. This therefore raises the important question, "Does mankind need saving from an angry God!"

(See also 'Propitiation- Mercy or Judgement' AND 'Four Current Theological Views of Christianity'.)

B. Grace is not just unmerited favour:

From the Penal Substitution View grew the popular definition that grace is unmerited favour.

In Grace 101 we see that unmerited favour is not a worthwhile definition of grace.

3. Covenantal View of 'Saving' Grace.

Entrance into the family of God through the new birth and New Covenant cannot be achieved except by receiving the gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

There is no 'saving' grace, because grace for 'salvation' does not need to be separated out from all other 'types' of grace.

Now let us look at how grace is imparted when a person who is seeking the truth becomes a believer.

4. Grace is Imparted when a Person is Adopted into the Family of God:

A. Because there is a new covenant through the death of Jesus - new life is breathed into the person. This life is eternal.



JOHN 20:22
AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE BREATHED ON THEM, AND SAID TO THEM,
“RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

B. As a result they become a new creation and receive a new heart;

EZEKIEL 36:26
I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN YOU; I WILL TAKE
THE HEART OF STONE OUT OF YOUR FLESH AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH.

C. They will receive an impartation of the Spirit of God into that new heart.

ROMANS 8:15
FOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR, BUT YOU
RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION BY WHOM WE CRY OUT, “ABBA, FATHER.”

D. The Spirit of God cries out from within their hearts.

GALATIANS 4:6
AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON
INTO YOUR HEARTS, CRYING OUT, “ABBA, FATHER!”

E. They receive an impartation of His righteousness and become the righteousness of God;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21
FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT
BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

F. They receive an impartation of becoming an heir of God and a co-heir of Christ;

ROMANS 8:17
AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS—HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST,
IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER.

5. Grace CAN be completely without any work on man’s behalf.

A. Jeremiah did not have done anything to be called, because it occurred before birth:

JEREMIAH 1:5
"BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I KNEW YOU;
BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I SANCTIFIED YOU;
I ORDAINED YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS."

B. Paul was not involved in his call:

ACTS 9:1-9
THEN SAUL, STILL BREATHING THREATS AND MURDER AGAINST THE DISCIPLES
OF THE LORD, WENT TO THE HIGH PRIEST AND ASKED LETTERS FROM HIM TO
THE SYNAGOGUES OF DAMASCUS, SO THAT IF HE FOUND ANY WHO WERE OF THE



WAY, WHETHER MEN OR WOMEN, HE MIGHT BRING THEM BOUND TO JERUSALEM. AS HE JOURNEYED HE CAME NEAR DAMASCUS, AND SUDDENLY A LIGHT SHONE AROUND HIM FROM HEAVEN. THEN HE FELL TO THE GROUND, AND HEARD A VOICE SAYING TO HIM, "SAUL, SAUL, WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME?" AND HE SAID, "WHO ARE YOU, LORD?" THEN THE LORD SAID, "I AM JESUS, WHOM YOU ARE PERSECUTING. IT IS HARD FOR YOU TO KICK AGAINST THE GOADS." SO HE, TREMBLING AND ASTONISHED, SAID, "LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?" THEN THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "ARISE AND GO INTO THE CITY, AND YOU WILL BE TOLD WHAT YOU MUST DO." AND THE MEN WHO JOURNEYED WITH HIM STOOD SPEECHLESS, HEARING A VOICE BUT SEEING NO ONE. THEN SAUL AROSE FROM THE GROUND, AND WHEN HIS EYES WERE OPENED HE SAW NO ONE. BUT THEY LED HIM BY THE HAND AND BROUGHT HIM INTO DAMASCUS. AND HE WAS THREE DAYS WITHOUT SIGHT, AND NEITHER ATE NOR DRANK.

6. Grace CAN Require Work on Mans' Behalf.

A. We can fall short of the grace of God:

HEBREWS 12:15

LOOKING CAREFULLY LEST ANYONE **FALL SHORT OF THE GRACE OF GOD; LEST ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP CAUSE TROUBLE, AND BY THIS MANY BECOME DEFILED;**

B. We can resist God's grace:

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-2

WE THEN, AS WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM ALSO PLEAD WITH YOU NOT TO RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN. FOR HE SAYS:

"IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU."

BEHOLD, NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME; BEHOLD, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION.

C. We can BE strong in grace:

2 Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Do you notice that somebody had to exert energy in all these scriptures?

7. God is Sovereign and Can Choose to Exercise Grace Alone or Have us Exercise Grace as Well.

A. God in His sovereignty may act monergistically (by Himself).

We see this in the life of Jeremiah and Saul.



B. God in His Sovereignty can work synergistically.

Paul is exhorting the Philippians to practice everything they have learned, heard or seen, and to actively put them into practice.

PHILIPPIANS 4:9
THE THINGS WHICH YOU LEARNED AND RECEIVED AND HEARD AND SAW IN ME,
THESE DO, AND THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.

This doesn't need any waiting on God, we are supposed to imitate what we see godly men and women of God do. Just do it!

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1
IMITATE ME, JUST AS I ALSO IMITATE CHRIST.

8. It is Really Important for you to Understand the Concept of God's Sovereignty in your Own Walk with God.

If you are a person who always steps out by faith believing that God will bless your actions, (synergistically) there may come a time when God puts you in the waiting room and He will not work with you until you learn to wait for Him.

If on the other hand you are someone who likes to wait for God and move slowly, (monergistically) then there may come a time when God will not speak to you about the next step. He may simply want you to step out in faith after praying and exercise the grace on your life and then He will work with you.

9. How do you Tell Which Season you are in :

- A. Get alone with God if you are the synergistic type!
- B. If you are the monergistic type and expect God to do it all, step out in faith if nothing seems to be happening.
- C. Remain being teachable.
This will help you from getting stuck in a theological rut where you keep doing the same things in the same way and not seeing the fruit that you are looking for.

10. We Have a Seed that is Imperishable - that will Grow:

A. This is so that we are conformed to the image of His Son:

1 PETER 1:23
HAVING BEEN BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED BUT INCORRUPTIBLE,
THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD WHICH LIVES AND ABIDES FOREVER,

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Grace 102



ROMANS 8:29-30

FOR WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN. MOREOVER WHOM HE PREDESTINED, THESE HE ALSO CALLED; WHOM HE CALLED, THESE HE ALSO JUSTIFIED; AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, THESE HE ALSO GLORIFIED.

SO WE HAVE SEEN THAT GOD'S PLAN IS NOT JUST REDEMPTION.

GRACE IS MUCH MORE THAN SAVING YOU FROM YOUR SINS, IT IS ABOUT MAKING US GLORIFIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD WHO WILL REIGN FOREVER.