

# Grace, Faith, and Works

## Introduction:

1. Some in the denominational world teach salvation by grace alone.
2. Others teach salvation by faith alone.
3. Still others teach salvation by works alone.
4. What does the Bible teach about the relationship of grace, faith and works to one another and to the salvation of the soul?

- I. The Relationship between Grace, Faith, and Works in the Old Testament
  - A. Grace was both available and essential during Old Testament times.
    1. The word “grace” is found 39 times in the Old Testament.
    2. Noah found grace in God’s sight (Gen. 6:8).
    3. Moses found grace in God’s sight (Exo. 33:12-19).
  - B. Faith was also necessary during the Old Testament age.
    1. Abraham’s faith allowed him to be righteous (Gen. 15:6).
    2. God did many signs to create faith (Psalm 106:12; 119:66).
  - C. Works were a part of God’s Old Testament plan.
    1. Pharaoh wondered why he should obey God (Exo. 5:2).
    2. God commanded obedience of His people (Exo. 19:5).
    3. The book of Leviticus details the necessity of works.
  - D. The sin of idolatry.
    1. Idolatry was a serious sin because it amounted to a misplaced faith.
    2. Faith placed in any other than Jehovah resulted in wrong works.
    3. These errors in faith and work removed the Israelites from the grace of God (cf. 1 Kings 12:25-33).
  - E. The sin of legalism.
    1. The great sin of the Jews after their captivity in Babylon was legalism – works without faith (Romans 9:31-33).
    2. This became the norm for the Pharisees of Jesus’ day (Matt. 5:20-24).
    3. However, the Old Law actually taught that works must be joined with faith in order to access God’s grace.
      - a. Grace & Faith (2 Chronicles 20:20; Daniel 6:23).
      - b. Faith & Works (Hab. 2:4; Deut. 32:15-20; Num. 20:12; Psa. 116:9-11).
      - c. Grace & Works (Gen. 6:8-9; Exo. 34:1; Psa. 84:11).
  - F. The relationship of grace, faith, and works.
    1. Works must be done (law must be kept) with faith in God (and in the Christ to come).
    2. Works done through faith (obedience) allowed access to the grace of God.

- II. The Relationship between Grace, Faith, and Works in the New Testament
  - A. Grace is available and essential during New Testament times.
    - 1. Salvation is by grace (Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9; Heb. 2:9).
    - 2. It is God's grace that provided His Son as a sacrifice for sin.
  - B. Faith is necessary during the Gospel age.
    - 1. It is essential to salvation (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; 3:16).
    - 2. Faith must be in Christ (Gal. 3:26; etc.).
  - C. Works are a part of God's New Covenant.
    - 1. Jesus will save the obedient (Heb. 5:9; Acts 5:32).
    - 2. He will punish the disobedient (Rom. 2:8; Gal. 3:1; 5:7; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; 3:14; 1 Pet. 4:17).
  - D. The sin of grace as a license to sin.
    - 1. Romans 5:20-6:4
    - 2. Jude 1:4
  - E. The sin of dead faith.
    - 1. A faith that does not obey God is dead (James 2:14-26).
    - 2. Just as works without faith are dead (legalism), so faith without works is dead.
    - 3. Not only are our works tied to our faith, but they are also joined to the grace of God (1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 5:4; Titus 2:11-12).
    - 4. Grace and faith are also connected (Acts 18:27; Rom. 4:16; 5:2; Eph. 2:8-9).
  - F. The relationship of grace, faith and works.
    - 1. Faith in the Christ must lead one to obey His will.
    - 2. This obedient, living faith allows one access to the grace of God.

Conclusion:

- 1. Salvation is not by grace alone, faith alone, or works alone.
- 2. Salvation is a gift of God made available by His grace.
- 3. Man is allowed access to this grace by a trusting, obedient faith – a faith that works!
- 4. To remove any part of God's plan of salvation (grace, faith, or works) is to be lost.
- 5. God always has saved man by grace through faith expressed in humble, submissive obedience.