

# FAITH IS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

## INTRO

As long as it is important to please God, it is important to understand faith. Faith is more than a movement, but rather a way of life. The book of Hebrews tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God and God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. God rewards the diligent seeker so we cannot remain passive and walk by faith. Faith requires diligently pursuing God or a diligent response to God's grace.

### I. Faith Will Not Work in My Life Unless I Understand Grace.

- A. We must understand grace to walk in faith or it will be a struggle, strain, steps, and formulas that produce no rest and peace. Faith moves the hand of God, but we must realize God has already moved in His grace. New Testament faith is always a response to His grace.
- B. Grace is:
  - 1. God's Riches At Christ's Expense.
  - 2. Unconditional, unmerited favor which implies the total absence of human merit or demerit.
  - 3. God's provision or all He has already provided.
  - 4. God's enabling power to us to be and do what He wants us to do. Grace is God's great equalizer to human inadequacy and great compensating factory to make up for human inability.
  - 5. God's abounding, aggressing, and initiating move toward man. God moved first in grace.

### II. Grace Is of No Benefit to Me aside from My Faith.

- A. Divine grace never excludes human responsibility. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace," Ephesians 1:7, 8.
  - 1. All redemption is by grace.
  - 2. Redemption was the paying of the price or ransom.
    - a. It is all that was necessary to be paid to release us, deliver us, heal us, and set us free from sin, satan, and the curse.
    - b. It covers His entire plan for man's entire being; and it was all grace, meaning He initiated it, provided it, and paid for it.
- B. Redemption has two sides:

1. God's side.	-----	Man's side.
2. Grace side.	-----	Faith side.
3. God's action and response or what God has done.	-----	Man's action/response or what man needs to do.
4. God's aggressing/initiating.	-----	Man receives and responds.
- C. There is nothing we could do to help God complete the plan—that is grace. There is only one thing we could do, only respond—that is faith.
- D. Faith is a response to God's grace.

### **III. God Redeemed Us in Grace so That All Could Receive It by Faith.**

- A. He gave the Christian faith Romans 12:3.
- B. Sovereignty is God doing what He wants, when He wants, how He wants, to whomever He wants—completely independent of us.
  - 1. Sovereignty requires no faith, but what God offers in grace must be responded to by faith.
  - 2. Our redemption is not by sovereignty, but our redemption is by grace. That is why it is impossible to please God without faith.
- C. Redemption being by grace through faith makes the work of God in Christ a sure thing to all who would believe—no matter what your background, I.Q., race, color, social status, or upbringing.
  - 1. God showed no favorites and made no exceptions.
  - 2. All can receive the work of God through Jesus.