

# SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE

## Part 7 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:8 **SLIDE**

*For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

**GRACE IS, GOD'S UNDESERVED FAVOUR** – something freely given to us that we didn't earn or even deserve.

*You may say, 'OK! I KNOW WHAT GRACE IS and I've known for years that I am saved by grace... why do have we come back to this?!'*

Of course, it's true, most Christian's know and would acknowledge that they are saved by 'Grace' – Most have tasted something of this amazing grace in the early days of their conversion.

BUT A GREATER TRUTH IS **SLIDE AT THE POINT OF OUR SALVATION OUR MINDS CAN NOT GRASP THE GREATNESS OF THE GRACE OF THIS SALVATION.**

It's only many years later as we begin to **unwrap this gift through the study and revelation of the Good News of God** that we begin to perceive something of the magnitude of **this grace** we first came into when we were first saved. **SLIDE**

IT CAN TAKE YEARS BEFORE WE START TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE

**CONSIDER JOHN NEWTON WHO WROTE AMAZING GRACE**

*I used to think, as some of you may still think, that John Newton wrote Amazing Grace when He was first converted – that he came off the slave-boat ... fell on his knees and with tears of repentance started to sing, 'Amazing Grace'. **SLIDE***

***I used to think** he instantly saw how wrong his former life as a slave-trader was... and that straight away he wrote how amazing this grace was that had saved him.*

***But friends, it may surprise you to know,** John Newton wrote this song 'Amazing Grace' in 1773, **NEARLY 20 YEARS AFTER HE HAD BEEN CONVERTED.** **SLIDE***

*It was while he was an ordained minister in the Church of England  
– The curate of Olney in Buckinghamshire.*

*He wrote it to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day.*

**SO, NEARLY 20 YEARS AFTER HIS CONVERSION AND AFTER HE  
HAD BECOME AN ORDAINED MINISTER, JOHN NEWTON HAD A  
MEGA REVELATION OF THE GRACE THAT HAD SAVED HIM 20  
years before.**

**SO IT IS WITH US ... THERE IS FAR MORE TO KNOW OF THE  
AMAZING GRACE THAT CAME TO US AT OUR SALVATION.**

*Personally: I had been a believer and in ministry for decades when I  
had this revelation of **The Gospel of THE GRACE OF GOD**.*

*Beforehand I was striving to serve God.*

*I had started a church and worked day and night until I was  
diagnosed with cancer.*

*It was then in my helpless state that God brought me back to the  
Grace that had saved me ... And GRACE BECAME AMAZING.*

*From that moment on, as I studied, I saw Grace everywhere in The  
New Testament, e.g. - at the start and finish of most of the epistles.*

***There it was! All about the Grace of God and our Lord Jesus Christ  
... getting deeper and more profound.***

***I fell in love with Jesus even more.***

*My heart burst with gratitude and I became even more gob-  
smacked by His profound salvation ...*

***I then rediscovered some old Hymns** – especially the Wesleyan  
ones that spoke about my redemption.*

E.g: **SLIDE**

*'Oh for a thousand tongues to sing ...*

*My great redeemer's praise ...*

*The Glories of Our God & King ...*

*THE TRIUMPHS OF HIS GRACE (x 3)'*

I realized **SLIDE**

**WE NEVER-EVER MOVE ON 'FROM' OUR 'SALVATION BY GRACE'**

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**BUT WE MOVE ON 'INTO' OUR SALVATION BY GRACE ...**

*Unlike One minister I once heard say –  
'We know we have been saved by grace ... But after being saved by  
grace we need to **move on from grace and start serving God.**'*

***Friend's we do not move on FROM GRACE ... we move on INTO GRACE ... WHERE GRACE BECOMES MORE PROFOUND.***

Did you know that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time Paul has acknowledged 'The Grace of God' so far in under one and a half chapters of 'Ephesians'?

Ephesians 1:2 - *Grace to you* (This is Paul's usual greeting in most letters)

Ephesians 1:6 - *The glory of [God's] grace by which He made us accepted in the Beloved* (the Son of His Love)

Ephesians 1:7 - *The riches of His grace* - which brought us forgiveness and redemption

Ephesians 2:5 Paul mutters - *'By grace you have been saved'*

Ephesians 2:8 Paul yells - *'BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED'*

*The Gospel of the Grace of God is not just about our initial conversion - that's just the start.*

*The Good News of the Grace of God is the whole revelation of the plan and purpose of God toward us.*

**SLIDE**

**GRACE** IS THE ENTRANCE WAY ONTO THE PATH OF GRACE ...  
AND IT IS THE SUN THAT SHINES ON US ALL THE WAY –  
TILL WE COME TO THE FULLNESS OF HIS GRACE ...

**We start in Grace ... we walk in Grace ... and we finish in Grace.**

The Last great word of the New Testament, in the very last verse of the Bible, is –

Revelation 22:21

*'The Grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all, Amen.'*

**SLIDE OUR SALVATION IS 100% GRACE**

Ephesians 2:8 **SLIDE**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith and that **not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.***

Not only is grace God's undeserved favour that he has freely given to us to bring about our salvation -

**GRACE IS ALSO GOD'S ABILITY TO DO FOR US WHAT WE COULD NOT DO FOR OURSELVES –**

WE COULD NOT DO ONE-THING TO SAVE OURSELVES

**GOD HAS BEEN ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SALVATION  
& WE DID NOTHING AT ALL TO HELP**

1. **GOD PLANNED OUR SALVATION ...**
2. **PURCHASED OUR SALVATION ...**
3. **PRESENTED US WITH SALVATION ... AND**
4. **EMPOWERS US IN OUR SALVATION**

Ephesians 2:8 Message Bible **SLIDE**

*It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play ~~the major role~~.*

The first sentence of this translation is brilliant ...

The second sentence doesn't go far enough. We not only don't 'play the major role' - **WE DON'T PLAY ANY ROLE.**

IT IS NOTHING THAT WE HAVE DONE.

Ephesians 2:5 tells us **WE WERE DEAD ... and HE MADE US ALIVE BY GRACE –**

Ephesians 2:5

*Even when we were dead in trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

**WE WERE DEAD.**

Imagine asking a dead man to believe or confess Christ?

*You say - 'If you just believe and confess Jesus is Lord, you will be made alive ... Sorry, I can't quite hear you.'*

*He can't respond, HE'S DEAD.*

**SLIDE OUR SALVATION ISN'T BY ANYTHING WE DID.  
IT IS 100% BY GRACE**

(Ephesians 2:9 NIV *Not by works, so that no one can boast.*)

**SLIDE 'ROCK OF AGES'**

Verse 2

*Not the labours of my hands can fulfil thy law's commands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; **thou must save, and thou alone.***

Verse 3

*Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to your grace I cling  
Naked come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace  
Foul I to thy fountain fly, wash me Saviour or I die*

**SLIDE RELIGION IS A PERSON'S FUTILE ATTEMPT TO FIND  
GOD  
GRACE IS WHEN GOD FINDS YOU**

**NO MEDITATION ... NO SELF-SACRIFICE ... NO FLOGGING YOUR BACK  
... NO FASTING ... NO PRAYING ... NO GIVING MONEY OR FOOD ...  
NO GOING FROM DOOR TO DOOR TO TALK ABOUT GOD ... NO  
MORAL LIVING ... NOR GOING TO CHURCH EVERYDAY ... CAN SAVE  
YOU.**

**BUT YOU SAY, 'WHAT ABOUT 'FAITH'. SURELY I HAVE TO HAVE  
FAITH'**

**Yes, you do ... But even that 'Faith' must be given to you –**

**SLIDE THE FAITH TO BELIEVE IS 100% BY GRACE**

Ephesians 2:8 **SLIDE**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith and that [faith] not  
of yourselves, it is the gift of God**

**FAITH IS THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE ... BUT EVEN THAT FAITH HAS  
BEEN GIVEN TO YOU ...**

**FAITH COMES TO US BY GRACE.**

Romans 12 acknowledges that 'Faith has been given to each of us –

Romans 12:3 Berean Study Bible

***... Think of yourself with sober judgement, according to the measure of  
faith God has GIVEN you.***

Grace brings us the faith we need to enable us to believe ... which in turn causes us to receive the Grace of salvation ...

### IT'S ALL FROM GOD ... BY GOD

Ephesians 2:8

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God.***

**FAITH IS A GIFT OF GOD.**

**THIS FAITH IS A SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE THAT IS IMPARTED TO US BY GRACE.**

Faith is not in the unsaved man or woman ... faith has to be given from God.

*When you share your testimony with a non-believing person you may think they are stubbornly refusing to believe ...*

But the truth is **many actually cannot believe** because they have no faith yet.

They need to receive the gift of faith.

1 Corinthians 2:14

*The natural man **does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; **nor can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.*

A PERSON CAN'T JUST DECIDE THEY ARE GOING TO BELIEVE ...  
THEY CAN DECIDE TO GO TO CHURCH ... TO READ THE BIBLE ... TO EVEN PRAY ...  
BUT TO TRULY BELIEVE IT MUST BE GIVEN TO THEM.

### JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS ONTO IT ...

John 3:27 NLT **SLIDE**

*John replied, "**No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.**"*

### JESUS SAID IT ALSO

John 6:44 NLT

*... **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me ...** (see also [John 6:65](#))*

**A PERSON NEEDS AN AWAKENING OF FAITH DEEP IN THEIR HEART  
TO BELIEVE & RECEIVE THE GRACE OF SALVATION ...  
WHICH IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU AS A BELIEVER.**

**SO HOW DOES SOMEONE GET THIS AWAKENING OF  
FAITH IN THEIR HEART?**

**HOW DOES GOD DO IT?**

**GOD WILL LEAD A PERSON TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL**

*For months John Wesley didn't have faith in his heart. Even as a preacher he realised he did not have the assurance of salvation. So he sought God for more months to receive it.*

**JOHN WESLEY AWAKENED BY HEARING THE GOSPEL**

*At Aldersgate Church in England, John Wesley heard someone reading Martin Luther's preface to Romans. 'He said, I felt a warmth deep inside and I trusted in Christ and Christ alone!'*

**THERE IS ONE THING GOD HAS GIVEN US IN THIS EARTH THAT  
ENERGISES THIS FAITH. **IT IS THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL ...**  
NOT ONLY THROUGH A PREACHER ... BUT THROUGH ANY PERSON.**

**THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD**

Romans 10:14-15 **SLIDES x 2**

*How then shall they call on Him in whom **they have not believed**?  
And **how shall they believe** in Him of whom they have not heard?  
And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

*<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:  
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of  
peace ...*

1 Corinthians 1:21

*For since ... the world through wisdom did not know God, it  
pleased God through **the foolishness of the message preached to  
save those who believe.***

**Romans 1:16** Berean Study Bible

*I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it **is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek.*

THE GOSPEL IS NOT PRIMARILY AN INTELLECTUAL MESSAGE ...

IT IS A MESSAGE OF FAITH ...

IT SOMEHOW BYPASSES A PERSON'S INTELLECT & SMITES THE HEART

1 Corinthians 1:18 ...

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

**Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, the First ever evangelistic message after Jesus resurrection ...**

**Look at what happened –**

**Acts 2:37** Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And having heard, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Men, brothers, what shall we do?"*

**That day, The Gospel pierced the hearts of 3000 souls.**

**3000 souls had faith imparted into them ...**

**And 3000 souls were saved that day from the preaching of the Gospel of The Grace of God (Acts 2:41)**

**FRIEND DO NOT CLOSE YOUR HEART TO HEARING THE GOSPEL.**

**DON'T BECOME CYNICAL ... MOCKING ...**

**THIS WILL SHUT YOU OUT FROM THE VERY THING THAT CAN IMPART FAITH TO YOU – THE VERY FAITH YOU NEED THAT GIVES YOU THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE ...**

**YOU CANNOT BELIEVE WITHOUT FAITH ... AND YOU CANNOT HAVE FAITH WITHOUT RECEIVING HIS GRACE.**

## **OVERWHELMING GRACE**

**THE WILLINGNESS OF THE FATHER'S GRACE**

***LOOK HOW GRACE CAME TO THE PRODIGAL SON - IT RAN TO HIM ...***

***IT RAN INTO THE STENCH, THE FILTH ... TO REACH THE SON.***



## **GRACE TRIUMPHS IN FILTH**

**WHERE SIN DOES ABOUND ... GRACE DOES MUCH MORE ABOUND** (Romans 5:20)

**GRACE IS GREATER THAN SIN.**

### **HOW DID THE SON RECEIVE THIS FAITH?**

**HE WAS OVERWHELMED BY GRACE ...**

- **THE SON FELT THE EMBRACE OF UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE**
- **THE SON FELT THE KISS OF UNRESTRAINED AFFECTION**

**THE SON WAS NOW ENVELOPED IN THE FATHER'S GRACE –  
THIS IS HOW HE BELIEVED ...**

**THE SON MELTED INTO HIS ARMS ...**

**AS DO WE WHEN GRACE OVERWHELMS US AT SALVATION ...**

**AND YOU CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE.**

*(We must however not resist but allow our hearts to lead us into His Salvation by believing).*

**THIS IS WHERE FAITH WAS IMPARTED SO THE SON COULD RECEIVE**

After this comes the righteousness ... the holiness ... the status of being a child of God ... the life ... the abundance ...

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SLIDE**

**SALVATION IS BROUGHT TO US 100% BY GRACE SLIDE**

**REGARDING OUR SALVATION**

- **THE FATHER THOUGHT IT**
- **THE SON BOUGHT IT**
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS BROUGHT IT**

**Titus 2:11** Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*For the grace of God has appeared, **bringing salvation** to all men.*

**GRACE BROUGHT SALVATION TO YOU**

IF GOD DIDN'T BRING US HIS SALVATION – EVEN THOUGH THE SON HAD DIED & RISEN ... AND THAT ALL THINGS HAD BEEN PROVIDED – IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN, UNLESS THIS COMPLETE SALVATION HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WE CANNOT BEGIN TO RECEIVE IT WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGING IT TO US ...

AND THEN GIVING US THE FAITH TO RECEIVE WHAT HE HAS PROVIDED & BROUGHT ...

We say to people **'IF YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL BE SAVED'** which suggests they must drum-up this faith somehow ...

**FRIENDS, NO ONE CAN CONJURE UP THE FAITH THEY NEED TO BELIEVE AND BE SAVED.**

**Ephesians 2:8**

***For **BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT [FAITH] NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.*****