

# You Don't Have to Earn God's Grace

*Saved by Grace, Then Called to Walk With Christ*

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## Key Scripture - Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

## A Thought for the Day

Have you ever wondered whether you have done enough for God? Maybe you have looked back at your failures, compared yourself with another Christian, or thought that if you could just pray more, serve more, give more, or live a little better, then perhaps God would finally be pleased with you.

But the gospel begins somewhere completely different. Scripture does not tell us to become good enough so that God will save us. It tells us that salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

That means we do not work our way into God's family. We come to Christ with empty hands and trust what He has already done for us.

## Grace Comes Before the Walk

There is an important difference between being saved and learning how to live as someone who has been saved. The Bible speaks about both.

Through faith in Christ we are justified - declared righteous before God because of Christ, not because of our own record. Then begins the lifelong work of sanctification, as God teaches us to walk with Him and shapes our lives to become more like Jesus.

We do not obey so that God might save us. We learn to obey because, through Christ, He has saved us.

## Good Works Have Their Proper Place

Ephesians does not stop after saying that salvation is not of works. The very next verse says that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Good works matter. Obedience matters. Growing in holiness matters. Serving others matters. But none of those things are the price we pay for eternal life. They are part of the new life God calls us to live after receiving His grace.

That takes a tremendous burden off our shoulders. Instead of waking up every morning trying to earn God's acceptance, we can wake up knowing that our confidence rests in Jesus Christ. Then, from gratitude rather than fear, we can ask, Lord, how do You want me to walk with You today?

## Carry This With You

If you find yourself trying to prove your worth to God today, return to the gospel. Jesus did not ask you to complete His work. He asked you to believe. Rest in His grace, then take the next step of obedience with Him.

**Am I trusting Christ, or am I quietly trying to earn what God gives by grace?**

**Do I see obedience as the price of salvation, or as a response to salvation?**

**What is one simple step of obedience I can take today because I belong to Christ?**

## **Closing Prayer**

*Father, thank You that salvation is Your gift and not something I must earn. Forgive me for the times I have measured Your acceptance by my performance. Help me rest completely in what Jesus Christ has done for me. Then teach me to walk with You, to obey You, to grow in holiness, and to serve others - not because I am trying to purchase Your grace, but because I have already received it. May my life become a grateful response to Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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Rick Hicks Ministries  
Helping people grow in faith, one day at a time.