



The Gift of Grace

Focus Salvation is not earned. It is a gift we receive and not something we achieve through our efforts or law-keeping.

Open Which would mean more to you—to receive a heart-felt gift or to have someone help you with a chore or project you’ve been dreading?

Read Many Christians receive salvation freely, but with an intention to “pay it back” or “earn it” later. Some agree that salvation is free, but also believe there are additional things that must be done to be truly saved.

The Bible says that salvation is a free gift that is received by faith through grace by believing in Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned nor are there additional conditions to receiving it (modern-day “fine print”). Salvation offers us the free gifts of justification, eternal life and redemption through Jesus.

- Talk**
1. Read Romans 11:6. How does this verse refute the idea that one must do certain things beyond believing in Jesus to be saved (i.e., pray in a certain way or dress in a particular way)? Have you ever held to any religious traditions believing they were necessary for salvation?
 2. Read Romans 6:23. Why are the words “wages” and “gift” significant in this verse?

3. What does it mean to “redeem” something? What does it mean to be redeemed by God?
4. Because God redeemed us, He is now our rightful owner. The first time you heard that you were “*not your own ... but bought with a price*” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20) how did you feel about it? How about now?
5. You may have heard it said that if people were to believe in a free gift of grace, that they would live lawlessly—they’d do whatever they wanted.
 - a. What do you think is at the root of this argument?
 - b. How would you respond to a person who is worried about that?
 - c. With what you now understand about God’s grace and His love for you, are you *more* or *less* motivated to honor God by obeying His Word? Why?

Live

1. In pairs, answer the following questions:
 - a. Is there an area in your life in which you still find yourself striving to earn God’s approval or to please God on your own strength? Share what it is.
 - b. Have you excluded God from an area of your life as if it weren’t His “business”? Briefly share what that is.

Pray

Pray for one another, specifically for the area(s) you identified. Repent for trying to earn God’s free gift or not allowing Him to be your Lord. Ask to be empowered by His grace to live in a way that honors Him. Invite Him to be Lord over every area of your life. Ask Him to remind you again how crippled you are in your own strength, and for Him to show you how much He loves you.