

How Can We Receive God's Gift of Eternal Life?

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

We have been talking about God's gift to us – a relationship with Him. Today we are going to talk about what we have to do to receive that gift.

We see every day how people are rewarded for doing something. Last season, the Mavericks won the NBA championship. As a team, they worked hard over the course of the season and through the playoffs to achieve this. Dirk Nowitzki was voted as the most valuable player in the finals because of the great things he did. These goals were achieved because they worked very hard and were extremely talented basketball players.

When it comes to our relationship with God, it is not based on what our talents are but rather on what we believe. The verse above tells us that because of God's Grace, we can have a personal relationship with Him (coaches, use the acronym GRACE to explain it – God's Riches At Christ's Expense; God offered Jesus as a sacrifice). All we have to do is have faith and believe that God can save us. Faith is believing in something that sometimes you may not be able to see. When you sit down, you have faith that the chair is going to hold you up. We have to have that same kind of faith in knowing that God will save us from our sins because of the sacrifice that Jesus made.

We are also told that we cannot earn our salvation based on any good things we do. We can't do enough good deeds, go to church a certain number of times or try to obey all the commandments to earn our salvation. If we could, there would have been no reason for Jesus to die on the cross. We must trust in God and believe that He can save us from our sins. That is the only way to be saved.

God has offered this gift and showed us how we can accept Him as our Savior. If you have not done that yet, what are you waiting for? The gift is there waiting for you to receive it.

1. This verse talks about grace. What did we say was an easy way to remember what grace is?
2. What is faith?
3. What do we have to do to receive it God's special gift?
4. Can we earn a relationship with God by doing good things?
5. Who died to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God?
6. What is the only way to be saved?