

*John 7: 16. Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.* Jesus said It was His Fathers doctrine. He spoke only what He heard of the Father. That which comes from the father, that which is eternal and settled forever in heaven.

*Deuteronomy 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:* Look at the effect of gentle Rain and dew upon the grass making it fresh and growing and extremely fruitful. This is what happens to hearts that receive this pure gentle and rain and dew from heaven. His Teaching Pure and gentle. His doctrine watering us and making us extremely fruitful. The Lord alone is exalted in his dealings with his people. He is the rock. Its His rain and Dew that we are dependent upon. Increase and growth comes from God alone. Oh Lord let thy doctrine drop like rain. Make this your prayer.

*My doctrine* – *the ancient Hebrew includes the meaning a tool, for learning,* insight, instruction, teaching-power, persuasiveness. A winning doctrine as we see in the book of Proverbs, *He that winneth souls is wise.* There is nothing more persuasive and winning than the Doctrines of God. The teaching of the Holy Bible. The Word of God established forever –Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. The grass withers the Flower fades but my words shall never pass away. They don't get old. They don't loose their power. The Word of the Lord endures forever and forever. These doctrines are His they are from above not beneth.

An unbeliever in London had a wife who had a Bible which she regularly read; being annoyed at this, the man, threw the book upon the fire. This appears to have taken place at dinner-time. He then left home to go to his work, but soon returned to see if the last pages of the bible had disappeared. The woman, who naturally felt distressed at her loss, said she thought it was completely burned; but her husband stirred the ashes to see if this was the case, read an unburn page, what he read led to his conversion—“**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word shall not pass away.**” The sister of this man was the wife of a London pastor; and just when the Bible was burning she was earnestly praying for her brother's conversion. His doctrine is a winning doctrine...

One interesting meaning of the word “My Doctrine”, is a tool or tongs to remove hot coals from the fire. The Fathers “Doctrine” is powerful and able to rescue even coals from the fire. A picture of lost souls ...*is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire? *Zec 3:2*. When people are in danger of fire urgency is required. How urgent is it to make known Life saving Doctrine. The gentle pure doctrine, Persuasive doctrine. Winning and saving. Unless they are rescued the Fire will destroy them. How urgent it is to proclaim sound saving doctrines of Grace. He alone is the deliverer.

The five solas from the protestant reformation when Luther protested about the unbiblical truths in the Roman Catholic Church were a call back to Biblical Christianity. **Stating that Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.** Yet even today the Church has drifted from the purity of the word of God and there is a great need for sound doctrine to be taught and proclaimed. Although there are 5 Let's look at the first 2 today Grace and Faith.

### 1. We are saved by grace alone,

The gospel is the only external means of making Christ and **saving grace** known to men, **and it is completely adequate for this purpose.**

No some would argue. We need more modern techniques. We need to keep the attention of the people.... If we are to reach people they say we need good music, good lively programs, special items. Yet for someone to truly be born again there must be only one vital element at work, **the work of the Holy Spirit. Nothing less than a work of the Holy Spirit will bring new life.** How we need to return to trusting God that His way is best. What is needed is a return to persuasive Gospel preaching. Not to all the efforts of men with countless ideas, ideas mostly copied from worldly methods and entertainment.

Besides The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit, they are foolishness to Him. If it were not for the Grace of God no one would come, No one would understand. The fact that people come and are born again is grace.

The fact that you have understanding is Grace. That they are even interested is grace. **No one can come unless the Father draw them.** It doesn't matter how good our program is it doesn't depend upon our program it depends upon saving Grace. It's not our work to make a program that is suitable for worldlings. It is our work to ask the precious Holy spirit to pour out **His grace upon our efforts.**

*2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

It is understood the god of this world is satan, who blinds the minds of them that believe not. Satan or the prince of this world blinds people and makes them his slaves. **But Grace shone in our hearts,** without the light shining on us we can see no freedom in the Gospel, without the Light and grace we see no beauty in Christ. Without the Grace of God, we grope around in darkness totally lost and without hope. What a miserable state to be in blinded and lost.

Without grace We couldn't seek God – we thought it foolishness, we were blinded, - Rather He sought us. By grace alone are we saved.

**When we first came into salvation,** we didn't really understand GRACE. We thought we saved and converted ourselves, we thought we chose to follow God, we thought we were seeking God, but we were converted by His Grace. **He alone saved us.**

We begin to see that God the Father planned our salvation even before the foundation of the earth, and God the Son carried out on the cross at carvery, and God the Holy Spirit applied it, by shining in our darkened hearts. He chose us *Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, John 15:16*

What grace and mercy the Holy Spirit opens our eyes. That His Love extended to us while we were yet sinners. *Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* **Ask yourself;** Who has made the difference, yourself or God? **The doctrines of God give God all the glory.** The doctrines of man seek to steal some of God's glory to give to man instead.

Some thought partaking of the sacraments could save them, some thought good works could save, but scripture is very clear. *Ephesians 2:8* *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Titus 2:11* For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

The doctrine of grace and salvation by the gospel **is for all ranks and conditions of men (slaves and servants, as well as masters)**, therefore we are engaging and encouraging **all to receive and believe it, and we walk suitably to it.**

**Without saving Grace we could not be saved.** To pretend holiness when there is none is a vain thing. In the story of the 10 Virgins all of them professed to be a friend of the bride. They all looked forward to His coming. They all had lamps. Just like many people of today who make a profession of commitment or attachment to Christ, but they have not the **inward supply of the Spirit of grace to keep it up.** They have no root. They want Christ but don't want to give their lives to Him... There is a glitter or a flash, but there is no permanent light, and there cannot be any, for although they have "*lamps*", they have "*no oil with them.*" It is an outward profession only, there is no work in the heart. No change in the Life, no desire for holiness. No desire for reading and feeding upon the precious word of God. Because Grace is not at work in them.

What use is the lamp of profession without the oil of saving grace? What use it it to go to church on a Sunday and then live the rest of the week as if there were no god in heaven. What comfort will a show of holiness give us at the end? Will painted gold enrich? Painted wine refresh him that is thirsty? Will painted holiness help at the hour of death? A pretense of sanctification is not to be rested in. Unless the Spirit of God be in us, in deed, and of a truth, we may for a while make a fair show in the flesh, but the end will be the blackness of darkness forever.

It Is saving Grace that opens our eyes that shows us the way to salvation, But then its saving grace that keeps us empowers us and keeps us a brightly burning lamp for the Lord. It's the saving Grace that molds our character making it Christlike and acceptable to the Lord. The Saving grace that has worked a work in our lives. Developed Character, developed faithfulness and Trust in the Lord, developed a love for prayer, but most of all it is this grace that saves us sinners. Character can't

be simply given away, to those who don't have. No, Saving grace must be received personally by each it must work in each individual. How foolish to put off saving grace. Like a peoson on His death bed, thinking I have a lamp, I'm getting ready to meet the bridegroom, I'll enjoy the marriage feast. But at midnight the cry rings out the bridegroom cometh. The virgins who had oil begin trimming their lamps and were soon ready. But those with no oil, like this one on His death bed, **could not perform the task.** How could they expect to do this work, how could they even attempt this work without the supply of saving grace. Without saving grace It will be an eternal failure. Oh, now at the last, they begin to desire and value what they previously so despised. What they even made fun of and saw as no use and value. Now its vital, their lamp is going out or has gone out. They need the oil of Saving Grace. Give me oil , give me saving grace they cry, my lamp has gone out. But no Christian has got more grace than He needs, the wise virgins said the only thing they could say, *"Go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."* There is a proper place where the oil can be bought at the right time: we are bidden to **"buy the truth,"** grace is sold only in God's market on gospel terms, **"without money, and without price;"** but when the midnight cry is heard, the day of grace has closed, and buying and selling are over forever. How foolish to think that on a death bed you can at the Last moment call upon the Name of the Lord for salvation. What a risk! What if you mind is clouded, what if you are in confusion of a sweat. The only preparation is to have saving grace in your heart. Do you have this saving Grace. For once the door of Grace is shut no wishful thinking can open it. It is shut for ever. Today is the day of salvation today is the day of grace.

## 2. Through faith alone,

Faith is also a GRACE which enables us to believe, we are only enabled to believe through the work of the Holy Spirits in our heart. This faith to believe normally comes by the preaching of the Word. *Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

The word of God is therefore called the word of faith - it begets and nourishes faith. God gives faith, but it is by the word as the instrument. Hearing that

produces faith is by the word of God. It is not hearing the enticing words of man's wisdom but hearing the word of God.

*1 Thessalonians 2:13* For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

**By grace through Faith, we are saved.** *Ephesians 2:8* For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Through faith**, by which we lay hold on the grace offered us in the gospel. **Faith is not considered here as a work done by us**, but as an instrument, or means applying the grace and salvation given to us. **And that not of yourselves**; not for your own substance, nor by your own strength. **It is the gift of God**; that we are saved it is the gift of God, and therefore free and purely by grace.

Because of this gift of Faith, we perceive Gods Holy Word to be true. Because of this gift of Faith, we believe everything written, and consider it higher than any other writings. We believe and trust fully Gods word and yield completely to all of its teachings. **The main act of saving faith** is to believe in Christ and His saving power, His Justification and Sanctification, and eternal life, all by virtue (or benefit) of the covenant of Grace.

As scripture says, we are justified by Faith *Romans 5:1. Gal 3:24* and we have been granted access by faith *Romans 5:2*. Christ dwells in our hearts by faith. *Eph 3:17* Faith in Jesus Christ. Faith and believing are Very closely connected. Perhaps the most well-known Scripture we know shows this truth. *John 3:16* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have everlasting life. **The Question here is do you BELIEVE?** Or have you faith in God, Faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished upon the cross. So many answer this important question without much thought, Yes of course I believe. Traditional Protestants, and Catholics, all recite every Sunday that they believe. But most don't know what they have believed, do they know in who they have believed for salvation. Can they explain what they mean when they say they believe? Can they give an account of their faith? A belief this vague, just a token, just lip service, not from the heart, is utterly useless. It can neither satisfy, nor sanctify,

nor save. The scripture comes to mind *Mark 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

Saving Faith, is received first, then comes knowledge, first saving faith causes us to believe what Gods word has said, then comes understanding. We see this in **Hebrews 11:3**—"Through faith we understand." The First thing we read in this faith chapter is that, Through Faith we are able to understand, faith is the root of perception. As we believe Gods word, Faith is granted to understand, knowledge of what we have believed is given. Saving Faith enables us to receive the Word not as mere fables of man But as the Word of God The truth which becomes engraved upon our hearts. It opens our spiritual ears and we place faith in that which we have heard. But those who believe not can have no understanding of Divine things. Without saving Faith they are blinded, Deaf and in darkness. God has only one plan for salvation. Apart from justification by faith in Jesus Christ, there remains only condemnation.

Before we move on some may say what about the Scripture in *James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

Though a man "say" he has faith. Saying saves not. Men may say they have Faith, men say they believe, but our Lord is far too wise to be deceived. If they have come to faith there will be a result something will be produced a deed and action in the heart. God looks not at our profession, *our leaves*, he moves the leaves aside and looks for fruit. As John Trapp points out. If he finds no fruit, he lays down His basket and takes out His axe. *Luke 13:7.* Christianity is not a talking, but a walking with God. True saving faith always produces fruit. Faith overcomes the world. It will purify the heart. The best and the safest evidence that your faith in Christ is real is a holy life. Those that live unto the Lord, normally die unto the Lord. A holy life is real proof that we love the Lord in sincerity. Its real proof that we are Children of God. Again, its real proof that our Faith in Christ is real.

**Faith is the only means by which we are saved.** Saving faith is not some very hard work we must do yet it is vital. For example, if I were to say to a starving man. If you eat this bread I'm offering you, you will gain strength, your hunger will go,

and you will live. His eating is no great or praiseworthy admirable thing, yet it's vital. What Gave Him strength was the food or bread he ate. His **eating was the means** by which He was saved. We should not think our faith saved or brought deliverance, it's the means by which deliverance or salvation comes.

I want to show a bible example of true **saving Faith**.

**John 4:46-54** So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there **was a certain nobleman**, whose son was sick at Capernaum. [47] **When he heard that Jesus was come** out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. [48] Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. [49] The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. [50] **Jesus saith unto him**, Go thy way; thy son liveth. **And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken** unto him, and he went his way. [51] And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, **Thy son liveth**. [52] Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. [53] So the father knew that **it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house**. [54] This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

The nobleman had heard. **Faith cometh by hearing** and hearing the word of God. Rom. 10:17. It wasn't just an outward hearing. He believed deeply and It was inscribed upon His heart. He believed enough to act and walk approximately 25 miles to beseech Him to come and heal his son. When He got there, He heard the words from the Lips of the Master. "Go thy way; thy son liveth". Here is real saving Faith demonstrated. He went nothing asking, nothing doubting, nothing questioning. He believed and with great confidence in what he had heard he went on his way. He does not question the method Christ Chose to use. He wanted Christ to go with Him, but He completely trusts Christs way. No sign was given to him, he had no special feelings, he believed and he went on his way. He simply believed what the Lord said. **THAT IS HOW SALVATION COMES TO A SINNER**. They believe and act upon Gods Word convinced it is true. Then again

in verse 53. He believed once again. Him and his entire household received Eternal life.

Saving faith may vary in strength, weak or strong it is more than enough, with a weak faith and a fearful heart, many a sinner stands before the Lord. It is not the strength of our faith, but the perfection of Christ's sacrifice that saves! No matter how little the faith is that we may have it will never change the effectiveness of the Power in Christ's blood to cleanse away sin. Whether our faith is weak or strong the Promise remains the same, "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Only the Lord can give men spiritual eyes to see their lost and ruined condition. Only the Lord can show men the holy wrath of God against their sin. Only the Lord can reveal the glory of a beaten, scourged, and crucified Christ. Only the Lord can give men a revelation of the exalted, risen, Christ, ruling the universe and providing for, protecting, and caring for His redeemed. Without this revelation, no man will come to Christ in saving faith.

Have your eyes been opened to see the glorious person and work of the blessed Son of God? The young servant of Elisha could not see the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha until the Lord opened his eyes. Neither can the sinner see the glory of Christ until the Lord opens his blind eyes.

"Lord, I pray Thee, open their eyes, that they may see."