

Living by Grace Not Law

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 5: Living by Grace through Faith
by C. D. Hildebrand

Many Christians have lived most of their Christian lives by law, so much so that they haven't a clue as to how it is we live now, if not by law. There is beautiful, good news for us in this area. We have been created in Christ to live in Him in the exact same way that we were saved—by grace (God's undeserved favor) through faith (by believing in Jesus).

Here is a verse most believers know.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

It was not of yourself—it was God's gift. "Gift" in the Greek is **doron**, which means "a present; specifically, a sacrifice: – gift, offering." It was by His sacrifice and our faith in Jesus that we were saved. I hope that most true Christians understand this at least—that their initial salvation was not because of anything they did or promised to do, except to believe in what He already accomplished.

Assuming that you do understand that your salvation was by grace through faith, I need to ask you this: what about afterward? Isn't this the message that is commonly taught?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by law you continue to be saved through obedience; it is by your diligent discipline and sacrifice; the requirement of God, ⁹by your works, so that you may humbly boast.

How is it that we live after we've been born again? Some of you understand the gospel of God's grace (Acts 20:24), and you know

where I'm heading, but others perhaps have been burdened down with so many Christian expectations that they aren't even sure where to start responding.

Some answers might include, "God gave His best. Now I'll give my best," or "God did everything I need, so now it's up to me," or "The important thing now is to obey God and please Him," or "It's important for me to pray, read the Bible, and go to church," or "I'm just gonna hold on until He returns."

Notice how in all of these sayings, the focus has shifted off of what God does and onto what we do. Thankfully, that is not how we live. Simply stated, we now live in the same way we were saved—by grace through faith.

Colossians 2:6-10

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷*rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.* ⁸*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.* ⁹*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;* ¹⁰*and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

We walk in Him the same way we received Him. We are born again by faith in Him, and now are built up and established by grace through faith in Him.

Instead of thinking we need to do something more, we are to thank God that *He* has done it *all*.