

Speak the Name of Jesus

PASTOR CHUCK REEVES

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

In this text, Paul tells the Christians at Ephesus how they were saved.

He is not telling unbelievers how to be saved; rather, he's telling believers how they were saved. In one way, it would be like someone telling you when and where you were born. The similarity lies in the fact that we are neither responsible for our birth, nor are we fully aware of what happened without someone telling us about it.

Likewise, we are also not responsible or aware of what happened in our new birth without passages like this explaining it to us. Paul explains both what has happened to us and how it has happened to us. What has happened to us is that we have been saved through faith. How it has happened is explained in detail.

First, our being saved through faith is by God's grace, meaning it is not something we deserved. Second, we didn't have anything to do with being saved through faith. Being saved through faith is a gift of God; we didn't earn it. To be even more clear about this, Paul explicitly states our being saved by faith is not a result of our works.

If we are not careful, in our reading of Scripture, we can easily think that saving faith is something we bring to God in exchange for salvation. But here it is made abundantly clear that saving faith is God's gift.

Before God saved us and gave us faith to cling to him, we were not pursuing God. Rather, we were following Satan, the prince of the power of the air. Before he saved us, we were not looking for salvation, we were dead in our sin.

What a comfort to understand that being saved through faith is God's gift to us and because of that we are surely secure in him.

Do you ever find yourself thinking that you went and got yourself saved? Do you ever think of it as if you gave God your faith so that he would give you salvation, as if it were a transaction? It's easy to get into these modes of thought, but let's remain dedicated to the clear and simple teaching of Scripture that salvation through faith is God's gracious gift to us.