
JAMES – Practical Christianity

When Faith is Genuine My Wanter is Changed

Part 5

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 4, 2015*

C.O.F.F.E.E.

Christ – Offers – Forgiveness –

For – Everyone – Everywhere

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” ***Ephesians 2:8, ESV***

We Are Saved By Faith Alone, but the Faith That Saves
Is Never Alone

Key Biblical Concepts

1. God is Love

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:8, ESV

God Is Never Permissive

2. Justice Is Getting What I Deserve

“And wrongdoers will be repaid for the wrong things they do, because God judges everyone by the same standard.” ***Colossians 3:25, GNB***

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ***Romans 6:23, ESV***

There Is a Right and There Is a Wrong and It Is Wrong
For Wrong To Exist Without Punishment

3. Mercy Is Not Getting What I Deserve

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt... Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?” ***Matthew 18:26-27, 33, NLT***

When Love Finds a Way It Is Called Mercy

4. Grace Is Getting What I Do Not Deserve

I Can Never Be Good Enough To Earn Grace

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”
Romans 3:23–24, ESV

I Can Never Be Bad Enough For Grace to Be Withheld

“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.”
1 Timothy 1:15, NLT

5. Christ’s Blood Is the Agent of Change

“This is my blood, which seals God’s covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” *Matthew 26:28, GNB*

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” *Ephesians 1:7, NLT*

Justice and Love Can Co-Exist Without Permissiveness

6. Faith Is the Hand That Reaches Up To Grasp What Was Freely Given

When Grace Comes, I Must Give Up Everything
and By Faith Grasp It

Matthew 13:18–23, ESV

7. The Bible Does Not Teach Universal Salvation

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.” *1 John 4:14, ESV*

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 7:21, ESV*

It’s God’s Way or the Highway

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” *Matthew 7:13–14, ESV*

When Faith Is Genuine My Wanter Is Changed

Community Group or Personal Devotion Questions

1. We often speak about the time we became a Christian as a “Conversion Experience”. Briefly share your “experience” with someone in your group.
2. Does it make you uncomfortable to share your conversion experience with someone? Why or Why not?
3. Has there ever been a time that you did not “*Feel Saved?*” What was going on in your life at the time? Did Pastor Jack’s Sermon outline help you understand your salvation better? Why or Why not?
4. There is a time in every Christian’s life that they feel that God cannot forgive something we have done in the past or in the present.
 - Meditate for a moment on God’s Grace and the Blood of Christ.
 - Perhaps you feel shame or guilt for what you have done. Sometimes our emotions hinder our acceptance of God’s gracious gift of Grace and we have to choose whether to believe our feelings or believe the Word of God.
 - Is there any Sin or failing on our part that His Grace and the Blood of Christ cannot cleanse?
 - Take some time and thank God for His Grace and the Blood of Christ.
5. What did Pastor Jack mean when he said, “When faith is genuine my wanters are changed?”
 - How could you apply this concept to your life today?