



Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV)

⁸For by

grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Opening

1. **Pray:** God of grace, thank you for loving us without condition. Help us to experience your grace and share it with one another. May we say “yes” to your grace. Amen
2. **Share:** Share of the most unexpected, warm, moving rendition you have ever heard of the hymn, *Amazing Grace*.

Dive Into the Text

1. What does Ephesians 2:8 say about salvation and how we are saved? What does “saved by grace” mean?
2. What sort of “good works” is meant in verse 10?
3. According to Romans 5:1, what do we receive as a result of justification through faith?
4. What are the benefits we receive through salvation, even when we face suffering?

Read John Wesley's quote from his sermon "The Scripture Way of Salvation."



1. I. And, first, let us inquire, What is salvation The salvation which is here spoken of is not what is frequently understood by that word, the

going to heaven, eternal happiness. It is not the soul's going to paradise, termed by our Lord, "Abraham's bosom." It is not a blessing which lies on the other side death; or, as we usually speak, in the other world. The very words of the text itself put this beyond all question: "Ye are saved." It is not something at a distance: it is a present thing; a blessing which, through the free mercy of God, ye are now in possession of. Nay, the words may be rendered, and that with equal propriety, "Ye have been saved": so that the salvation which is here spoken of might be extended to the entire work of God, from the first dawning of grace in the soul, till it is consummated in glory

John Wesley. Sermon 43:
"The Scripture Way of Salvation." 1765.

Go Deeper

1. In this quote, what does Wesley say that salvation is and is not?
2. In what ways can we experience God's salvation now in this life?
3. How can we say "Yes!" to God's grace now? What are the challenges to saying "yes" to grace?
4. Share how God's grace has changed your heart and life.

Close in Prayer

Close your time together in prayer.