

Faith That Saves: A Life Reconstructed

Ephesians 2:8–10, 2 Chronicles 34

1. Salvation is by Grace Through Faith

"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)

2 Chronicles 34:1-7

But we see Josiah's faith in action early in his reign:

-At age 16 he began to seek the God of his "father", David.

-At age 20 Josiah began purged Jerusalem of the high places, idols, altars, and false priests.

-When the Book of the Law was found he tore his clothes in repentance.

Josiah realized that he and his people were loved by God, only because of God's mercy, not their own merit.

Faith starts when we stop looking at our own "doing" and start looking at God's "giving."

2. Works Flow From Salvation, Not Toward It (The Evidence)

"...not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:9)

Josiah understood that his works weren't what pleased the Lord, but his heart, his "Why" is what God wanted.

Actions without the reverence and love of God (good works) are just "religion."

2 Chronicles 34:31-33

Josiah was moved by God's grace.

-Josiah didn't clean up the kingdom so that God would love him; he cleaned up the kingdom because he realized who God did love him.

-Good works are the fruit of salvation, not the root.

We don't do good things to get saved; we do good things because we are saved.

3. Created for God's Purpose

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

God had prepared a specific role for him centuries before he was even born (see 1 Kings 13:2).

Josiah wasn't just to be a good king; he was placed there by God for a purpose: to lead generations back to the Word of God.

Why is this important?

2 Chronicles 34:23-28

Hilkiah-Josiah-Jerusalem's Compassion for God

The gift of Josiah's faith wasn't just for Josiah, but a nation heading into God's justice. God's justice had to be done, but He gave Faith to see them through what had to happen...

Affected: Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (Shadrack, Mishack, Abednego)

Our Purpose:

Like Josiah, we aren't an accident. God has "prepared beforehand" specific tasks for us, in our families, workplaces, and communities.

Saving faith doesn't just give us a ticket to heaven; it gives us a mission on earth.

Conclusion

Josiah's legacy wasn't just that he did good works, but that he had a heart completely turned toward the Lord that led to a national return to God that impacted generations.

Application:

Let your faith be more than a set of beliefs—let it be the engine that drives you to do the "good works" God designed specifically for you.