

GRACE

The Greek word khahr ees translated "grace", denotes that which is given without merit or cause, thus that which is undeserved. As it relates to salvation, it is the free gift or unmerited favor of God granting "freedom" or forgiveness of the sin nature to those whom He elected in eternity, granting them acceptability and accessibility unto Him. This acceptable status excludes any effort or contribution on the part of the recipient or grantee of God's free expression of His love. There are no works (no input whatsoever) involved; otherwise grace would not be grace (Romans 11:6). The act is performed without any obligation of God to convey or bestow it upon sinful creatures.

Ephesians 2:8-9 expressively defines the operations of grace as it states, (literally from the Greek Manuscripts), "the gift of God, this is not out of you, you are, having been saved by the grace through faithfulness, not out of works, that no one might boast". According to this verse, grace is accomplished beforehand and independent of any actions produced by the recipient. It is a completed and unalterable fact, based solely on what God alone has predetermined to do, undeterred by the actions of those who are its benefactors.

The phrase "not out of (from) works, that no one might boast", denotes that grace is relevant only to that which is non-meritoriously conferred, thus there is no basis for payment for services rendered or wages earned. "Unmerited Favor" means that the favor cannot be earned. God cannot accept the efforts contributed by sinful mankind because He is holy and His standards are perfection, thus only deity can provide the offerings for the offence of sin. Since we did nothing to earn salvation, we can do nothing to lose it. Therefore when God's elect sin, it does not change God's attitude toward them. This does not mean that a believer is free to utilize God's grace as an indulgence to continue in sin (Romans 6:1-4). Contrary to some flawed opinions but in accordance with Scripture----- as a believer dwells upon this grace of God in which he abides; it will motivate him to walk according to the will of the One who has so graciously saved him (Titus 2:11,12). See "Grace vs. Works".