

Continuing in the faith -

We are saved by Grace, justified through/by faith, not of works: Eph 2:8,9; Rom 3:28

Ephesians 2:8,9: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

Romans 3:28: *"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."*

These scriptures speak to our foundational understanding that salvation is a gift of God's grace and not earned by works or efforts. They illustrate the role of faith in receiving this gift. Martin Luther famously said, *"Faith is God's work in us, that changes us and reveals our new birth from God."*

The question is... are we changed?

Those who are justified, will be glorified. Rom 8:30

Romans 8:30: *"Moreover whom He predestined, those He also called; whom He called, those He also justified; and whom He justified, those He also glorified."*

This verse emphasises the divine process from calling to justification and glorification. It assures believers that God's plan for them will be fulfilled. We understand that those justified by God are personally and intimately guided toward glorification.

But we MUST hold fast to/continue in the faith. 1 Cor 15:1,2; Col 1:21-23; Math 10:22

1 Corinthians 15:1,2: *"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain."*

Colossians 1:21-23: *"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."*

Matthew 10:22: *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."*

These verses show the necessity of perseverance and faithfulness in our walk. Continual faith and steadfastness are crucial. Charles Spurgeon was quoted, saying, *"Perseverance is the badge of true saints."*

God Himself will continue His work in you. Phil 1:6; 1 Cor 1:8,9

Philippians 1:6: *"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

1 Corinthians 1:8,9: *"Who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

These verses emphasise God's ongoing work in the life of the believer. The confidence in the Christian walk comes from God's faithfulness to complete His work (not ours).

God will also use others to help you. Heb 3:13,14; James 5:19,20

Hebrews 3:13,14: *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."*

James 5:19,20: *"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."*

Let's not also forget the importance of community, encouragement, and correction within the body of believers. They underscore the significance of working together in faith. *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* - John Wesley.

Thus, we MUST continue in the faith for our salvation to be sure.

Other Ref: Luke 17:5, Heb 12:2, Rom 10:17 12:3, 2 Cor 5:7 10:15, James 1:2-4 2:26,