

New Faith Church
Rev. Dr. Andre J. Lewis, Pastor
Bible Study Series
Ephesians 2:7-10

“Growing In Gratitude”

I. Gratitude Begins with Knowing Your Position

A. Knowing God’s Grace is An Act of Kindness Towards Sinners for His Glory.

“that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (2:7).

1. The primary purpose of God for sending His Son to die in the sinner’s place, was not to produce the happiness of the sinner, saved by grace, but rather the demonstration of the grace of God for all eternity.
2. God’s purpose in saving sinners is not just to make men happy, to provide blessings, or to enable men to escape the torments of hell.
3. In the case of the salvation of sinners, it is the grace of God which is on display.
4. In the case of the judgment of the wicked, it is the holiness and justice of God which is demonstrated.

B. Gratitude Appreciates The Gift of Grace Through Faith.

“For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;” (2:8).

1. It was by God’s “*grace*” (doing mankind a favor) that He delivered unto man divine revelation which has the power to save men’s souls (Romans 1:16);
2. God’s “gift” is His “grace” and His grace involves forgiving mankind of their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
3. Paul says, *“That not of yourselves.”*;

C. Gratitude is Knowing that Works Can’t Attain His Grace.

“Not of works, that no man should glory” (2:9).

1. “*Not of works*” is the idea of trying to attain salvation by means other than Christ.
2. Christ offers what I call, well timed help to all who would humble themselves in obedience to His will (cf. **Heb. 2:18; 7:25**)...
3. Peter and John state, *“And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved”*....

II. Gratitude Begins with Knowing Your Purpose.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”.(Eph. 2:10)

A. HIS “WORKMANSHIP”

1. Paul begins this verse by saying, *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus”*
2. The word “workmanship” means, “that which is made, a work, a work of art”.
3. Paul is saying that the redeemed saints of God are His masterpieces.
4. The redeemed saints of God are the result of God’s loving industry.
5. With loving care and infinite skill, God shaped us by His grace and wrote His love into our lives....

- B. Paul builds on it in 2 Cor. 5:5...(Ill. 2 Cor. 5:5, *“Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”*)

1. The word “*wrought*” in that verse means, “to fashion.”
 2. When you stop to think about the raw materials God has to work with when He saves sinners and changes lives, it all becomes far more incredible.
- C. Paul uses the word “*created*” means, “to form or to shape.”
1. It refers “to making something out of nothing.”
 2. When God saves a sinner, a new person is formed, **2 Cor. 5:17**;
 3. The redeemed are trophies of God’s saving grace.
- D. The words “*in Christ Jesus*” remind us where the ground upon which salvation rests.
1. When God makes a new creature out of a sinner, He does it in Christ Jesus.
 2. Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation for the whole world, **John 14:6**.
- E. The word “*for*” carries our thoughts back to the preceding verses.
1. In verse 8-9 Paul told us that God’s salvation is not the result of works.
 2. **Salvation is a work of His hands**, and we owe Him all the glory!

III. OUR WORKS

A. Paul tells us that we are “created in Christ Jesus unto good works”.

1. Works do not save us, but works are a sure product of our salvation.
2. As surely as you are truly saved, “*good works*” will mark your life.
3. The good works of our new life in Christ Jesus stand in contrast to the old works of the flesh,(**Eph. 2:2-3** “*Our old identification*”; **Gal. 5:19-21** “*Works of the Flesh*”).

B. The new life God places within us when He saves us **always** manifests itself in “*good works*.”

1. The new life He creates within us when we are saved will always work its way out through us in our works.
2. If He is in your heart, He will let His presence be known through the way you live your life, **Gal. 5:22-23** “*Fruit of the Spirit*” ;
3. Works are a manifestation of an inward change.

IV. THE WALK

A. Referring to those “*good works*” Paul says, “*which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” ;

1. This statement makes a couple of truths abundantly clear.
2. First, this statement makes it clear that God expects His people to “*walk in*” “*good works.*”
3. It refers to “a fixed way of life that is committed to living the way God intends for His people to live.”
4. **How does God expect His people to walk?**

B. Sanctification is a process. God saves you from a life of sin and He begins the process of transforming your life.

1. He remakes you into the image of His Son, **Eph. 4:24**
2. We are not perfect the instant we get saved, but we are changed.
3. That’s the truth; we are all a work in progress.