



[Ephesians 2:8](#)

(8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

King James Version

Faith's importance to [salvation](#) is accentuated by this verse. [Faith](#) plays a role in the entire process until we enter the [Kingdom of God](#). It is the sum of what [God](#) is doing in our lives: "[Jesus](#) answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'" ([John 6:29](#)). In the fourth and fifth chapters of Romans, Paul mentions faith a dozen times, almost all concerning justification, being made righteous or having access to [grace](#), and thus, having the [hope](#) of the glory of God.

The faith that saves has its beginning when God, on His own initiative, calls us ([John 6:44](#)) and leads us to [repentance](#) ([Romans 2:4](#)). He does this by His Spirit guiding us into all [truth](#) ([John 16:7-14](#)). Stirring up our minds to knowledge, His Spirit enables us to perceive from a perspective we never before seriously considered. This, combined with the confrontation that occurs with the carnal mind when we are forced to choose what to do with this precious truth, gives birth to a living faith, a faith that works, a faith that walks in godliness.

This would never occur if God did not first do His part. We would never find the true God on our own or understand His gospel of the Kingdom of God. We would never be able to choose the real Jesus, our Savior and Elder Brother, from the mass of false christs created in the minds of men. Not knowing what to repent of or toward, we would never repent.

As miraculous and powerful as God's liberation of Israel from bondage was, even more so and of greater importance is the breaking of our bondage to [Satan](#), [this world](#), and human nature. This is why [Ephesians 2:8](#) says the faith that saves is "the gift of God." Israel's release from Egypt was God's gift too. Regardless of how much they cried out to Him, the Israelites would never have left Egypt without Him. If God had not been [merciful](#)

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and faithful, if He had not been trustworthy, they would never have been freed.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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[Wandering the Wilderness in Faith](#)

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