

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5-7



Pure faith is not a work, it is a gift. It will produce works, but it cannot be gained by works. We can serve God until we're blue in the face, but it won't get us one ounce of faith. Faith comes by hearing the proclamation of God's Word, and it saves those who exercise

it. Many fearfully bury faith in their earthen vessels. Exercising faith requires courage. The Word of God is clear, the fearful will not inherit eternal Life. (Rev. 21:8) Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. Simply take God at His Word, no matter the circumstances. It requires the gift of faith, and the courage to exercise it, in spite of being afraid. Most people are fearful of rejection by those around them. The question is, "Who is the Ultimate Judge, your acquaintances?" Can anyone besides God give eternal Life? Protect you with angels? Meet your every need? Many try to earn their way to heaven by good deeds and religious ritual. Their pride refuses to exercise their gift of faith. To do so, they must humble themselves and accept the premise that they are sinners and unworthy of God's Mercy and Grace. They would rather march proudly into hell than humbly enter heaven. Pride got Lucifer thrown out of heaven. Pride sent a third of the angels with him. Pride condemns men to hell and damnation for eternity. Pride keeps believers in bondage to sin.

Though prideful works cannot give men,
The right of Heaven to enter in,
God's mercy brings to us His Grace,
And humble faith will see His face. ~CGP

Those who humbly rest in Christ's finished work, and faithfully cling to His Word, Will rule and reign with their Sovereign Lord through all eternity. His crowns are gifts to the faithful. The harder you work for salvation, the faster you sink. "Jesus saves" is always present tense. I think that even believers sometimes forget He is ever ready to reach out to us. Those who come to Him for mercy, find His mercy ever near. If you are sinking, it's time to "call" for the "Life" guard.

"But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:12-13