***FAITH, WORKS, AND GRACE: THE BALANCE***

I. FAITH: JOHN 3:16

1. Hebrews 11:1
   1. Faith is being sure of what we hope for
   2. Faith is being certain of what we do not see.
   3. It’s not just an intellectual belief in God.
2. Hebrews 11:6
   1. Without faith, we can’t please God.
   2. God rewards those who earnestly seek him.
3. James 2:14-26
   1. Faith without works is dead.

II. WORKS: JAMES 1:22-25

1. Ephesians 2:8-10
   1. The Bible teaches that we are not saved by our own effort. (Eph. 2:1-5; Titus 3:4-5)
   2. God prepared works for us to do. (Eph. 2:10)
2. Philippians 2:12
   1. We do not work for our salvation, but we do continue to work out our salvation.
   2. We continue living as disciples.

III. GRACE: EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Definition: God's unmerited favor upon man; mercy; "God's riches at Christ's expense."

1. God's grace to us is displayed by:
   1. 1 Timothy 1:12-17
      1. Patience
   2. Psalm 103:8-18
      1. Compassion
      2. Forgiveness
   3. Romans 8:28-39
      1. Love
2. Result of God's grace in our lives:
   1. 1 Corinthians 15: 10
      1. Grace must impact our lives. ("I worked harder')
   2. Titus 2:11-14
      1. It teaches us to say "No" to sin
      2. Inspires us to please God.

CONCLUSION

1. We are saved by grace through faith to do good works.
2. We should think, "Saved by grace, and therefore from gratitude we do the deeds."

Rather than thinking, "Saved by grace, but we have to work, too."

1. Illustration: Mark 1:40-45
   1. The leper begs Jesus to heal him (faith). Jesus heals him (grace). In response to this, the leper freely shares with people what Jesus did (work).
2. Suggested Scriptures:
   1. Romans 4:18-25
   2. Titus 3:3-8
   3. Romans 8: I
   4. 1 Timothy 1: 12-17
   5. 1 John 1:5-10
   6. 1 John 2:1-2
   7. Hebrews 11
   8. Psalm 130:3-4