

Gospel Message - Salvation Not by Works



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Suppose it's your birthday. You walk into the kitchen and there on the table sits a huge present wrapped in colorful paper with a beautiful ribbon on top. You ask your mom, "Is that present for me?" She answers, "It sure is; Happy Birthday!" But just as you're about to open it your mom stops you and says, "Wait! This present is very expensive and extremely valuable. What have you done to earn this present?" What would you say?

The Bible says salvation is the greatest gift that anyone can ever receive. How can you get this gift? It comes through faith, through trusting in and relying on Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. By trusting in Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we receive the gift of eternal life.

These verses remind us that salvation is not a result of works. In other words, you can't do anything to earn it. You can't do enough good things - like going to church, reading your Bible, praying, obeying your mom and dad, being kind to others, or serving others - to earn your salvation. Instead, salvation is a gift of God that he freely gives us when we place our faith in Jesus. And even faith is not your own doing, it comes from God, too. The very faith we need to trust in Jesus, God gives us as a gift of his grace.

Suppose God were to ask you, "Why should I give you the gift of salvation?" What would you say?

- "I'm basically a good kid." (What do Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 tell us?)
- "My parents are Christians." (What does John 3:36 say?)
- "I go to church almost every week." (Look ahead to Romans 10:9)
- "I sing worship songs to God." (See Acts 4:12)
- ☆ "I'm trusting in Jesus! I know that Christ died for my sins!" (Remember 1 Corinthians 15:3)