

WHEN GRACE AND FAITH MEET (2)

BY KEITH GREER

Israel and God's grace. *“And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’” {Exodus 14:13,14}* Israel had been in bondage in Egypt. After sending the plagues and nearly destroying Egypt, God, by the hand of Moses, delivered Israel. As they stood at the Red Sea, God was about to fulfill His first promise—I will make you a great nation—to Abraham. Did Israel do something to obtain the promise? *“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” {1 Corinthians 10:1-4}* God also rewarded them by granting them freedom. *“So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.” {Exodus 14:30}* Yes, God's grace saved them, but they had to walk across the Red Sea.

Naaman and God's grace. *“And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.’” {2 Kings 5:10}* Elisha told Naaman what to do to cure his leprosy. At first, Naaman went away in a huff, unwilling to accept Elisha's terms. But he was still a leper. Naaman's faithful servant convinced him to listen to God's prophet, *“And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, ‘My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’ So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” {2 Kings 5:13,14}* Naaman's health was restored when—and only when—he followed God's prescribed remedy. No one can deny that God healed Naaman, but he would not have been cleansed had he not gone down and dipped seven times in the muddy Jordan.

The Blind man and God's grace. *“When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.” {John 9:6, 7}* Jesus' words extended grace to the blind man. He obeyed Jesus' instruction and came up seeing! No

doubt, by a simple remedy, God extended His grace to the blind man. But this miracle would not have occurred without the blind man's obedience to God's instructions.

The Samaritans and God's grace. *“And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” {Acts 8:11,12}* When they heard the invitation extended by God's grace, they accepted and obeyed Him. What resulted from their obedience? *“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.” {Acts 8:14}*

Without reservation, I declare that man cannot be saved without God's grace. God's grace is an essential item that **NO MAN** can be saved without—period! But I hasten to add that it won't be by God's grace alone. Faith plays an equal part in this special relationship and the receipt of the promised benefits. Remember to read ALL—not just part—of what God says on any given subject. Man's salvation has two parts: God's part—His marvelous grace. Man's part—obedient faith! Thanks be to God for such a marvelous and awesome gift! ***