



Ephesians 1:4-6

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 2:5,8-9 KJV

[5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) [8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 KJV

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Philippians 1:29 KJV

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

John 6:44 KJV

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

“THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD VS HUMAN STRIVING”

Does the faith, which we exercise in believing in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation come from us or does it come from God?

In our dead and unsaved state, upon hearing the gospel, do we generate the faith to believe from within ourselves or does God deposit that faith within us? God and God alone provides saving faith to believe the Gospel.

Faith is not self-originating in a spiritually dead person.

Faith is not passive—it is responsive. It doesn't earn God's favor, yet it does express itself through action.

Faith does not originate from human striving. It is given by God, not produced by human effort.



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God is the initiator, author, and finisher of salvation.

Ephesians 1:4–6:

- God **chose** us *before the foundation of the world*
- Salvation is rooted in **His will**, not ours
- The end goal is “**the praise of the glory of His grace**”

Ephesians 2:5, 8–9:

- We were “**dead in sins**” (not weak—dead)
- Salvation is **by grace**
- It is “**not of yourselves...not of works**”

1 Thessalonians 5:24:

- The One who calls you is **faithful—and He will do it.**
- God is the **initiator, author, and finisher** of salvation.

Faith That Lives... Moves

There is a **tension** Scripture holds:

“Faith without works is dead.” — James 2:17

This does not mean works *create* faith. It means works are the **evidence** that faith is alive.

Salvation means to be saved, delivered, or rescued from danger or destruction

It means being rescued from:

- Sin (its power and penalty)
- Separation from God
- Spiritual death
- Eternal judgment

In the New Testament, the Greek word often translated “salvation” is *sōtēria*, which means:

- Deliverance; Preservation; Safety; Wholeness

So salvation is not just “escaping hell”—it is being **made whole and brought into life with God.**



The core question: Where does saving faith come from?

There are two truths in Scripture that must be held together and not separated:

Truth #1: Faith is required from us

- “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...” (Acts 16:31)
- “With the heart man believeth...” (Romans 10:10)

So yes—we **believe**. Faith is exercised.

Truth #2: That faith is enabled by God

- “For unto you it is given...to believe” (Philippians 1:29)
- “No man can come to me, except the Father...draw him” (John 6:44)

And most importantly, in the passage you quoted:

- “By grace are ye saved through faith; **and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God**” (Ephesians 2:8)

There is debate about whether “that” refers to faith specifically or the whole salvation package—but either way:

Faith is not self-originating in a spiritually dead person

The condition of being “dead” matters...

If a person is:

- Spiritually **dead**
- Separated from God
- Without spiritual life

...then they cannot generate saving faith the way a living person produces action.

Dead things don’t initiate response.

What actually happens when the gospel is heard?

1. The Gospel is **preached** (Romans 10:17)
2. The Spirit **moves** (John 16:8 – convicts)
3. God **draws and awakens** (John 6:44)



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4. The heart is **opened** (Acts 16:14 – Lydia)
5. The person **believes**

So the faith we “exercise” is real—but: It is awakened, enabled, and granted by God.

“God and God alone provides saving faith to believe the Gospel.”

That is **theologically accurate** within a grace-centered (monergistic) framework, and it aligns strongly with:

- Our dead condition (Eph. 2:1)
- God’s initiating grace
- The language of “gift” and “calling”

Monergism is the theological belief that salvation—specifically regeneration—is effected solely by the Holy Spirit, without any human cooperation. Associated with Reformed and Calvinistic theology, it holds that God alone changes a person’s heart, giving them the ability to believe, rather than human free will choosing God.

However, to keep the full biblical balance, I would refine it slightly:

Saving faith is exercised by us, but it originates in and is enabled by God’s grace.

You might say it like this:

“We believe—but we only believe because God awakened our ability to believe.”

The hand of faith is ours, but the life in that hand came from Him.”

Or even more succinctly:

“Faith is our response—but grace is its source.”

This should not create passivity—it should produce:

- **Humility** → “Not of works...lest any man should boast”
- **Security** → “Faithful is He...who also will do it”
- **Worship** → “To the praise of the glory of His grace”

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