

## 1 Having confidence in your relationship with Christ

When you trust Christ to be your Savior, you can have confidence in your relationship with Him because you have been completely forgiven and accepted by God. Only Christ's death on the cross is sufficient to provide this proper relationship with God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." —Ephesians 2:8,9

Three important words in these verses help us understand the basis of our acceptance before God: **grace, saved and faith.**

**Grace:** unmerited favor, an undeserved gift.

*Can a gift be called a gift if you must work to earn it?*

You don't deserve this relationship with God. You cannot earn it by any good works (church attendance, good deeds, giving money, etc.). It is a free gift from God that you accepted when you received Christ.

**Saved:** to be rescued, spared from disaster.

**Read Romans 6:23.** This verse tells us that the penalty for sin is spiritual death. When you received Christ, He rescued you from eternal separation from God. You were spared from having to pay the penalty for your own sin.

**Faith:** to believe in, trust in, rely upon.

*Based on what we just read, what should you rely on God for?*

Faith is not a feeling or just an intellectual agreement with certain beliefs. It is an act of the will to trust in and rely upon God and His Word. Receiving Christ means you stop relying on your own ability to get into heaven. Instead, you choose to trust in Jesus' death to pay for your sins.



### KEY QUESTION

*Suppose you were standing before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you say?*

## 2 Understanding five truths about your relationship with Christ

Many exciting things are true in your relationship with Christ. Understanding the following truths will help you build a firm foundation on which to grow in your relationship with Him.

### 1. Christ forgave your sin.

**Read Ephesians 1:7.** When you trusted Christ for the forgiveness of your sin, He forgave all your sins — past, present and future.

*What difference would it make to someone to know that all of his or her sins were forgiven?*