

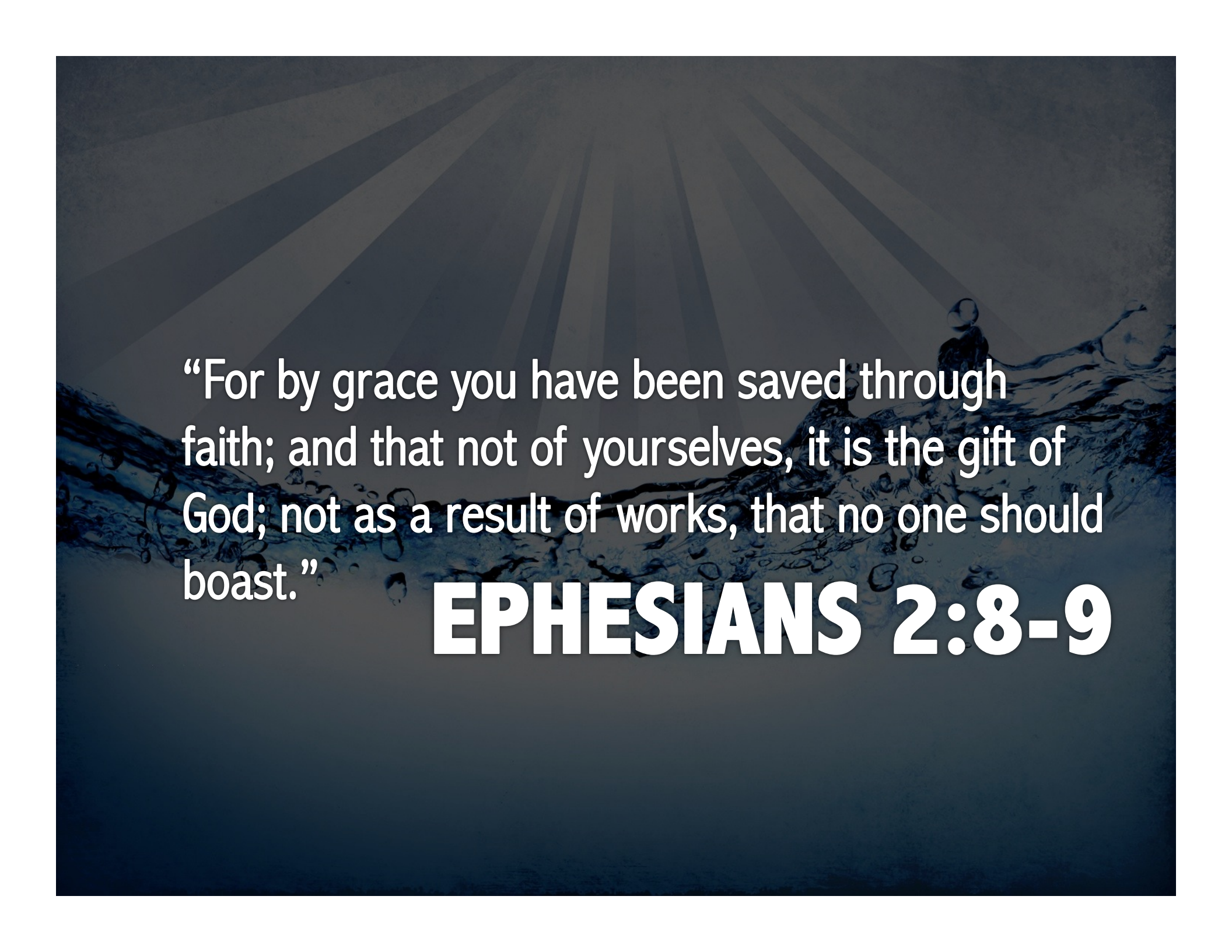


**BY FAITH (ONLY?)**



# FAITH ONLY?

- Even Martin Luther, in his translation of the New Testament, decided (without any evidence in the Greek text to support him) to add the word “only” to Romans 3:28, so that the text reads, “*A man is justified by faith only apart from works.*”
- But isn't there at least one more thing required, that is even *more* important than faith? Notice 1 Corinthians 13:2, 13.
- There is incredible interdependence between love, obedience, and faith in passages like 1 John 3:23-24.



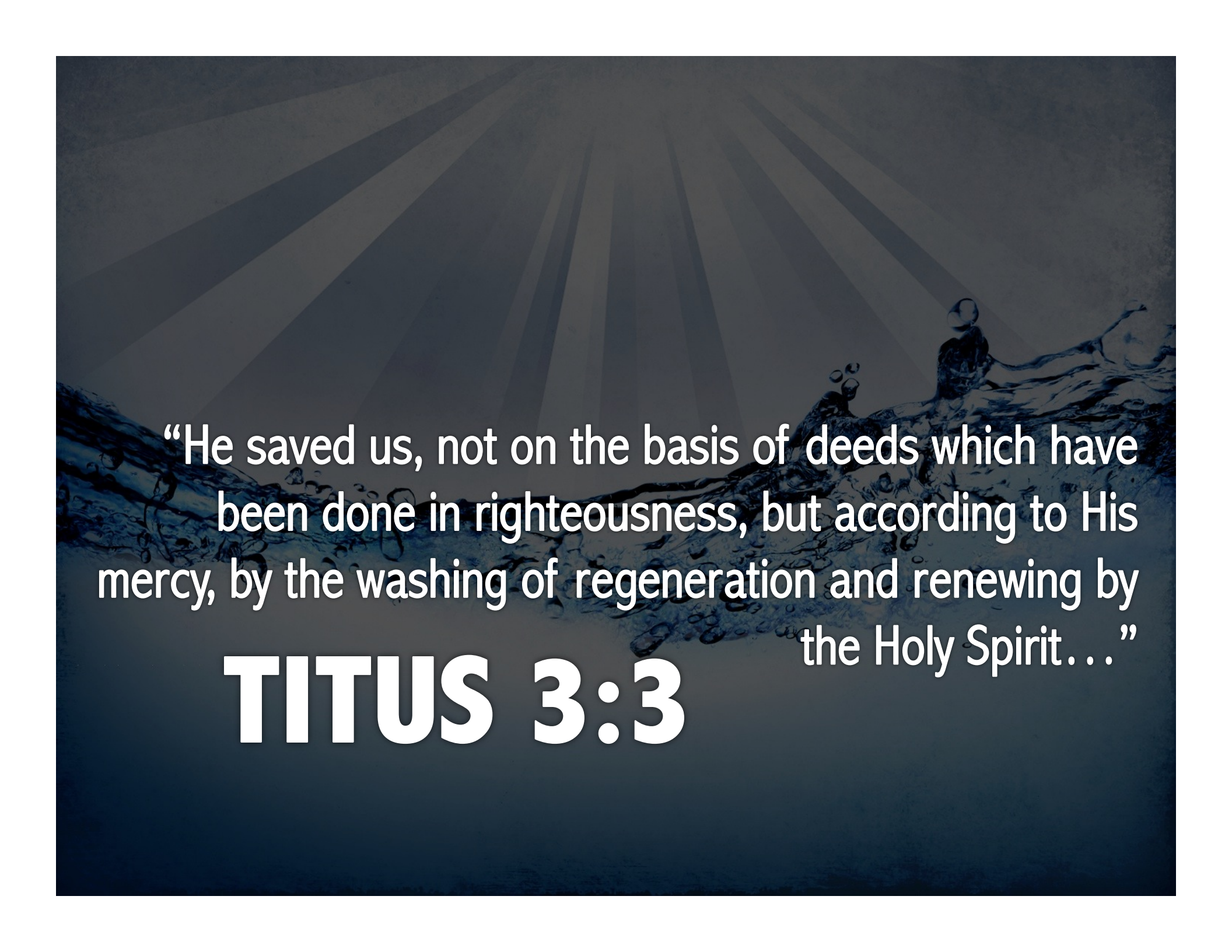
“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9**



# EPHESIANS 2:8-9

- “For by grace you have been saved” — We cannot earn it, but are there conditions which must be met?
- “And that not of yourselves” — Salvation is arrived at outside of ourselves, never self-derived.
- “Not as a result of works” — But what kind of works are we talking about? Our works? Or God’s?
- “That no one should boast” — This statement is not made in a vacuum. The inference is that we should not boast in ourselves. But what about God? Jeremiah 9:23-24.



“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which have been done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...”

**TITUS 3:3**



# THE NATURE OF FAITH

- Our very use of the word “faith” is at the heart of this debate. What exactly is faith? What is required for it to be “saving faith”?
- Can one have faith that is not saving? What about John 12:42-43 or James 2:19? What if a person believes but refuses to confess? Matthew 10:32-33 puts great emphasis on the need to confess.
- Is faith a “work”? That idea presents quite an obstacle to the person who believes in salvation by faith alone, apart from works! Notice John 6:29.



