

# Article of Faith 3

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We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

There's a catch to the third Article of Faith. It says we are saved through Christ, **but** by obeying and following rules aka works. Which is kinda funny if you think about it, the bible says that we are saved through grace not works.<sup>1</sup> If we depend on our works to get into heaven and be saved, we are boasting of our talents.

I don't believe that we are saved by works. I believe we are saved by grace.<sup>2</sup> Being saved by works feels like a slap to Christ and God by thinking that we can save ourselves. We cannot save ourselves no matter how hard we try.

Sure, our works and deeds we do in this life will be looked at during the final judgment. But in the end, Jesus Christ is our advocate with the Father. The Father demands justice while Christ knows the pain and anguish that we've gone through while living this life. This is made possible through the atonement of Christ.

Some people believe the scripture regarding "faith without works is dead"<sup>3</sup> is talking about the same thing. Well that's talking about faith not grace. there's a difference between faith and grace. Faith is a belief in things where the evidence isn't seen. Grace is something that comes from God. A gift as it were. The two are different they are not the same.

The LDS church doesn't teach much about grace. It is a works based church believing that we have to do everything in our power to get into the Celestial Kingdom, the top tier of heaven. It's a complex thing to understand and grasp at times.

God loves and cares for you and each one of His children. He mercifully bestows upon us divine help and assistance, which the scriptures refer to as "grace." God's grace is made possible because

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<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>2</sup>Theology (Divine Grace): In Christianity, it is the free, undeserved help or favor from God, often seen as essential for salvation, sanctification, and strength. It is considered a gift that enables believers to live a godly life, overcoming sin through Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>James 2:17;26

of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. We all fall short in our efforts to keep God's commandments, so we do not merit or earn the gift of grace. Rather, grace is freely given by Heavenly Father, making it possible for us to receive rich blessings. When you strive to increase your faith in Jesus Christ, you will recognize countless examples of His grace and goodwill in your life.<sup>4</sup>

The way that reads to me is that grace happens *during* this life. Where I believe that grace happens during and after this life. It is through the atonement of Jesus Christ that we are saved and through His grace. Our works cannot save us, only His grace is mighty to save.

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<sup>4</sup>"Grace", LDS Website, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/grace-study-guide?lang=eng>