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God's Overflowing Love

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 12, 2017**

Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction: This chapter contains an account, **I.** Of the miserable condition of these Ephesians by nature (Ephesians 2:1-3) and again, Ephesians 2:11,12. **II.** Of the glorious change that was wrought in them by **converting grace** (Ephesians 2:4-10) and again, Eph. 2:13. **III.** Of the great and **mighty privileges** that BOTH **converted Jews** and **Gentiles** receive from Christ, Ephesians 2:14-22. The apostle endeavours to affect them with a due sense of the wonderful change which **divine grace** had wrought in them and this is very applicable to that great change which the same grace works in all those who are brought into a **state of grace**. So that we have here a lively picture both of the misery of **unregenerate men** and of the happy condition of **converted souls**, enough to awaken and alarm those who are yet in their sins and to put them upon hastening out of that state, and to comfort and delight those whom God **hath quickened**, with a consideration of the **mighty privileges** with which they are invested. (Source: <https://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/mhm/ephesians-2.html>)

Ephesians 2:1, And you hath he **quickened** (made ALIVE), who **WERE dead** IN trespasses and sins...

Thought 1. The King James Version italicized the words "*hath he quickened*", meaning they were added by the translators. They could rightly do so because Ephesians 2:4-5 says, God HATH "quickened US together" WITH Christ. Also, the meaning is we **WERE DEAD** IN trespasses and sins, but NOW are ALIVE is what was intended by God, the Father, who directed Jesus (Yahshua) to reveal this truth to Paul by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, **All scripture** is given by **inspiration** of **God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (FRESH**, [useful, profitable, untainted; PURE], **complete** [having no deficiency]), throughly furnished unto **ALL good works**.

Galatians 1:11-12, But I certify you, brethren, that the **gospel** which was **preached** of ME is NOT after man. For I **neither** received it of (from) MAN, **neither** was I taught it, but by the **revelation** of (from) Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:2, Wherein in **TIME PAST** **ye walked (LIVE)** according to the course of this **world**, according to the **prince (chief ruler)** of the **power (jurisdiction** [realm, domain, empire]) of the **AIR** (atmosphere), the **SPIRIT** that now worketh IN the **children of disobedience**...

NOTE: Walked according to the course of this world ... "This refers to the **behavior** which is characteristic of **UNREGENERATED** people.

The prince of the powers of the air ... The character in view here is most assuredly

Satan, who is called the "god of this world" in 2 Corinthians 4:4, and who was called the "prince of this world" (John 14:30; 16:11) by none other than the Christ himself. Only those who consciously REJECT the **teaching** of the **New Testament** can deny the existence of the personal ruler of this world's darkness.

The **greatest deception Satan** ever perpetrated **upon people** **IS** that of **persuading them** that **HE does NOT EXIST!**

The intelligent organization of complementary and interlocking systems of wickedness all over the world proves the intelligent and personal nature of the **EVIL ONE**. ...Such things as **psychology, social pressures, poverty, etc.**, are simply NOT an adequate explanation of EVIL; and the more thoughtful and perceptive scholars are already aware of this; but the great rank and file of mankind have never been deceived for a moment.

They invariably accept the terminology of the New Testament for what it says. Again from Wedel, "**Simple folk are often better theologians than the learned of the schools.**"^[7] It is clearly Satan which Paul referred to in this place... but what is meant by "powers of the air"? In this also, it is necessary to discard many current interpretations. This is NOT MERELY "a reference to the prevailing superstitions of those times that the air was full of evil spirits. It is not an accommodation of Christian thought to "later Gnostic"^[9] theories. This authentic Pauline epistle antedates (precede in time) Gnosticism.

Powers of the air ... This is the same as "**power of darkness**" (Luke 22:53; Col. 1:13) and the "spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). This possible meaning was pointed out by Bruce, who based it upon the fact that the word Paul used for "**AIR**" is **NOT [Greek: aither]**, meaning the clear upper air, but **[Greek: aer]**, which means the **OBSCURE, MISTY, LOWER AIR**. The logic of construing Paul's meaning here as "darkness" is further supported by the truth noted by Barry:

Air here describes a sphere, and therefore a power, **below** the **heaven** and yet **above** the **earth**. The word and its derivatives carry with them the ideas of **CLOUDINESS, MIST** and even **DARKNESS**.

Thus, inherently, the designation of Satan as prince of the powers of the air (in the sense suggested above) is precisely accurate and instructive. Satan's awesome power is above that of human beings, but below that of Christ.

The spirit that now worketh ... A spirit is a living being; and from this it is plain that Paul considered Satan to be at work in the people of his generation; and we are certain that he is no less at work now.

Barclay pointed out that these first three verses have a description of the **life without Christ**, the same being: **(1)** a life lived on the **world's standards** and with the **world's values**; **(2)** a life under the dictates of the prince of powers of the air; **(3)** a life of disobedience... (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/ephesians-2.html>)

Ephesians 2:3, Among whom also **WE ALL** had our **conversation** (behavior) in **TIMES PAST** in the lusts of **our FLESH**, fulfilling the **desires** of the **flesh** and of the mind; and **WERE BY NATURE** the **children of wrath**, even as **others**.

Flesh defined 4561, sarx; flesh i.e. (by implication) HUMAN NATURE (with its frailties (weaknesses) [MORALLY] and PASSIONS [the FEELING of the MIND; excitement, or agitation of MIND; as DESIRE, FEAR, grief, love, HATRED. EMOTIONS]).

NOTE: In the lusts of our flesh - Living to gratify the flesh, or the propensities (inclinations [leaning of the mind, feelings, preferences, or will]) of a **corrupt NATURE**. It is observable here that the apostle changes the form of the address from "ye" to "we," thus including himself with others, and saying that this was true of "**ALL**" **BEFORE their conversion**. He means undoubtedly to say, that whatever might have been the place of their birth, or the differences of religion under which they had been trained, they **WERE** substantially (truly) alike **by nature**.

Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind - Margin, as in Greek, "wills." Complying with the wishes of a DEPRAVED NATURE. The "will of the flesh" is that to which the **FLESH**, or the **UNRENEWED NATURE** of **man**, prompts; and Paul says that all had been engaged in fulfilling those fleshly propensities (leanings of the mind). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/ephesians-2.html>)

Thought 1. Before we were born again, we WERE "IN the FLESH": the unrenewed nature! After being born again, we do NOT have the FLESH nature at all! Now, we're IN the Spirit! That means we have only God's nature: LIGHT! Not two natures. Because in him is NO DARKNESS at all, which is death: "Human nature" from Satan.

Romans 8:8-9, So then they that are **IN the FLESH** cannot please God. But ye Are "**NOT IN**" the **FLESH** but "**IN**" the **Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit** of God dwell "**IN you**."

Ephesians 5:8, For ye **WERE** sometimes **darkness**, but **NOW** are ye **LIGHT** IN the Lord: WALK as children of LIGHT...

1 John 1:5, This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God** is **LIGHT**, and IN him is **NO darkness** at ALL.

Ephesians 2:4-5, But God, who is rich in **mercy**, for his great LOVE wherewith he **LOVED us**, Even when we **WERE dead** IN sins, HATH quickened us together WITH Christ, (by **GRACE (favour [favor, kindness [good will; kindness ever accompanies LOVE])** ye are saved;)...

NOTE: ...Dead through our trespasses ... "This describes the existing state from which we were **MADE ALIVE** with Christ. The same thought is in Romans 5:10 where our being enemies was the existing state from which we were reconciled to God.

By grace have ye BEEN SAVED ... In this Paul referred to **SALVATION** from **past sins** and induction into the **KINGDOM** of Christ. The apostle Peter mentioned this as salvation from one's "**old sins**" (2 Peter 1:9). As Lipscomb said:

We are already saved from our past sins, **BUT** we MUST **continue faithful to the END**; for the Saviour says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).[16]

Paul's reference to salvation in the past perfect tense as something done and accomplished already has **NO** reference to **final destiny** but to the primary (First in order) **obedience** that makes a **true child** of God. See under Ephesians 2:8.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/ephesians-2.html>)

1 John 3:23, And this is his commandment, That we should **BELIEVE** on the **name (authority)** of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as (like) he gave us commandment.

Romans 11:19-20, Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted IN. Well; because of **UNBELIEF** THEY were broken OFF, and thou standest by **FAITH**.

Faith defined 4102, persuasion, i.e. moral conviction (of religious truth), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, CONSTANCY (fixedness of mind; persevering resolution; steady) **in such profession**.

Romans 11:20-22, Be NOT highminded, but **FEAR** (reverence): For if (since) God **spared NOT** the natural branches, **TAKE HEED** lest he also **spare NOT thee**. **Behold** therefore the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** (harshness, strictness)) of God: on them which fell, **SEVERITY**; but toward thee, goodness, **IF thou CONTINUE IN his goodness: otherwise thou ALSO** shalt be **CUT OFF**.

NOTE: The current **LOVE-cult** has, to some degree, **perverted** man's conception of the divine **goodness** by leaving out of view the aspect of God's character which Paul here commanded men to BEHOLD.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

Thought 1. So, “**Once saved, always saved**” is **NOT true!** We’re SECURE as long as we CONTINUE to believe: keep the FAITH!

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE BELIEVE**, and in TIME of **temptation (experience of EVIL) FALL AWAY (desert, DEPART, withdraw self).**

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **SOME** shall **DEPART** from **the FAITH**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of **devils...**

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ...I have finished my course, I have **KEPT the FAITH:** henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...

Hebrews 3:12-14, Take HEED, brethren, lest there be IN any of you an **evil heart of UNBELIEF**, in **DEPARTING FROM** the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ,

IF we HOLD the beginning of **our confidence STEDFAST** unto the **END...**

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; And I will NOT **blot out (ERASE) his NAME OUT of the book of life,** but I will **confess** his NAME before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 3:14-16, And unto the **angel (pastor)** of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the **beginning** of the **creation of God;** I know thy works, that thou art neither **COLD** nor **HOT:** I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art **LUKEWARM,** and neither cold nor hot, I **will (be ABOUT to do something) spue (vomit)** thee out of my mouth.

Thought 2. From this definition, we see it’s **NOT** conclusive yet that this **WILL** happen. So, Jesus is really warning them about how **CLOSE** they are.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was **NOT** found written in the **book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.

Ephesians 2:6, *And hath raised US up together, AND made US sit together in heavenly places IN Christ Jesus...*

NOTE: We who were buried are raised up, Ephesians 2:6. What remains yet to be done is here spoken of as though it were already past, though indeed we are raised up in virtue of our union with him whom God hath raised from the dead. When he raised Christ from the dead, he did in effect raise up all believers together with him, he being their common **HEAD** and when he placed him at his **right hand** in heavenly places, he advanced and **glorified them** in and with him, their raised and exalted head and forerunner. ...They are not only servants to the best of masters in the best work, but they are exalted to reign with him they **SIT** upon the throne **WITH Christ,** as he has sat down with his Father on his throne.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/ephesians-2.html>)

Ephesians 2:7, *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his GRACE in his KINDNESS toward US THROUGH Christ Jesus.*

NOTE: Exceeding riches ... in kindness ... The marvelous tenderness and consideration

of God for his erring human children must ever inspire with admiration, wonder and AWE the soul that becomes conscious of the fullness and **glory** of such **wonderful LOVE**. **In Christ ...** Like a constant drumbeat, this Pauline concept is hammered into every line of his writings. The love, the goodness, the hope, the forgiveness, the joy, the salvation – **everything is IN Christ.**

In the ages to come ... The apostle Paul did not anticipate the end of the world in a few days, or a few weeks, or in his lifetime, but on the other hand considered that God's GRACE would be available in the salvation of sinful men for "ages to come."
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/ephesians-2.html>)

Ephesians 2:8, For by **GRACE** are ye **SAVED** **through FAITH**; and that **NOT** of yourselves: it is the **GIFT** of God...

NOTE: For by grace are ye saved - By mere favor. It is NOT by your Own merit; it is NOT because you have any claim. This is a favorite doctrine with Paul, as it is with all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity; compare the notes at Romans 1:7; Romans 3:24....

Through faith - Grace bestowed through faith, or **in connection with BELIEVING**; see the notes at Romans 1:17; Romans 4:16, note.

And that not of yourselves - That is, **salvation** does NOT proceed from yourselves. The word rendered "that" - τούτο touto- is in the neuter gender, and the word "faith" - πίστις pistis- is in the feminine. The word "that," therefore, does NOT refer particularly to faith, as being the gift of God, but to **"the salvation by grace"** of which he had been speaking. This is the interpretation of the passage which is the most obvious, and which is now generally conceded to be the true one; see Bloomfield. Many critics, however, as Doddridge, Beza, Piscator, and Chrysostom, maintain that the word **"that"** (τούτο touto) **refers to "faith"** (πίστις pistis); and Doddridge maintains that such a use is common in the New Testament. As a matter of grammar this opinion is certainly doubtful, if not untenable; but as a matter of theology, it is a question of very little importance.

Whether this passage proves it or NOT, it is **certainly true** that **faith is the gift of God**. It exists in the mind ONLY WHEN the Holy Spirit produces it there, and is, in common with every other Christian excellence, to be traced to his agency on the **heart**. This opinion, however, does not militate (FIGHT) at all with the doctrine that man himself "believes." It is NOT God that "believes" for him, for that is impossible. It is his own mind that actually **BELIEVES**, or that **exercises FAITH**; see the notes at Romans 4:3.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/ephesians-2.html>)

1 John 5:1, Whosoever **BELIEVETH** that **Jesus** is the **Christ** **IS BORN** of God...

Romans 3:24-25, Being **justified** freely by **his GRACE** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath **SET FORTH** to be a **propitiation (an expiator** [the one that makes amend]) **through FAITH in his BLOOD**, to declare **HIS righteousness** for the **remission** (forgiveness; pardon) of sins that are past, through the **forbearance** of God...

Ephesians 2:9 ...**NOT** of **WORKS**, lest any man should **boast**.

NOTE: This refers to **works of the LAW of Moses**, to nothing else; and the expression itself had become a kind of proverb in Paul's writings during those long years of his struggles against Judaizing teachers. It is simply outrageous that a scholar will ignore this and apply this verse (9) to mean that "God rejects every work of man."^[31] Paul never taught anything like that. He said "work out your own salvation" (Philippians 2:12), and he also praised the Thessalonians for their **"work of faith"** (1 Thessalonians 1:3). If God rejects "EVERY work of man," Paul never heard of it!

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/ephesians-2.html>)

Romans 3:28, Therefore we **conclude** that a man is **justified by FAITH** **without** the **DEEDS** of the **LAW**.

Titus 3:8, This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have **BELIEVED in** God might be careful to **maintain good WORKS**.

James 2:15-17, If a brother or sister be **NAKED**, and **destitute** of daily **FOOD**, ...And one of you SAY unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye **GIVE** them **NOT** those things which are **NEEDFUL** to the body; what doth it **PROFIT (benefit)?** Even so **faith**, if it hath not **WORKS**, is **DEAD**, being alone.

Dead defined 3498, a corpse (something that is no longer ACTIVE [working, busy]). Dead, inactive (idle [DOING nothing]).

Thought 1. This definition helps because we KNOW "faith" is NOT of death. It is spiritual, and from God, therefore, it pertains to LIFE, a fruit of our spirit.

James 2:18, Yea, a man may say, Thou hast **faith**, and I have **works**: SHEW me thy **faith** without thy **works**, and I will **SHEW thee my FAITH BY my WORKS**.

NOTE: The appeal of James is clear and logical. We can't "**SEE**" someone's **faith**, but we CAN SEE their **WORKS**.

You can't **SEE** faith without works, but you can demonstrate the **reality** of **FAITH BY WORKS**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/james-2.html>)

James 2:19-23, Thou **believest** that there is one God; thou **DOEST** well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou **KNOW**, O vain man, that **faith** without **works** is **dead** (IDLE [inactive; DOING nothing])? Was not Abraham our father justified (SHOWN righteous) by **WORKS**, when he had **offered** Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how **faith** wrought with his works, and by **works** was **faith** made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was **imputed** unto him for **righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God.

Thought 2. What he said is Christians who are NOT profiting anybody by putting their FAITH to work are just like the demons who are NOT helping anybody either!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are HIS workmanship, created **IN Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

NOTE: So far is this salvation from being our **own work**, or granted for our own works' sake, that we are ourselves NOT only the creatures of God, but **our new creation** was produced by his power; for we are created **IN Christ Jesus** unto good works. He has **saved us that we may show forth** the virtues of Him who called us from darkness into his marvelous light. For though we are NOT saved for our **GOOD WORKS**, yet we are saved that **we may PERFORM good works**, to the glory of God and the benefit of man.

Which God hath before ordained - For which God before prepared us, that we might walk in them. For being saved from sin we are made **partakers** of the **Spirit of holiness**; and it is natural to that Spirit to **lead to the practice** of holiness...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/ephesians-2.html>)

Ephesians 2:11-13, Wherefore, **remember**, that ye being **in times PAST** Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made **by hands**. That at that time ye were **WITHOUT** Christ, **being aliens (estranged [withdraw] away)** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** from the **COVENANTS of promise**, having **NO HOPE**, and **without God** in the world:

But now **IN Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes **WERE** far off are MADE nigh by the **blood** of Christ.