



WEEK 5

1ST SEMESTER · FOUNDATION & IDENTITY

The Foundation of the Gospel and the Heart of the Leader

Salvation by Grace – Overcoming Pride, Fear of Man, Keeping Your Word

SPIRITUAL THEME

Salvation by Grace

PERSONAL THEME

Dealing with pride & fear of man

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1. Introduction: The Crisis of "Earning"

In our earthly life, everything has a price. If you want a harvest, you must dig the ground. If you want respect in the village, you must be wealthy or old. We are trained to think: "I get what I deserve."

When men enter ministry, they often bring this "market thinking" into the Church. They think, "If I pray for 5 hours, God owes me a blessing," or "Because I am a Pastor, I have earned a higher status before God." Today, we shatter that thinking. We begin with **Grace**, because if you do not understand Grace, you will become either a proud tyrant or a frightened slave. Neither can lead God's people.

2. Biblical Deep Dive: The Anatomy of Salvation (Ephesians 2:1–10)

A. The Condition: Dead, Not Sick (Verses 1–3)

- **The Text:** "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins..."
- **The Depth:** Paul does not say we were "struggling" or "sick." He says we were **dead**.
- **Fact:** A sick man can reach for medicine. A dead man can do nothing. In our sins, we were spiritually "corpses." We followed the "ways of this world" and the "ruler of the kingdom of the air" (Satan).
- **Application:** If you are saved today, it is not because you were smarter or more "spiritual" than your neighbor. It is because a miracle happened to a dead man. This is the death of all pride.

B. The Turning Point: "But God..." (Verses 4–7)

- **The Text:** "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ..."
- **The Analysis:** These are the two most important words in the Bible: **"But God."** We were dead, but God acted.
- **Mercy vs. Grace:**
- **Mercy** is God not giving us the punishment we deserve (Hell).
- **Grace** is God giving us the blessing we don't deserve (Heaven, Sonship, Power).
- **Fact:** God did this to show the "incomparable riches of his grace." You are a trophy of His mercy, not a hero of your own story.

C. The Mechanism: Faith is the Hand, Not the Wage (Verses 8–9)

- **The Text:** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God..."

- **Deep Fact:** In the original Greek, the word for "gift" is *doron*. This refers to a free sacrificial gift.
- **The Boast-Killer:** Paul says "not by works, so that no one can boast." If we could earn 1% of our salvation, we would spend 100% of eternity talking about that 1%. God made it 100% Grace so that all glory goes to Jesus.

3. Personal Theme 1: Killing the "Big Man" (Overcoming Pride)

In many leadership structures, the leader is the "Big Man" who sits at the top. But a leader saved by Grace is a **servant**.

- **Spiritual Pride:** This is thinking you are "more holy" than your congregation.
- **The Cure:** Always remember the "pit" from which you were dug. You are a "beggar who found bread and is now showing other beggars where the bread is."
- **Practical Sign:** A proud leader hides his sins to keep his reputation. A Grace-filled leader is honest about his need for Jesus every day.

4. Personal Theme 2: Seeking the "Well Done" (Overcoming Fear of Man)

The "Fear of Man" (Proverbs 29:25) is a trap. It makes you a slave to the opinions of your family, your elders, or your donors.

- **The Snare:** If you lead to please people, you will eventually disobey God. You will be afraid to preach the truth because it might "cost" you your popularity.
- **The Grace-Security:** Because you are saved by Grace, God has already accepted you. You don't have to "perform" to keep His love. If the King of the Universe is smiling at you, it doesn't matter who is frowning at you in the village.

5. Personal Theme 3: The Integrity of the Word (Responsibility)

This is where Grace meets the Ground. If we serve the "God of Truth," we must be people of our word. A leader who cannot be trusted is a leader who destroys the Gospel.

A. The "Yes" and the "No" (Matthew 5:33–37)

- **The Teaching:** Jesus told us not to swear fancy oaths, but simply to let our "Yes be Yes" and our "No be No."
- **The Failure:** In many places, leaders say "I am coming" but never arrive. They say "I will help" but forget. They say "The money was spent on X" when it was spent on Y.
- **The Standard:** A man of God is **Reliable**.
- If you promise to visit a sick member at 10:00 AM, be there at 9:55 AM.

- If you borrow money, pay it back exactly when you promised.
- If you say you will pray for someone, do it right then.

B. Why Keeping Your Word Matters:

1. **Reflection of God:** God is a Covenant-keeping God. He never breaks His word. When you break yours, you tell a lie about God's character.
2. **Foundation of Trust:** People will not follow a man they cannot trust. Your "preaching" has no power if your "promises" are empty.
3. **Responsibility:** A leader takes ownership. If a task fails, he doesn't blame the weather or the government. He says: "I gave my word to finish this, and I will see it through."

6. Practical Application: Good Works (Ephesians 2:10)

- **The Text:** "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- **The Balance:** We are not saved **by** good works, but we are saved **for** good works.
- **The Test:** One of the greatest "good works" a leader can do in Uganda is to be a man of **absolute integrity**.
- Be honest with church finances.
- Be faithful to your wife.
- Be a man who keeps his promises, even when it hurts his pocket.

7. Discussion Questions for the Students

1. **The Dead Man:** Why is it so hard for our human hearts to accept that we were "spiritually dead" and could do nothing to save ourselves?
2. **The Pride Check:** When you are praised for a good sermon or a successful project, what is the first thought that enters your mind? How can you give that glory back to God?
3. **The Broken Promise:** Think of a time a leader broke a promise to you. How did it affect your faith? Now, think of a promise you have broken. How can you make it right today?
4. **The Fear of Man:** Is there a truth in the Bible you are afraid to preach because of what people in your community might say? How does knowing you are "Accepted in Christ" give you courage?

8. Final Commissioning & Prayer

Lord, we thank You that You are the Rock. Your Word never fails. We confess that we have often been unreliable, proud, and fearful of what others think. We ask for a "Grace-awakening" in our



hearts. Make us men who are dead to pride, alive to Your approval, and famous for keeping our word. May our "Yes" truly be "Yes," so that Your Name is honored in our villages. Amen.

Teacher's Reflection: This lesson is designed to be a "shock" to the system. By starting with the total inability of man (Dead in sin) and moving to the absolute reliability of the leader (Yes be Yes), we show that **Grace is not an excuse for laziness—it is the fuel for integrity.** A godly leader with a leaders heart has nothing to prove, but everything to give.