

## SALVATION BY GRACE

### Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of Lesson 5: To examine Ephesians 2:8 and answer the two questions, "What is faith?" and "What is grace?" Emphasis is placed on an understanding that both faith and grace are "gifts" from God, and that faith is the "means" to an end--which is grace. This study will prelude the "how" to come to Christ in lesson 6.

During the study itself: In connection with question 1, 6 BC 1008 makes this comment on Eph. 2:8: "It is grace on God's part and faith on man's part. Faith accepts the gift of God. It is through the act of entrusting ourselves to Him that we are saved." 8 BC 420 says this: "Grace is the hand of God reaching earthward. Faith is the hand of man reaching up to take hold of God's hand." These statements may yield helpful ideas.

You might add Hebrews 11:1 to question 3(a). If you use it, explain it meaningfully. See SDA Bible Commentary on the verse. In connection with questions 2 to 4, particularly 4, make clear the wonderful miracle that the Holy Spirit performs in helping man to come to possess saving faith.

Question 5 is an attempt to get the student involved in defining the type of faith the lesson discusses. See Unto a Perfect Man, page 74, bottom of the page. It is very important to help the student see that when someone speaks of "my faith" he understands that it is a gift from God, and is his to exercise. When I accept it from God, it is mine, but I still understand that I could not have it to exercise if God had not given it to me. "Righteousness by faith" would more correctly be "righteousness by virtue of Christ's gift of faith which I exercise as my own."

Appeal: Make the passages of question 7 deeply personal.

Illustration: A good point to emphasize in the illustration is in connection with the miracle working of the Holy Spirit, as He creates within the person who earnestly studies the Bible, the gift of faith. Note that the illustration is now used in two ways. First, it covers the history of the human race from Eden, as in previous studies. Second, it is the pattern of the life of any individual, born into sin, but reclaimed by Christ. The illustration itself begins to personalize the message.

