

Unconditional grace needs faith as a condition

Why should you believe? Believing is necessary to receive God's grace. Unconditional grace needs faith as a condition. That seems contradictory, but it is not. It's the only possibility. God's grace doesn't have any condition a priori, but you have to believe if you want to receive God's grace in your life.

What is unconditional grace?

Grace

God gives Himself to you. In His love and loyalty He shares His life with us. It is relationship, covenant.

Unconditional

That God gives us His love does not have any reason in us. It has exclusively reason in Him: God is love. His love is not called into being by something in us, it is just coming forth from who He is.

Faith

If God's grace is that He gives Himself, then faith is relationship. Faith is not a thing, faith is not accepting some convictions, faith is living in relationship with God. God declares us His love, what is your answer?

Hope

Real faith is happy with the future inheritance of living with God. The apostle Peter writes: we live in the time between God's declaration of love and the effective wedding, the wedding of the Lamb when Jesus returns on the last day. This real and happy relationship with God is for us still an inheritance. Real faith looks forward to the wedding day with joy and desire. Faith lives out of hope.

Faith in (hope on) future grace changes your life. Real faith is so happy with the perspective of living with God that it can suffer now. It also gets out the sting of sin: sin doesn't add anything to your life if you know that all you can reach now by sinning completely fades away in the sight of what God will give you by Jesus coming. The gospel so offers counterweight against the pressure that is laid on your faith by daily life. When you look forward every day to the moment that you will really live together with God, you will remark that your faith deepens and works through in daily practice.

I urge you to research the inheritance of God. Make sure that you will know God more and more. Faith lives out of hope. That hope will become stronger the more you know what the inheritance includes and the more you trust God. And you will trust God more if you know Him better. So read your Bible, pray and meditate on the Word of God. Come to church. Here we practice living in relation.