In order to receive the salvation that God offers to us, there are three concepts that we need to understand: God’s Grace, Our Faith, and The Need for Commitment.

**God’s Grace**

In Ephesians 2:1, as a result of our transgressions and sin, what is our spiritual condition described as?

________________________________________________________

In verse 4, what two words describe what God is like?

__________________________ and ________________________

According to verse 5, it is by _______________ that we have been saved.

Grace is receiving what we need rather than what we deserve.

**Our Faith**

Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith, it is _________________________ to please God.

The same scripture says that we must believe that God ____________and _______________ those who seek him.

Entering into a new relationship with God begins with faith. Actually, faith does not relate only to our relationship with God. We live by faith everyday. Can you think of some ways we demonstrate faith in our daily lives?

____________________               ____________________  

____________________               ____________________  

____________________               ____________________

Faith is the channel by which we receive the gift of God’s grace.
The faith by which we receive God’s grace is more than just knowledge and belief of the facts. It involves commitment.

James 2:17 describes intellectual faith as being ________________.

In verse 19, James says the even the _______________ believe that there is a God.

We know that the demons are not saved, and therefore, we know that intellectual belief is not enough to have a right relationship with God. Faith is about a whole life commitment to God!

Charles Blondin was one of the world's greatest tight-rope walkers, acrobats and circus performers. On 15th September 1860 he performed one of the most amazing stunts the world had ever seen. Blondin, before a great crowd, walked a tightrope stretched across Niagara Falls in Canada.

The tightrope, made of strong steel cable, was over 50 metres above the falls and it stretched for 350 metres across the falls. One slip and he would have plunged to his death. After he had walked across he shouted to the crowd if they believed he could carry a person back across the falls. They all shouted ‘Yes!’ and cheered because they all believed he could do it! So then he asked for a volunteer - but no one spoke up. Everyone was silent.

Not one person was prepared to trust Blondin and put what they said they believed into practice.

Obviously, no one had that much belief. Blondin had demonstrated the difference between “intellectual” belief and “commitment” belief.

The faith by which we receive the gift of God’s grace is a “commitment” faith that says, “I trust You with my life.”

The question behind the issue of commitment is, “Am I so convinced that Jesus is God’s Son that I am willing to give Him control of my life?”
Throughout God’s Word, we see that the channel by which we receive the grace of God is a complete “faith commitment” of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10 says if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is ___________ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

To confess that Jesus is Lord means that we acknowledge that He is king and has the right to rule in our lives.

When a man and woman love each other so much that they decide they want to spend the rest of their lives together, there comes a time when there is a "marriage proposal." That proposal is a testimony to the man, to the woman, to their friends, and to their community that they are committed to spend the rest of their lives together as husband and wife. We refer to the time of commitment as their "wedding". It is important for them to be able to look back at a point in time when their relationship with each other changed.
God understands that for our sake and His sake, when we are ready to commit our lives to Him, there needs to be a point in time we can look at and say, “That’s when I gave my life to God.”

Acts 2:36-41: Peter preaches the first sermon after Jesus’ ascension. The people feel convicted. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized. Why? ______________ & ______________

Galatians 3:26-29 says, “All of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus have ______________ yourselves with Christ.”

Colossians 2:11-12 says Christ cuts off your sinful nature. When is the occasion?

1 Peter 3:21: Peter says that baptism is the pledge of a ______________ ______________ toward God.

Thought baptism, we identify with the ______________ of Jesus Christ.

In Romans 6:1-7, we are able to see how through baptism, we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

In verse 3, Paul says that when we were baptized into Jesus Christ, we were baptized into his ______________.

Verse 4 says that we were buried with Jesus. How does that happen? ______________

According to verse 5, if we have been united with Him in His ______________, we can also be united with Him in his ______________.

Verse 7 says that if we have died with Jesus, we have been freed from ________.