

Sermon Title: By Grace, Through Faith

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**James K.A. Smith- You Are What You Love**

Worship works from the top down you might say. In worship we don't just come to show God our devotion and give Him praise; we are called to worship because in this encounter God (re)makes and molds us from the top-down. Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires and rehabilitates our loves. Worship isn't just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.

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**Call to Worship: Psalms 95:1-3**

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

Ligonier Video

Prayer

**Main Text:** Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

Intro

- Xmas Day- Gift; News Years Day- Fireworks
  
- Christians can have misunderstanding of the center teaching of Christianity
  1. An uncertainty in ur standing before God
  2. A misguided trust in self
  3. A nonexistent trust in Jesus
    - By Works? No
    - By Grace Through Faith

**I. God's Work For Us- "By Grace"**

**Illustration:** Broken Bowl

"By Works"- I can fix it

"By Grace"- I can't fix it but God can & will, without aid from me

What's God's motivation to give us His grace?

Verse 4 "because of the great love with which he loved us,"

## A.W. Tozer

Jesus know the worst about you, yet He is the one who loves you most

Man's deepest need- to be fully known and fully loved.

- The Gospel tells us that because of Jesus' grace toward us, we have both.

## II. God's Work In Us- "Through Faith"

Faith is not: (Refer to the video)

- Not Merely a Feeling
- Not Blind- someone who accepts something without evidence, simply because they wish it to be true
- Not Merely Being Optimistic - a positive mental attitude

Illustration: Place Broken Pieces in Box

Faith is:

- True Knowledge- An understanding of God's rescue plan.
- Heart response- repentance
- Trust
  - Our Past
  - Our Present
  - Our Future

## III. God's Work Through Us - "Good Works"

- Grace tells us that we are not saved by "good works", but we are saved to do good works.

[10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Workmanship

Illustration: New Desk

Greek: *Poima*- we are his craftsmanship, "God's POEM"

What poem is Jesus writing in the lives of his people?

It is a poem of redemption & renewal, of restoration & revival.

We live in a "throwaway" culture.

- patches on torn jeans
- Creator of red solo cup died this week

### Illustration- Kintsugi

- (“golden repair”) is the centuries-old Japanese art of fixing broken pottery with a special lacquer dusted with powdered gold, silver, or platinum.
- Beautiful seams of gold glint in the cracks of ceramic ware, giving a unique appearance to the piece.
- This repair method celebrates the artifact’s unique history by emphasizing the fractures and breaks instead of hiding or disguising them.
- Kintsugi often makes the repaired piece even more beautiful than the original, revitalizing the artifact with new life.
- It is related to the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, which calls for finding beauty in the flawed or imperfect.
- The repair method was also born from the Japanese feeling of mottainai, which expresses regret when something is wasted.

**What a beautiful picture of the Gospel!!!!**

**APP:** Jesus’ desire is not for you to make resolutions to make yourself better, but to trust Him more deeply with every area of your life

**Illustration:** Take our Kintsugi Bowl from Box

- At the beginning God formed Man by he reaching into the dirt and formed us with his bare hands
- Now Jesus reforms us by taking the broken pieces of our lives and putting by together
  - He uses a much more precious and value resource then gold, His blood.

### **Closing Thought**

The beauty of the gospel is God reaches down in the dirt and the broken pieces of our lives to form us into his poiema.

What will your poem say in 2017?

### **Matthew 5:16**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

### **Benediction:2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV**

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.