

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

During a trip to South Africa some years ago, I spoke at an outreach dinner. As I greeted the guests before the dinner, I noticed a man wearing a beautiful set of cufflinks. When I greeted him, I commented, “Boy, those are some nice cufflinks!” Then he surprised me. Right there, in front of everyone, he said to me, “Here; you take these.” He took them off and gave them to me. I must admit, I was embarrassed. I tried to explain that I didn’t want them, but we went back and forth. It was almost comical. Finally, it dawned on me that he really wanted to give me a gift. I thought, “Crawford, shut your mouth. Say ‘thank you,’ and take the cufflinks. It’s a gift.”

That incident reminds me of the people who are trying to pay God for His free gift of salvation. It’s hard for most people to accept that they can’t earn their way to heaven.

Listen to these words in Ephesians chapter 2, verses 8 and 9; “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as result of works, that no one should boast.”

I want to make three quick observations. Number one; God wants to give you what you don’t deserve. That’s **grace**. Number two; the only right response to God’s free gift is to receive it. Take it. It’s a gift. And that’s **faith**—I accept it. Thirdly, God gets the credit for it. That’s why it doesn’t depend on our works. God did it all. All you do is open your arms and receive it.

Here’s what I want you to remember today. Don’t try to work your way into a relationship with God. It won’t work. You can’t do it. Receive His free gift by faith and say, “Thank you.”