

# Regeneration Cannot Precede Faith

## A Development of Ephesians 2:4-8a

- Passage Breakdown
  - Ephesians 2:1-7 is one long sentence in the Koine Greek.
  - Ephesians 2:3 ends with a semi-colon, thus setting apart Ephesians 2:4-7 as a separate primary clause or, in effect, a sentence in and of itself.
  - Ephesians 2:8,9 is one sentence in the Koine Greek.
  - Ephesians 2:8a ends with a semi-colon, thus setting it apart as a separate primary clause or, in effect, a sentence in and of itself.
- Ephesians 2:4-7
  - The subject of this sentence is **θεός** (theos = God) given in verse 4.
  - The three verbs are **συνεζωποίησεν** (sunezōpoiēsen = made alive together - verse 5), **συνήγειρεν** (sunēgeiren = raised together - verse 6) and **συνεκάθισεν** (sune kathisen = seated together- verse 6).
  - The phrase **χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι** (chariti este sesōsmenoi = by grace you have been saved) is a parenthetical clause in apposition to the preceding clause (made us alive together with Christ).
  - This construction establishes a coupling between “you have been saved” and being “made alive together with Christ”.

- Ephesians 2:8a
  - This sentence contains the exact phrase from the parenthetical from verse 5, **χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι** (chariti este sesōsmenoi = by grace you have been saved).
  - The final two words are **διὰ πίστεως** (dia pisteōs = through faith).
  - **πίστεως** is the gen. sing. of **πίστις** (faith).
  - **διὰ** plus the genitive: *via, through*
    - With verbs of motion: *marker of extension through an area or object* (Lk 5:19; Acts 20:3)
    - Of people: *marker of personal agency* (Matt 1:22; Lk 8:21; Acts 15:12)
    - Of time: *marker of extension in time*
      - Whole period: *continually* (Heb 13:15)
      - Within a period: *during* (Acts 5:19)
      - Of an interval: *after* (Gal 2:1)
    - Of means: *marker of instrumentality whereby something is accomplished or effected*
      - *with, by* (Acts 8:20; 15:27; 1 Pet 1:7)
      - *through* (Rom 3:20,22; 4:13; Gal 3:26; Eph 2:8; 3:12,17; Heb 7:11)
- Conclusion
  - Faith is given as an instrument of salvation (Eph 2:8a).
  - Being made alive together with Christ is coupled with salvation (Eph 2:5)
  - Therefore, faith is an instrument of being made alive together with Christ.
  - An instrument whereby something is accomplished cannot come into existence after the accomplished result.
  - Conclusion: faith cannot come into existence after we are made alive together with Christ.