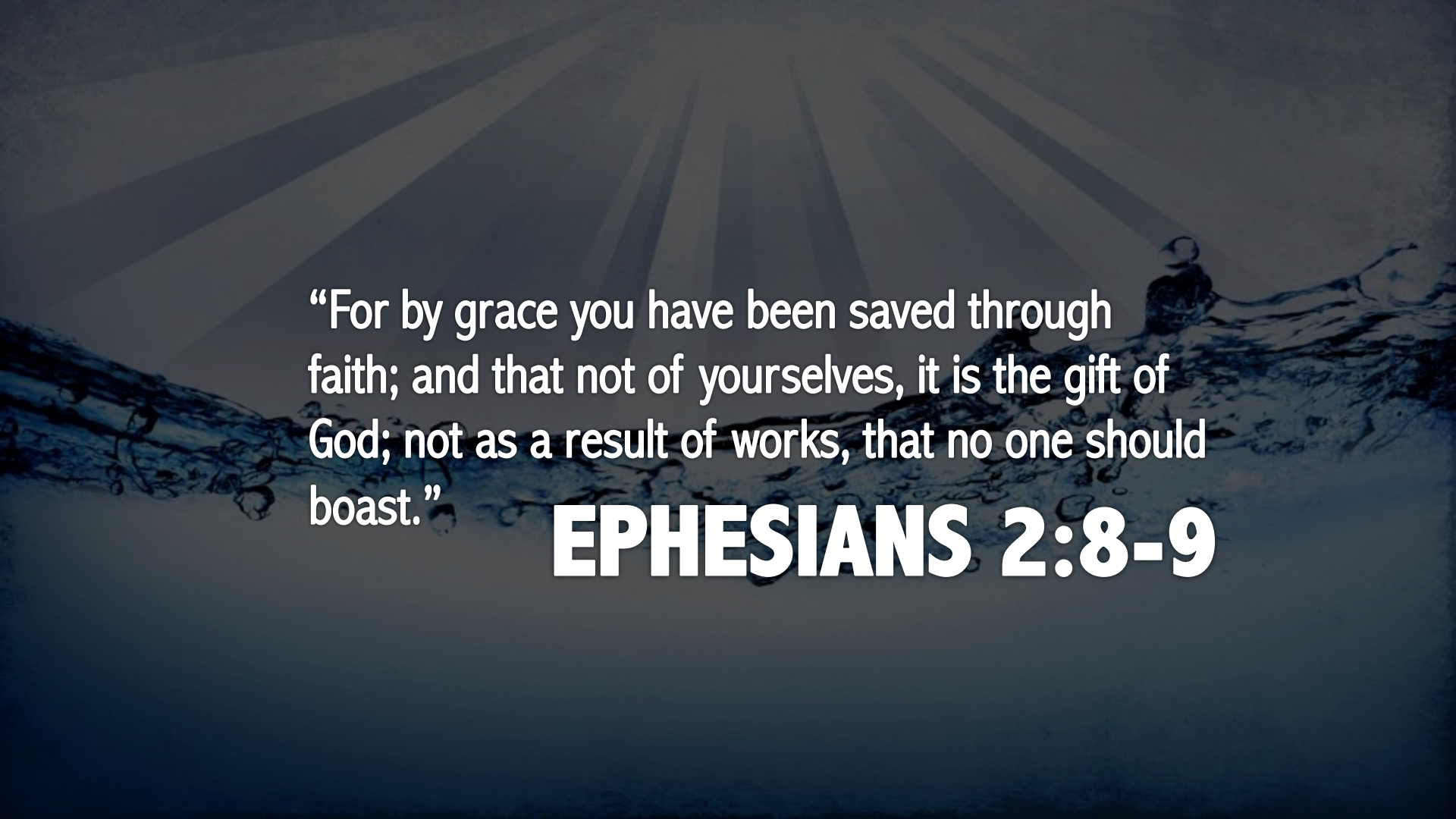




BY FAITH (ONLY?)

FAITH ONLY?

- Even Martin Luther, in his translation of the New Testament, decided (without any evidence in the Greek text to support him) to add the word “only” to Romans 3:28, so that the text reads, *“A man is justified by faith only apart from works.”*
- But isn't there at least one more things required, that is even *more* important than faith? Notice 1 Corinthians 13:2, 13.
- There is incredible interdependence between love, obedience, and faith in passages like 1 John 3:23-24.

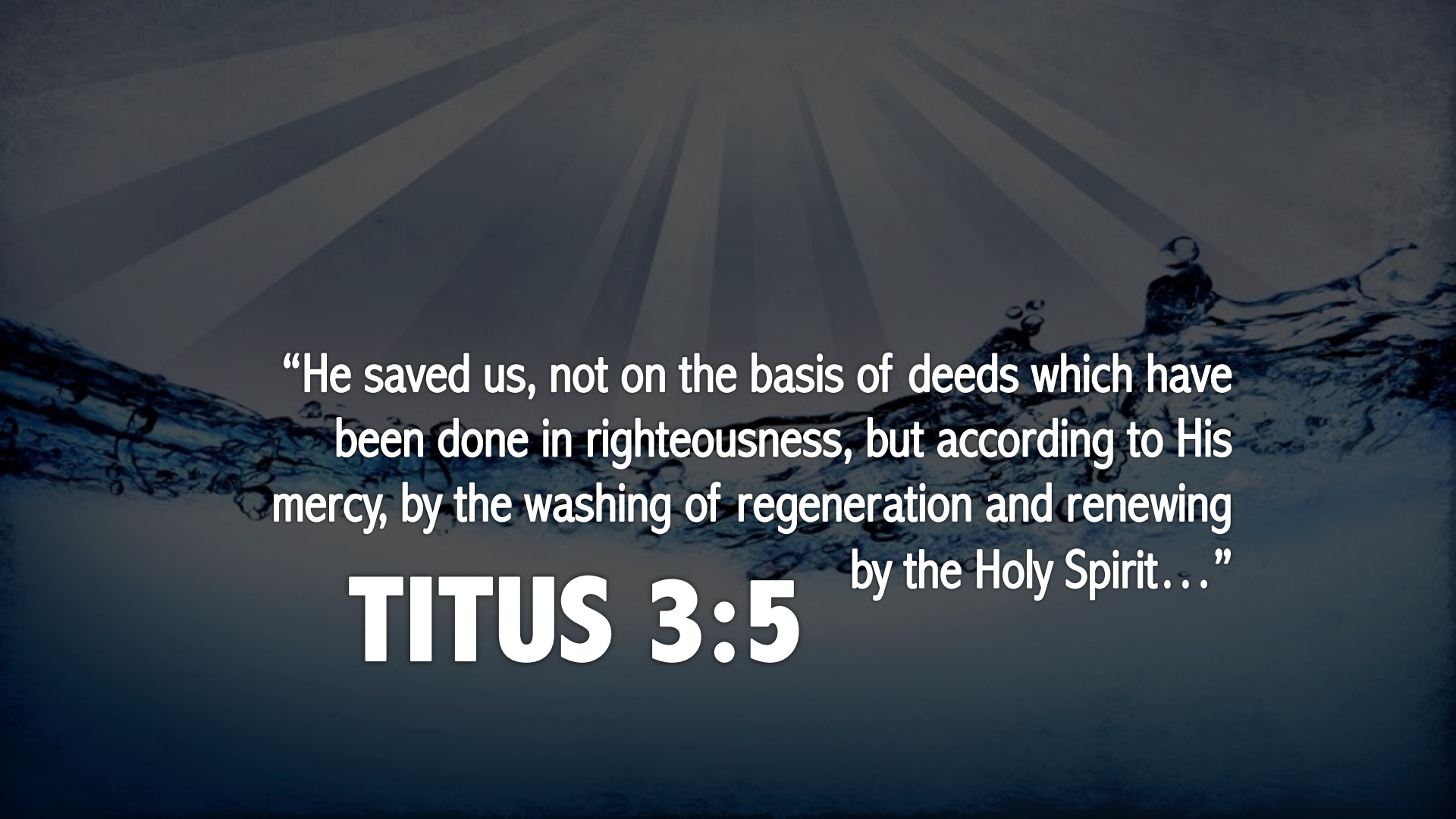


“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

- “For by grace you have been saved” — We cannot earn it, but are there conditions which must be met?
- “And that not of yourselves” — Salvation is arrived at outside of ourselves, never self-derived.
- “Not as a result of works” — But what kind of works are we talking about? Our works? Or God’s?
- “That no one should boast” — This statement is not made in a vacuum. The inference is that we should not boast in ourselves. But what about God? Jeremiah 9:23-24.

The background features a dark blue gradient with several light-colored rays emanating from the top center. A dynamic splash of water is visible on the right side, with bubbles and droplets. The text is overlaid on this background.

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which have
been done in righteousness, but according to His
mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing
by the Holy Spirit...”

TITUS 3:5

THE NATURE OF FAITH

- Our very use of the word “faith” is at the heart of this debate. What exactly is faith? What is required for it to be “saving faith”?
- Can one have faith that is not saving? What about John 12:42-43 or James 2:19? What if a person believes but refuses to confess? Matthew 10:32-33 puts great emphasis on the need to confess.
- Is faith a “work”? That idea presents quite an obstacle to the person who believes in salvation by faith alone, apart from works! Notice John 6:29.