

Saved By Grace: Boasting and Activity

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴ God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. ⁵ So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you. ⁶ God raised us up with Christ. He has seated us with him in his heavenly kingdom because we belong to Christ Jesus. ⁷ He has done it to show the riches of his grace for all time to come. His grace can't be compared with anything else. He has shown it by being kind to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. ⁸ God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. ⁹ It is not based on anything you have done. **No one can brag about earning it.** ¹⁰ **God made us. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do.**

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NIRV)

Understanding “boasting” (KJV) or “bragging” (NIV)

G2744 Καυχάομαι. *kauchaomai*

- **G2744** used 38 times in the NT (uses can help define)
- Thayer Definition:
 - 1) to glory (whether with reason or without)
 - 2) to glory on account of a thing
 - 3) to glory in a thing
- Verb

Positive context

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and **rejoice**^{G2744} in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 5:3 And not only so, but we **glory**^{G2744} in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also **joy**^{G2744} in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

(KJV)

Negative context

Rom 2:17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy **boast^{G2744}** of God,

Rom 2:23 Thou that makest thy **boast^{G2744}** of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

(KJV)

The differences

1Co 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and **what hast thou that thou didst not receive?** now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou **glory,** ^{G2744} as if thou hadst not received *it*?

2Co 5:12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to *answer* them which **glory** ^{G2744} in **appearance, and not in heart.**

(KJV)

The differences

2Co 10:13 But we will not boast^{G2744} of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

2Co 10:15 Not boasting^{G2744} of things without *our* measure, *that is*, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

2Co 10:16 To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast^{G2744} in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

(KJV)

Conclusions

- Not boasting does not preclude activity on my part
- Not boasting changes my perspective on my own activity

Illustration

- When I went to graduate school, I had to quit my job. For the first quarter I had no income and had lots of expenses. We lived off Kim's income. I neglected Kim in favor of school.
- I was given a place to live, by a friend I had neglected to maintain my friendship with.
- When Kim's birthday rolled around, she graciously told me what she wanted me to give her for a present, (dinner alone, no books) and then she paid for it. Who was I to say I got her a great birthday present?
- So it is with God who graciously tells me what I ought to do and then gives me the ability and the strength to accomplish it.