

***“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”***  
[Ephesians 2:8-9]

I am not sure if I will ever read/hear these verses the same again because of my time with the Elementary One God Network kids this year. Allow me to explain. First, this verse is pretty straight forward. You are saved by God’s amazing grace through faith in Jesus Christ. And this faith is not something you receive through any effort of your own. It is a gift from our gracious and merciful Father in heaven. There is nothing you can do to earn it. No amount of good works will atone for your sins. It must be God’s grace through Jesus because Romans 3:23 (the Word of God) says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. So, you cannot save yourself. You need help. So, God does it all. He does it so all glory goes to him, and not you or anyone in this world. Your salvation is all about God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

So, there you have it, Ephesians 2:8-9 in a big nutshell. But what has affected me is hearing the voices of those 1G kids recite this verse from memory. And I am talking about kids as young as kindergarten proclaiming this verse word for word, each week. Not something that was shoved into their short-term memory for one day, but something they have “hidden in their heart”. No, not hidden in the sense that no one can find it, but rather, treasured in their heart to use and share. And when they recited those words, the Word of God, they were witnessing to me. I now read those verses and hear those kids. I see hands going into the air, all wanting to recite that verse in class. I see attentive children drinking in the Word of God. I hear inquisitive young people wanting to know more.

This year of 1G has been absolutely amazing and a gift from our God above. The Holy Spirit definitely did a thing and thus I am going to miss these Mondays. But I know this is not over because when the new school year begins and we move to Wednesdays, God will continue to do His thing. Though the world changes, the Word of God never changes. Though the world throws curve balls, the Father never ceases to be straight with us. Though we are, at times, shoved out of our comfort zones, through Jesus there is a peace that surpasses all understanding.

And so I invite you to learn Ephesians 2:8-9, along with our One God Network kids and “hide” this Word in your heart, knowing it is true for you as well and for all time. Amen.