Grace vs. Good Deeds

PinPoint Evangelism · WhichReligion.org · Bible quotations from the NKJV · Quran quotations from Sahih International

Every person must one day stand before God. The most important question any of us can ask is, “How can I be sure I will be accepted?” Islam and the Bible give very different answers.

1. The scales

> **Quran 7:8** “And the weighing [of deeds] that Day will be the truth. So those whose scales are heavy, it is they who will be the successful.”

> **Quran 23:102 and 103** “And those whose scales are heavy [with good deeds], it is they who are the successful. But those whose scales are light, those are the ones who have lost their souls, [being] in Hell, abiding eternally.”

Note: where the Sahih International rendering uses a dash, a comma has been substituted for readability. Wording is otherwise unchanged.

In this picture, salvation depends on whether good deeds outweigh bad ones. But no one knows how heavy his scale is. Even Muhammad is told to say, “nor do I know what will be done with me or with you” (Quran 46:9). Many sincere Muslims live with deep uncertainty about their eternal future.

2. Would a good judge use scales?

Imagine a man guilty of a serious crime who tells the judge, “But I have helped many people.” A just judge cannot let him go. Good deeds today do not erase crimes from yesterday. God is perfectly just, and His law is perfect:

> **James 2:10** “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

> **Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Even our best deeds are not clean enough to pay for sin: “all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). The Quran itself says, “no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another” (Quran 35:18). So who can save us?

3. God’s answer: grace

> **Ephesians 2:8 and 9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Grace means undeserved favor. God did not lower His standard. Instead, He met it Himself. Jesus, who never sinned, bore the penalty for sinners on the cross. “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The judge paid the fine.

> **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

> **Titus 3:5** “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,”

4. You can know

Because salvation rests on what Christ has done, not on what we do, a believer can have assurance:

> **1 John 5:13** “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,”

Good deeds still matter. They are the fruit of a changed heart and a way to thank God, not a payment to earn heaven (Ephesians 2:10).

Come to the God of grace

Friend, you do not have to wonder how your scale will tip. God offers you a free gift. Turn from your sins and trust in Jesus Christ, who died for you and rose again. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Pray to Him today. Tell Him you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive you, and put your trust in Him alone. He promises, “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).