

How To Recieve a Free Gift

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The Bible speaks of salvation as being a free gift from God ([Rom. 6:23](#)). Because of this, many are convinced that one does not need to do anything to obtain it, for it is free after all. But is this really true? In the Old Testament God promised to give the children of Israel the land of Canaan freely ([Exod. 6:4](#); [Deut. 10:11](#)). They did nothing to earn it; they did not pay God for it – it was a free gift. Yet, in order to take possession of it they had to prepare provisions ([Josh. 1:11](#)); they had to cross over the Jordan (c. 3); they had to defeat Jericho (c. 6); they had to do battle with Ai (c. 7-8); etc. God gave Israel the land as a free gift, however, that did not exclude effort on Israel's part. They had to DO something to receive it.

After an old farmer tore down his barn, his neighbor inquired about the wood. The old farmer said, "You can have it for nothing. I'll just give it to you. Only thing is, you'll have to come haul it away yourself." Was it a free gift? Yes. Did the neighbor have to do something in order to obtain that free gift? Yes. Friends, the same is true with regard to the free gift of salvation: while it is free, one has to DO something to obtain it ([Heb. 10:36](#); [Rev. 2:10](#)). Jesus Himself said, "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved...*" ([Mk. 16:16](#)).