

Putting Faith in Feelings

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I was home (for the summer) from Russian Bible Institute of Toronto and working with the young people of our trilingual church (English-Russian-Ukrainian) in St. Catharines, Ontario. We had great times getting together, studying the Bible and growing in the Lord.

I was especially thrilled when Sarah* (in her early teens) came forward at the close of a Sunday evening service and accepted Christ. We had been praying for her salvation. She was from a Christian family but hadn't made Jesus her personal Savior until that joyful night. She showed every evidence of having experienced the new birth.

The following day, right after supper, I got a phone call from Sarah. "How are you doing, Sarah?" I asked.

"Not very good," she replied.

"Oh...what's the problem?"

"I don't know what happened; I just don't feel saved today."

"Is that all?"

"Paul! Is that all! This is serious! I don't know if I'm saved!"

"Because you don't feel saved."

"That's right. And that's why I called you. What's wrong with me?"

"Sarah, get your New Testament and turn to Ephesians 2:8."

"OK, hold on."

When she found the place, I asked her to read the verse aloud.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith..."

"Wait. Stop. You're reading it wrong."

"I am?"

"Yes. Start over."

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith..."

I interrupted her a second time. "There you go again"

"Then, how am I supposed to read it?"

"Well, according to you, you should be reading it, 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through feeling...'"

There was a pause and, then, she began to laugh. I could tell she was feeling better. Before we hung up, we read Colossians 2:6-7. "So then, just as [by faith], you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Today, six decades later, Sarah is still walking "by faith." And she feels good about it.

*Not her real name