

GOD'S WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE

Message Fourteen

Works That Accompany Salvation

Eph. 2:8-10, Philip. 1:11, Col. 1:10, Heb. 6:7-9, Heb. 13:20-21

*Eph 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before
ordained that we should walk in them.*

*Phi 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and
praise of God.*

*Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

*Heb 6:7-9 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs
meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*

*8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be
burned.*

*9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we
thus speak.*

*Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great
shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*

*21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his
sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

A child of God is saved by the pure grace of God. By that, we mean that there is no element of works by man to earn or gain God's salvation unto himself. God saved us when we placed our faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross on our behalf and in our place. But, when God saved us, He so greatly altered our inner disposition so that we now really desire to serve Him. He places in us divine impulses which continue to prompt us to serve Him and along with these promptings, God also gives us His own divine enabling to serve Him. As we, as God's children, grow in God's grace, we become better equipped to work for God in His vineyard. This is the normal progress in the life of a child of God. It is normal when a person experiences physical birth to grow from infancy into adulthood, both physically and mentally, as proper nutrition and education are received and experience in life is realized. But, where the normal elements needed for growth are absent, growth will be inhibited and normalcy will be greatly hindered. This principle is equally true in the Spiritual realm. A born again or born from above child of God must receive Spiritual nutrition and nurturing in order for normal Spiritual growth to be realized. If this Spiritual nutrition and nurturing is absent or not fully realized, the outcome will be that the saved person will suffer greatly and can fall into many doubts and fears, and Spiritual productivity will be sadly missing. There is strong warning in God's word that something is amiss in the life of the person that claims to be saved but does not bring forth these "good works". But, at the same time, there is great encouragement to every child of God to give his life to God and allow Him to work through him these "good works". Let even the weak child of God be greatly encouraged that God is at work in him.

*Phi 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

When the Lord was here on earth, He lived a life of good works.

*Act 10:36-38 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)
37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

The lives of God's true children should be characterized by good works and if that is not the case in your life here on earth, then, something is amiss in your life, and you need to find out what it is. We will base our present study around our Eph. 2:10 text and also consider the context of this verse.

FIRST – We were in a condition of deadness

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

We were trapped and locked in a condition of spiritual death which is spiritual separation from God. It was a condition totally corrupted in a state of trespasses and sin, and in and of ourselves, we could not escape this awful state of life. Only God could rescue us from such a state.

SECOND – We were under the control of an awful evil power

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Our walk, which means our way of daily life, was influenced by this present evil world system, a system which is under the ruling control of Satan, who is the prince of the power of the air.

THIRD – A great intervention has occurred in our lives

*Eph 2:4 -9 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6
And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

We have been forgiven of our sins (Eph. 1:7) because God has had mercy upon us and saved us by His grace. When God saved us, He made us spiritually alive and moved us into a continual heavenly realm of living. (Eph. 1:3, 2:6)

FOURTH – Our permanent status is expressed in Eph. 2:10

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

First, we are God's own workmanship. The Greek word "Poima", used only here in this verse, means a product, thing that is made. Think of ourselves in this respect. A fine sculptor carves a beautiful wood object or molds a fine metal piece of art, and it reflects the skill and care of the sculptor. That is exactly what we are. We are the fine working of God, He has so formed us. Second, God has sculpted us by creating us completely new in Christ Jesus. God has remade us in Jesus Christ in such a fashion that we bear the very image of Jesus Christ.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are not what we were before we were saved. Then, we were under the power of Satan, but now we are under the power of God, the mightiest power in the universe. It is now the power of God that works in and through us.

*Phi 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Third, God has created us unto good works. The same resurrection power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead now resides and works in us.

*Eph 1:17-21 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

Now, because God is at work in us, the works He brings forth through us are good works. Fourth, another thing that is set before us is that these good works were ordained by God. This means that God has wonderful plans for our lives which come from the very heart of our all wise and loving heavenly Father who only wills and desires that which is for our very best interest and what is ultimately for our very own good and for His glory.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Yes. God has done a great work on our behalf, and He has a right to expect every child of His to bring forth works that accompany salvation. If you are saved and not surrendered and serving in His will, you are frustrating the enabling grace of God in your life. You need to repent and confess your sin of disobedience and failure to God and let Him use your life. Do this today!