

Faith and Good Works go hand-in-hand as we each “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Phil 2:12-13). After receiving the free gift of eternal life in Christ, we put on a new self, created to be like God. This new self, guided by the Holy Spirit, is eager to grow closer to Jesus and to love God and others. We aren’t prompted to do good works in order to earn God’s favor. Rather, good works flow from the presence of

God in us. Faith that is alive will also be active, as described in the letter of James. “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” (James 1:22). He goes on to say, it is by our works that we demonstrate our faith, and he argues that faith without action is dead. However, we who believe in Jesus have life through him.

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:4-5,8-10

Further Reflection and Meditation

- What helps you “not become weary in doing good”?
- Can you see “opportunity” all the time? What can you change in order to be more receptive to the opportunities God is providing?
- In the sermon on the mount, Jesus preaches a variety of good works. Read Matthew 5:42–6:21.

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Good Works

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

Good Works

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

A Prayer for Easter

Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty

into the immense world of your love.

Give us the capacity to

even for a moment

taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,

with questions,

with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew

with open wonder and an increasing ability

to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown