

SAVED TO DO GOOD WORKS

Relationship between Faith and Works

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

It is clear that doing good works will not make us fundamentally acceptable to God. Only Christ saves us by grace through faith. However, it is also clear that we are saved for a purpose – to do good works in Christ's name. In fact, it is clear that God has 'prepared in advanced' the good works that He has called for us to do. Genuine salvation always results in a life filled with good works.

The Nature of True Saving Faith

Read James 2:14-26

This passage distinguishes between true, saving faith and false, non-saving faith. False non-saving faith is mere intellectual assent and empty words that do not result in a changed life. True saving faith always results in a changed live (a life that includes corresponding good works).

Bearing Fruit

John 15:4-5,8,16 [Jesus:] "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last..." (see also Mt. 7:17-20, Col 1:10-11, Ro. 11:17-24)

One of the most popular images in the Bible for the Christian life is "bearing fruit." By bearing fruit we show that we are connected to Jesus and are truly His disciples. The nature of the fruit that we bear will be different for every Christian, but that we will bear fruit is a given.

The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness** and **self-control**. (Gal 5:22-23)

A New Mission and Purpose –We are saved to do good works:

1. To show God we are thankful and praise Him
2. So that we can be assured of our faith by its fruit
3. So that others may be won over to Christ.