

Doing Good, or Doing Well?

Many of us tend to be satisfied with 'doing well' in life, when God expects us to be 'doing good'.

Ps. 37: 3-6, 27 - Trust in the Lord, and **do good**; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. ... Depart from evil, and **do good**; and dwell for evermore.

Ps. 34 11-14 - Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and **do good**; seek peace, and pursue it.

'Doing good' is not 'just "Old Testament"'.

1 P. 3:10-12 - For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and **do good**; let him seek peace, and ensue it. . . . but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Luke 6:35 - But love ye your enemies, and **do good**, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Heb. 13:15-16 - By him therefore let us offer the sacrifices of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to **do good** and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Rev. 2-3 - "I know thy works"

Good Works: the Result, not the Cause, of Salvation

Paul stresses salvation by faith without works. Nothing we could possibly do would be sufficient to please God or save us (else why did Christ die?). James stresses the good works that are the result of genuine faith. James and Paul are not in contradiction.

Eph. 2:8-10	For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works , which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
James 2:17-26	Faith without works is dead... I will shew thee my faith by my works ... by works was faith made perfect ...

1. Doing good won't necessarily make you feel good.
2. Feeling good doesn't mean you are good.
3. If you are good, you will do good.

2 Cor. 13:5 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

If the good works aren't in your life, why not? It is either because you are yielding to the flesh instead of to the Spirit, or it may be that you aren't saved at all. In any case, the **lack of works is not the problem, but the symptom**. You could try to do more good works and still have one of the two problems.

What are Good Works?

Good works are what you allow God to do through you.

- No amount of your own good works could save you
- No amount of your own good works could gain God's favor after you are saved

Good works of the flesh are bad because

- They give the unsaved a false sense of security
- They make saved people think they are pleasing God while they are living for self
- They tend to pride and inflation
- They encourage other people to emulate the works instead of the relationship with God

'Goodness' of works depends on the motivation, not the act itself. Two people may do the same thing, and yet one be the good work of God, and the other be just a work of self.

Examples of Good Works

a. In relationships with others

Loving enemies	Jesus, Stephen
Fairness and Justice	Proverbs
Hospitality	Isa 58 - not just to your friends, but to the poor and oppressed
Generosity, Alms	Ac. 9:36-39 Dorcas was a woman "full of good works and alms-deeds which she did". She apparently made many coats and garments for others (v. 39) Paul was constantly concerned for the churches to support the poor saints.
Mercy	
Gentleness	
Speaking the truth	
Raise godly seed	Teach, train, guide, encourage, warn, discipline your children

b. Personal qualities

Unselfishness	Deny self, take up cross, and follow Christ
Diligence	Not idle or slothful. Doing work 'as unto the Lord'.
Faithfulness	To God, to church, family, principles, the Word
Sobriety	Watch in prayer. Serious.
Avoiding evil	

c. Ministry

Prayer and intercessions	God is storing up our prayers and tears in His bottle, and they are offered up together like incense before Him.
Preach the gospel	Preaching, teaching, evangelism, personal witness
Heal the sick	
Deliver the oppressed	Cast out demons
Monetary support	Of <u>valid</u> ministries