

The Masterpiece Reflects The Master

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There is a verse in the book of Ephesians that merits our full attention in regards to what God has made us to be in Christ Jesus, and our responsibility.

Ephesians 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.

The International Standard Version reads, “For we are His masterpiece...” This really captures the heart of this verse. “We are God’s masterpiece!” That means this is God’s work—not ours. Something carefully created, intentionally designed, very carefully brought into being with purpose.

And notice — “**created in Christ Jesus.**” This is not talking about our physical birth. This is speaking of what God accomplished in us through the new birth—because of what He did in Christ. We are **His** masterpiece. And He before ordained us to walk in good works. So, what are the “good works” spoken of here? No guessing because it is defined in the Word. Jesus Christ defined what they are.

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

Good works are not simply actions that look good to people. They are works that result in God being glorified. God gets glorified in this good works. What works did Jesus do? First and foremost, he rightly divided God’s Word that he taught. Secondly, he operated the manifestations in that he healed the sick, he raised the dead, he cast out devils etc. That’s the “good works” standard.

Good works are not just helping someone... not just doing something kind... Those things can be good, but Jesus Christ takes it further. If the result is that people see something and glorify the Father, then we are in the realm of what God calls “good works.” Where do these works come from? Jesus also showed us the source.

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

“Many good works have I shewed you from my Father...” That’s the key. The works did not originate with man. The works that Jesus Christ did—came from the Father. So now we have a clear biblical definition of good works. Good works are works that originate with God and are carried out by way of a believer, and result in God being glorified. That’s exactly what we see in the life of Jesus Christ. The Blind came seeing, the deaf could hear, the infirm were healed. All of these things came by way of the power from Father, and glorified God, as an end result.

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Scripture, the Word of God, rightly divided, equips a believer for every good work. That means the works themselves must come from the Word’s direction to take action—aligned with it, and produced as a result of our walk according to God’s direction of His Word. So “good works” are not random acts of human kindness. The natural man can do that. But these good works are the result of living in harmony with what God has revealed, either by His written Word, or by revelation.

You could say it this way: Good works are works that originate from what God's Word directs. They are enabled by what He has done in Christ in us and are carried out as we walk by the spirit.

Good Works that *may* include helping someone... it may include giving... but the defining factor is not the action itself—it is the **source**, Who is GOD. The masterpiece reflects the Master.

God, who is Spirit, teaches His creation in you, which is now your spirit. And your spirit teaches your mind, then it becomes manifested in the senses-realm as YOU ACT! How are these works carried out? This is where it becomes very practical. God has not only defined the works—He has given us the ability to walk in them. The masterpiece, again reflects the Master.

I Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The manifestations are how God works in us and with us. This is how the “good works” are actually carried out; they are actually lived. This is not human effort trying to do good. This is God at work in His workmanship. His masterpiece is carrying out His Will for mankind. As the spirit is in operation there is direction, there is power, and there is precision. Now that we see that the works are not random—they are exactly what God would have done in that moment...in that exact time.

Verse 8 For to one [for one profit] is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another [for another profit] the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another [profit] faith [believing] by the same Spirit; to another [profit] the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another [profit] the working of miracles; to another [profit] prophecy; to another [profit] discerning of spirits; to another [profit] divers kinds of tongues; to another [profit] the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh [are energized by] that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Each time you read, “for to one,” and “to another” it should read, “for another profit.” Each person is energized as each and every man **wills**. The manifestation is **[group of 9]** God doesn't make us act, or take action. We walk in love and if I don't **will** to speak in tongues, will I speak in tongues? No. I must do the speaking. The words that I speak as I move my mouth, throat and tongue are given to me by God. God doesn't push us around and make us do anything. We act, God energizes.

The same is true of working of miracles. Yes, this is part of manifestation of the spirit. We see a great example of this in Acts 3. Peter and John come across a man who is lame. This incident begins with revelation, then the impartation manifestations kick into the situation. Let's look.

Act 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive [ambanō] something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Remember what we read about “good works,” that Jesus taught? The end result would be that people would “**glorify your Father which is in heaven.**” And that is what this man did, as well as members of the crowd that day. This man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something from them. This man had been laid there daily for most of his 40+ year life. Jesus must have

passed this man probably several times going into the Temple, yet he was not delivered at that time. Why? No revelation. But for Peter and John to get the revelation to stop and talk to him, that was God working in them that day to will and to do His good pleasure. And because of what Peter and John did, God was glorified. God is in the business of performing the miraculous. However, Peter and John had to act. It wasn't until the man expressed his need and got their attention that they got the revelation to heal him and say, **“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”** God got the glory!

They may not have woken up that day with the thought of going to heal this man, but I'm sure that they did what was necessary that morning to prepare themselves to do something for God that day. Perhaps they thought of what Jesus told them... **“ye shall receive power...”**

They didn't get up and read the paper first thing, or to sign on to CNN online, or Fox online, or turn on MS Now to get the “scoop” to see and hear about the news of the day. NOPE! For one thing, that is counter to God's will. However, they spent time in prayer and in the Word. Were they perfect men? No. But they endeavored to walk and work with the Heavenly Father that day. They continued to operate manifestations as often as they could think about it.

Another record of seeing the good works in operation is in Acts 16.

Acts 16: 6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

This entourage included Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke. They were making their way from central Asia Minor (Turkey). Regions of Phrygia, then west of that was Mysia, and then the coast where Troas is located. Can't go any farther west without hitting water. God was working in them telling them where **NOT** to go. But then, once they got to Troas [Troj], something very interesting happened.

Act 16:11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

Philippi was a Roman officer retirement community. Nice neighborhoods, clean streets etc. The moment that they arrived in the city, it sort of was quiet... not a place where some guy that Paul saw in his vision waiting for him. Curious. Was that really revelation?? Yet, things began to change after a short while.

Verse 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

Not a man, but a woman believed, along with her household! Instant fellowship! Yet, there was more to come.

Verse 16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. **19** And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew *them* into the marketplace unto the rulers, **20** And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, **21** And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. **22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat *them*. **23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: **24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

This appears to be a big damper that the adversary put on Paul and Silas. Yet, God still was working in that situation.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. **26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. **27** And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. **28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. **29** Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, **30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. **32** And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. **33** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. **34** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

And that brings us right back to **Ephesians 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.**

We are His workmanship—His masterpiece. What we see in **Acts 16** is not just Paul doing something good. It was **God's workmanship, His creation in them in action**. God had already prepared the way. God gave the direction. God opened the door. And they simply walked in it.

That's what a masterpiece does—it reflects the one who made it. So, when we walk in these “good works,” we're not trying to become something...we are simply living out what God has already created us to be in Christ Jesus. It's Christ in you, the hope of glory. We are His workmanship...His design...His work being seen in real time. And when that happens—just like Jesus Christ said—people don't just see the work... They glorify the Father which is in heaven.