

Saved To Work

Scripture

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:8-10 NKJV)

Devotion

We were not saved by works, but we were saved to work. Apparently, God has something for us to do while we remain on this earth. If we take it as it reads, He has something specific for each of His children. While it may be going too far to read into this text the idea of a specific calling, it is clear that we are to walk in good works generally.

This is not for salvation, but a result of salvation as God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. What are these good works? Well it is not limited to, but must be grounded in faith and love.

“. . . ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’” (John 6:28-29 NKJV) Of course, after believing, the Holy Spirit directs us in service to God and others.

Our primary service to God is love demonstrated by holiness. “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21 NKJV) The same is true in our service to others which is why Jesus said the two greatest commandments are: “. . . ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is [the] first and great commandment. And [the] second [is] like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Mt 22:37-40 NKJV)

The point is God expects us to walk worthy of our calling. We don’t work our way to heaven, but we ought to be working until we get to heaven. In fact, it would be hazardous to ignore our calling because we are His workmanship. The ability to walk outside of God’s will might be an indication that one is not a product of God’s craftsmanship. Does God make mistakes? Of course He does not! So what explanation is there for your lack of love, holiness, and good deeds?

“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” (Jas 2:19-20 NKJV)