

What are faith based Works?

*A major statement Christ made to many of the churches in Revelations is "I know your deeds" (Rev 2:1-2, Rev 2:17-19, Rev 3:1, Rev 3:6-9, Rev 3:14-16)

Part of God's will for us is to do Good Works –

We are saved by grace through faith to do good works - Eph 2:8-10 - 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 **not by works**, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

How we live - Eph 5:15-17 - 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

We are to encourage each other to do good works - Heb 10:23-25 - 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Our faith-based works are a ministry - 1 Peter 2:12 - 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Understand, no matter how hard we try we cannot earn salvation through human works - Gal 3:1-5 - You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

The gift of eternal life has absolutely nothing to do with what we have done - 2 Tim 1:8-10 - But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

However; We were saved by God's Mercy & Grace and those who truly accept it WILL display that trust by Good Works - Titus 3:5-8 - 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that **those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The main work God requires in us is belief -John 6:28-29 -28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Abraham was not justified by works but by his belief in God - Rom 4:1-5 - What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about — but not before God. 3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Belief is not just a statement, its displayed by Works based on Faith - James 2:21-26 - 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for WHAT HE DID when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham BELIEVED GOD, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and NOT BY FAITH ALONE. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for WHAT SHE DID when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so **FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD**.

The difference between "Faith based" works and "Self-based" work is Self-based work is dependent on the work and Faith-based work is dependent on Faith -- Rom 9:30-32 - 30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. 32 **WHY NOT?** Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

Without "Faith based" works our faith is worthless - James 2:14-19 - 14 **WHAT GOOD IS IT**, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, **FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION, IS DEAD**. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith BY what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

We are never justified by our self-based works - Gal 2:15-16 - 15 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' 16 **KNOW THAT** a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

We don't do right to be righteous, we do right because we are righteous - 1 John 3:7-10 - 7 Dear children, **do not let anyone lead you astray**. **HE WHO DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS RIGHTEOUS**, just as he is righteous. 8 **HE WHO DOES WHAT IS SINFUL IS OF THE DEVIL**, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHO THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE AND WHO THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL ARE:** Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.