

HOW WORKS WORK IN A CHRISTIAN'S WALK

We are saved by grace (a gift from God) and we receive that gift through faith and we are created 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.

If our works played any part of us receiving our Salvation then it would not be by Grace - Rom 11:5-6 - 5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is **no longer by works**; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Those who fully understand salvation devote themselves to doing 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.

There is a problem when Christian's, through human effort, try to access righteousness - Gal 3:1-12- 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? 6 Consider Abraham: "He **BELIEVED** God, and it was CREDITED to him as righteousness." 7 Understand, then, that those who BELIEVE are children of Abraham. 8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles **by faith**, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." 9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. 10 **All who rely on observing the law are under a curse**, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly **NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD BY THE LAW**, because, "The righteous will LIVE BY FAITH." 12 The law is **NOT based on faith**; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

- Righteousness cannot be accessed by human effort (which is observing the law)
- What does it mean to live by Faith?
- The Law is not based on faith
- What exactly does it mean to "believe"?

***We need to recognize there are two types of works; Human works & works of Faith**

We learn through Abraham as an example the difference between human works and Works of Faith

If Abraham would have worked on his own, he would have earned his righteousness - 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.

Abraham showed the definition of belief is displaying his Faith - James 2:21-24 -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**

***Though God's Grace is a gift, I must agree to two important terms to show I've accepted the gift:**

- **Repentance** - Luke 13:5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."
- **Belief (Change of purpose)** - John 3:16-18 - 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Human Works is synonymous to a person going to work and providing a service and getting paid for what he did because he earned it.

Works through faith is synonymous to someone offering to pay all of your bills because there is no way you could pay them, but there are terms or things done to show your acceptance of the payment.

***There is nothing we can do to pay our debt. Christ offers to pay ALL of our debt. We SHOW that we accept his gift of paying our debt by living our lives doing what He says (belief). He not only paid our debt, he gives us the ability not to create more debt.**

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "HUMAN WORKS" AND "WORKS OF FAITH"

Workers of Faith looks for God's approval ONLY - 2 Cor 10:17-18 - 17 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 18 For it is **NOT** the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

***This is why there is a danger of following man-made acts of righteousness and not completely following God's Commands**

The difference maker in Works of Faith and Human Works is PURPOSE - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **DO NOT BE DECEIVED:** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Our acts will be God purposed - Gal 6:9-10 - 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **DO GOOD TO ALL** people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. i.e

- **When we encourage it is to build in God, not in feelings**
- **When we support it MUST be based on God not on humans**

We are to work our everyday tasks as if we are working for Christ not man - Col 3:23-25 - 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, **AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR MEN**, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **IT IS THE LORD CHRIST YOU ARE SERVING**. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Faith must be the complete bases for what we do in order for it to be a Work of 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."

HOW WORKS REVEALS WHAT'S REAL

Our actions are the labels of what we really are - 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.

Our actions will display if we are living Spiritually (Headed for eternal life) - Gal 5:22-25 - 22 But the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 **THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE SINFUL NATURE** with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Two Characteristic of a Christian is reverence and DOING what's is right - Acts 10:34-35 - 34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

How we live will display if we are Christian or not, so we must take note what is right - Rom 2:5-8 - 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will give to each person according to what he HAS DONE." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

We are able to distinguish the pure and impure by their actions - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 **THEY CLAIM TO KNOW GOD**, but BY THEIR ACTIONS they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Our wisdom and understanding are to be shown by how we live - James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by **DEEDS DONE IN THE HUMILITY** that comes from wisdom.

The action of not providing for relatives makes you worse than an unbeliever - 1 Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is **WORSE THAN AN UNBELIEVER**.

Hating our brother is proof we are not Christian - 1 John 2:10-11 - 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

We can tell those that are righteous by them living righteous - 1 John 2:29 - If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

***We don't do righteous works to be righteous, we do righteous works IF we ARE righteous. The same for the evil, a man will display evil if he is evil. It is the evidence of what we are!**

HUMAN WORKS CAN PUT US IN ETERNAL DANGER

Those who work to be righteous on their own are fighting a losing battle –

The Law represents me trying to do it by my self - Rom 3:19-20 - 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of sin**.

You cannot live by Grace and righteousness based on self - Gal 5:4-6 - 4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; **YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE**. 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is FAITH EXPRESSING ITSELF through love.

God made clear who will be the target of HIS wrath - 2 Thess 1:8-9 - 8 He will punish those who DO NOT KNOW GOD and DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

False Christian's actions will determine their punishment - 2 Cor 11:13-15 - 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. **THEIR END WILL BE WHAT THEIR ACTIONS DESERVE**.

Our actions will reveal if we are living fleshly (which means we are headed to Hell) –

Our human nature - Gal 5:19-21 - 19 The **ACTS** of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who LIVE like this WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

If we are wicked - 1 Cor 6:9-11 - 9 Do you not know that the **WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? DO NOT BE DECEIVED**: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

If we give in - Rev 21:6-8 - 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 **He WHO OVERCOMES will inherit all this**, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place WILL BE IN THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR. This is the second death."

Not living with true Christian characteristics puts us directly in the path of God's wrath – Eph 5:3-7 - 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 **FOR OF THIS YOU CAN BE SURE: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.** 6 **LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS,** for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

When we accept a wicked person, we are automatically a participant in their wicked works - 2 John 10:11 - 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone **WHO WELCOMES HIM SHARES IN HIS WICKED WORK.**

HOW WE LEARN AND GROW IN GOOD WORKS

Christians' works must be "through faith" while depending on God - James 2:14-18 - 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.

We get this faith from reading the Bible and hearing God's message - Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from HEARING the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

When we do Works of Faith, it's not us working, but grace working through us - 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — YET not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

We display and justify faith by HOW we live our lives - 2 Cor 5:7 We **LIVE** by faith, not by sight.

We must Live solidly and continually by Faith - Col 1:21-23 - 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 **IF YOU CONTINUE IN YOUR FAITH, ESTABLISHED and FIRM, NOT MOVED** from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

We live in faith by living "Jesus" purpose NOT self-purposed- Rom 13:12-14 - 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, NOT IN orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and DO NOT THINK ABOUT HOW TO GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE.

Like Christ we must suffer in the body so not to be ruled by desire - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because HE WHO HAS SUFFERED IN HIS BODY IS DONE WITH SIN. 2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

The training in Works of Faith is in Church service by God ordained teachers - Eph 4:11-13 - 11 **IT WAS HE** who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 **to PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE,** so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Bible provides us with everything we need for every Good works - 2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We must cleanse ourselves in order for God to use us for Good works - 2 Tim 2:20-21 - 20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

We clean ourselves by obeying the Word - 1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Obeying God's Word is doing God's Word - James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. DO WHAT IT SAYS.

EXPECTED WORKS OF CHRISTIANS

Every work you do once you become a Christian must be a Work of Faith - Rom 14:23 - 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING** that does not come from faith is sin.

We were called to LIVE a Holy life - 2 Tim 1:9 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,

God created us to DO Good Works – Titus 2:13-14 - 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, EAGER TO DO WHAT IS GOOD.

God provides us with everything we need for every good work - 2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

A major part of how we minister is our deeds - Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS** and praise your Father in heaven.

We are to take the Church training and collectively do the work of God each doing what God has him to do - Eph 4:14-16 - 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK.**

A responsibility of all is to work to make a living - 2 Thess 3:7-10 - 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: **"IF A MAN WILL NOT WORK, HE SHALL NOT EAT."**

It is our responsibility to expose evil works –

Eph 5:8-11 - 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Phil 3:2-3 - 2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and WHO PUT NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH—

When we see our brothers NOT obeying, we are to disconnect to shame him to do right - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. **DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH HIM**, in order that he may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

A Christian woman's dress should be that of good deeds - 1 Tim 2:9-10 - 9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

Our training to young men is partly taught by the older being an example of what is Good - Titus 2:6-7 - 6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

Those that love Christ DO what He says and imitate HIS life - 1 John 2:4-6 - 4 The man who says, "I know him," but **DOES NOT DO** what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's

love is truly made complete in him. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must WALK as Jesus did.

Love must be displayed - 1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but **with actions** and in truth.

Know when not doing something is a sin - James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and **DOESN'T DO IT**, sins.

NOW THAT WE KNOW LET'S REACT

Since we know God will judge every man's work, we need to live in complete reverence - 1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's WORK impartially, **LIVE YOUR LIVES AS STRANGERS HERE IN REVERENT FEAR**.

Since we know about the destruction of the end, we need to live Godly lives - 2 Peter 3:11-13 - 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to LIVE holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Jesus warned from the beginning that good deeds is what will be the identification of True Christians - Matt 25:41-46 - 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.**' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

1. We are saved by _____ and Not by _____? -
2. The is the difference between Human works and Works of Faith?
3. What gets credited as righteousness?
4. What made how the Israelites tried to obtain righteousness wrong?
5. What is the purpose of works in a Christian walk?
6. When a person says they are a Christian, what will prove him right or wrong?
7. What is another name for faith being displayed by works?
8. What happens if I just have Faith and never display it?
9. What did Christ do in the body to be through with sin?

10. Whatever we do not by faith is what?

11. What is the best way to minister to young men?