

Grace Carries Us Always

For Every Good Work!

By B. D. Tate

II Cor. 9:8 "And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance **for every good work.**"

When the Bible talks about "**good works**" there two kinds referred to: the first kind comes from our efforts; the second kind of works is of the Spirit. Here is what the Word of God says about the first kind:

Ga 2:16 "knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and **not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

The works of the flesh (the strength of human effort) all come under the law's examination in order to bring them into ***proper perspective***. When we work according to the ways of this world we come under a curse.

Ga 3:10 For **as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.**"

Since we are driven by our sin nature to ***justify ourselves*** by our works we come under the curse of the law. In ***our natural man*** wanting to account for ourselves and stand on our own two feet we find ourselves under the scrutiny of the law. The simple truth becomes evident to all who will listen that we all fall far short of the glory of God. Furthermore, at the heart of human works is the spirit of disobedience and rebellion.

Eph 2:2 “in which you once walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,**”

These works are sourced in **pride and self centeredness**. These works are for **self glorification and indulgence**. These works are “*looking out for number one*.” These works of the flesh are divisive, destructive, detrimental, and distorted. Often these works are not for the benefit of other people but instead use them, step on and over them in order to get what we want. These are works that provide something we can personally boast about, “I did it; I am my own man.” These works provide comparisons of superiority, success, and triumph over our competitors. These works often see others as the enemy, the problem, or obstacles. We use people to get things, goals, power, and fulfill our dreams.

Often these self centered works result in perversions, distortions, and destruction:

Gal. 5: 19 “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

The Law of Moses was given to examine these works in order to bring everyone under **condemnation and guilt**.

Ro 3:19 “Now we know that whatever the law says, **it says to those who are under the law**, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.**”

Real “Good Works?”

What about good works that are in keeping with the law? What about good works that are actually good? When good works are done by anyone of us (according to the flesh) it falls under the category of **self righteousness**. When we do good things ***in order to earn right standing*** before God or with others this is like using someone's gift to us over them. God didn't give us life and the ability to do good works so that we'd earn our way to Him. The deception from the beginning is that somehow we are on our own in order to earn favor with God. God never intended for our life to be separated from Him but to be an outflow of His grace through us. We were created by God for God to manifest His good works:

Eph 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**"

God abhors self righteousness!

Isa 64:6 "**But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."

Jesus was repulsed by the self righteousness of the religious rulers of his day.

Mt 5:20 "For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Self righteousness is to take claim for something we are **not actually responsible for**. Plagiarizing is when someone copies the work of another in writing and then takes credit for it. This is highly offensive to the original author—we call it cheating. Since all good things come from God who is the author of life and all its abilities; to think that we could use what we've been given to earn or control our outcome before God is also highly offensive. It denies the truth and stands on deception.

Who is more deceived than someone who believes they have earned their status before God?

I mentioned the idea of receiving a gift from someone and then using that gift to take position, power, or control over that person. This is highly offensive. For example, a highly successful boss hires a promising prospect to become his aide. This young man learns from his boss and over time becomes proficient in these things. Then this young man takes the opportunity given to him and usurps his boss' position. This was a gift given to him by the older mentor; then he takes it and uses it to take over his boss's job. Some might say, "Well, it's a dog eat dog world." That of course would represent the "good works" of this world's system and mindset. The truth is the young man has committed a highly offensive work destroying the very person that gave him the opportunity to advance. Where are the loyalty, the gratefulness, and respect? Why must self serving become so ambitious as to bite the hand that feeds you?

What is self righteousness? Isn't it taking what has been given to us and using it to establish our own righteousness before God? How deceived can we be to think that we could measure up to God in any way? Our efforts at self righteousness cause us to become hardened, critical, judgmental, and self exalting. We lift up our standards and our perspectives over those around us.

Pr 14:12 **There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**

We have all been deceived into thinking that what seems best to us is best. We have all taken the bait of believing that our thinking, seeing, understanding, and comprehension are best. **We in essence have become our own gods. When we think this way the truth is not in us.**

1Jo 1:8 **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."**

God's Intention From the Beginning Is Grace Upon Grace

God gave us life to be receivers and broadcasters of His glory. We were made to continually feed upon His love, peace, joy, and power. God's grace is a gift to us. Life is a gift to us. Choice and dominion is His gift to us. When we take these things and begin to take credit, pride, and see ourselves as our own source we have become deceived. We are acting foolishly, self righteously, and as one who thinks we are our own god. Sin nature has become like a virus in our operating system and the only solution is to re-program it. Several times now I have had viruses so contaminate my computer that I have had to restore my software by reinstalling it. It is a complete system restore. Sin nature is in all of us manipulating our understanding and provoking us to sin. We have **a corrupt operating system** that blinds us to the truth. We need a new program that is why we must become born again!

John 3: 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

God's kingdom is not based on human effort **it is based on grace**—and always will be. The good works that come from human effort are all like "wood, hay, and stubble." The good works based on grace are the treasures of heaven; these are the precious stones, pearls, diamonds, and gold.

The kingdom of God is born into us as a gift. With this gift through the blood of Jesus Christ comes righteousness and holiness that is established in the truth.

Ro 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.**

And,

Rom. 5: 17 **For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**

We become united in God by what Jesus did on the cross **not by any works of our own**. Jesus established for us an eternal righteousness by fulfilling the law's requirements and taking away all judgments against us (Col. 2:14). Our salvation is a new life walking in grace that God intended for us to walk in from the beginning of creation. We could never earn our way to God by any amount of "good works" because all of our works energy and source **were gifts to us**. Sin nature perverted those gifts separating mankind from God's love. God seeing our predicament sent His only begotten Son into the world to save it (John 3:16). We are saved from ourselves to live to newness of life in Jesus. Salvation is God's work through His grace on our behalf and **He will not accept our boasting in the flesh for something we had nothing to do with**.

Ro 11:6 And **if by grace, then it is no longer of works**; otherwise grace is no longer grace. **But if it is of works, it is no longer grace**; otherwise work is no longer work.

We must decide which works we want to be involved with. If we decide to depend upon "good works" in this life according to the flesh then God's grace is nullified. We are still in our sins and will perish. If we are born again and decide to live to "good works" of the flesh; we will be saved but our works will perish (Eph. 5:11). We make the gift of God's grace of no effect when we practice our Christianity by works of the law (human effort).

Gal. 5: 4 **You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

The Real Good Works of the Spirit!

God's grace has been given to us:

II Cor. 9:8 “And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance **for every good work.**”

We are not *on our own now* that we have become born again. The Holy Spirit has been sent into our lives to help us—always. We have the comforter, the helper, the advocate, the strengthener, and every source of grace! The Spirit has made us one with the Father. We have been made into the same image as Christ. We have the power of God abiding in us always for every good work!

These “good works” are of the Spirit!

Php 2:13 “**for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**”

These “good works” operate by grace in what God has already done in us when we became born again.

John 1: 16 **And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.**

17 For the law was given through Moses, **but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

These “good works” operate by faith when we are established and certain of the truth! We know we are forgiven by faith in God’s grace. We experience peace with God by faith in God’s goodness towards us. We walk in the Spirit of truth by acknowledging everything that is good that is in us in Christ (Philemon 1:6).

How “Good Works” Work By the Spirit

God’s “good works” work in us by **receiving the truth of God’s Word as supreme** in our lives over circumstances, situations, physical laws, or expert opinions of this world. In other words, we live by God’s Word

and Spirit over our flesh, senses, or worldly facts. **The truth of God's Word is Lord of the fallen facts of this world.**

God's "good works" happen in us by embracing the truth in our hearts and letting God's word work in us. It is the Word of God that is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all we could think or ask!

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

They (good works) occur by acknowledging all the work of Christ that was accomplished on our behalf in the cross and what it means to be born again.

Philemon 1: 6 "that the sharing of your faith may become effective **by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."**

They occur by asserting the truth into our lives through believing the right things and because we believe we speak. Jesus taught us to speak to the mountain and it would obey us.

Mark 11: 23 "For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.**

24 "Therefore I say to you, **whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

We do "good works" now **because** of what we have in Christ. The change (difference) is one of our heart. Before we knew Christ we worked **for** God's blessings and right standing; all of this was for nothing. Now that we are born again we work **BECAUSE** of God's blessing and right standing. The difference is all the difference in the world. **We don't work for God's grace; we work because of it.** This truth puts us (and stands us) in the position of righteousness that was given to us as a gift.

We believe the Word because of God's grace given to us when we became born again! We embrace our righteousness by faith that we have been cleansed from all our sins and no longer come under the examination of the law (Rom. 7:6). We have passed from judgment and the kingdom of this world to the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col 1:13). There is therefore, no condemnation to those who walk in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). We are no longer just natural but supernatural in the Holy Spirit.

We assert the truth because by God's grace we believe it! Jesus is in us and made one with us (Heb. 7:25). Therefore, just as Jesus is so are we in this world (I John 4:17).

We pray, we read the bible, we fellowship with other believers; we worship, praise, and give thanks **BECAUSE WE ARE SAVED** and stand in His blessing.

We do good things for others because we are in His grace. We treat others with patience and forgiveness because we are forgiven and mercy is poured out into our lives always.

We are free from sin not because we earned it in any way but because of God's grace we believe what Jesus did *apply* to us!

The "good works" we did *for* God's blessing fall far short of God's approval because they are *not done from the right spirit*. When we acknowledge that God's grace has come to us through Jesus, those very same works done are now approved because they *are done through and with the right Spirit!*

Applying the Good Works: Freed From Sin!

We are freed from sin because of what Jesus did not by what Jesus is going to do. It was all established in the cross two thousand years ago—that's grace. Listen to this passage and embrace its truth. Then, once we are certain and convinced that it is so, we assert it by agreeing with it

and speaking it so. **Through our obedience of faith the word of God and His grace takes it and brings it to pass.**

Rom. 6: 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as **were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**

4 Therefore **we were buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, **certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

6 knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

7 **For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

8 Now if we died with Christ, **we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once **for all**; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead,** and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

As we stand in the truth that when we became born again we died to sin and the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13), **we are activating God's grace in**

our lives. Also, as Christ is raised from the dead to new life; **we also are raised from the dead to new life!** This new life is freedom from sin and lives to the gift of righteousness. We do not let sin have dominion over us any longer **by asserting that we died to sin.** This means that the power of sin, which is the law of God, no longer holds us (I Cor. 15:56). It has no more claims over us—judgments of the law fell on Jesus! When we let the word of **God permeate (be supreme) our whole being it brings to pass the liberty we seek.**

Freedom from sin happens to us **because** by faith we are standing in oneness with Jesus! By faith in His grace transformation happens by the Spirit of God (II Cor. 3:18)!

Col. 2: 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
12 **buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God,** who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,**

14 **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 **So let no one judge you** (including yourself)

We are freed from sin, addictions, habits, wrong thinking, bad attitudes, family traits, generational sins, lusts, greed, anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness **by simply believing the right things in the Word of God!**

Believe the truth over the “facts” of this realm and it sets us free! God is greater than anything this world could possibly hold us in. Jesus is Lord of heaven, the earth and under the earth, now and forever!

God's grace carries us from freedom to freedom (grace to grace) working the works of Christ in us (John 14:12); God's grace carries us always with a constant supply of power, truth, righteousness, and holiness. God never leaves us nor forsakes us ever again. All of our sins were paid for in the cross and we have been cleansed ***forever from them*** in our spirit man. Therefore, God's grace carries us always and it will never take a break, never go on vacation, and never leave us empty again. **The honeymoon of coming into God's love never ends.** We just continue to enjoy the Lord's love for us forever. **That's amazing grace!** **We were made to be carried by grace forever! Amen.**