

*“Created for...
Good
Works”*



2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Ephesians 2:10

*“For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared
beforehand that we should walk
in them.”*

“*Workmanship*”

- Translated from the Greek word “poiema” from which we derive our English word “poem.”
 - It means, “*that which is made, a manufactured product.*” (The Bible Exposition Commentary)

Romans 6:4

“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.”

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What Does This Mean?





*“Which God Has
Prepared
Beforehand”*

“Prepared Beforehand”

- *“...God prearranged a sphere of moral action for us to walk in. Not only are works the necessary outcome of faith, but the character and direction of the works are made ready by God.” - (Vincent’s Word Studies)*

“Prepared Beforehand”

- *God’s preparation or prearrangement may be applicable in two ways:*
 - (1) God has prepared or prearranged the works themselves.
 - What is a “good work”?
 - “a good work is one that God has arranged & defined.”

“Rich Ruler in Mark 10”

- *He came to the Good Teacher (Jesus) asking what he had to do to receive eternal life.*
 - Jesus did not tell him there was nothing he could do, He directed him to the commandments of God!
 - *“No one is good but One, that is, God.” (Mark 10:18)*
 - Jesus’ good teaching was the commandments of God. They were to be obeyed without reservation!

“Early Church in Acts”

- *They were devoted to following God’s orders given through the inspired apostles.*
 - *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” – Acts 2:42*

1 Peter 4:11

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

“Good Works”

- *That which God has authorized & regulated in His Holy & Divine Word.*
 - *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” – Luke 6:46*

“Prepared Beforehand”

- *God’s preparation or prearrangement may be applicable in two ways:*
 - (1) God has prepared or prearranged the works themselves.
 - (2) God also prepares the worker.
 - God equips His people to do His will.

*“God Fits Us To Do All..
What.
He Requires!”*



“Prepared Beforehand”

- *God is able to fit us to do all that He requires.*



“Prepared Beforehand”



- *Did God really equip this thing to fly?*
- *It has what it needs, it just needs to grow!*
 - *So we too must use what God has given us to grow, in order to do what God intended us to do!*

Hebrews 13:20,21

“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 4:11ff, 13

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ...”

Ephesians 4:15, 16

“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

*“God Fits Us Inwardly...
to do
Good Works!”*



“Good Works”

- *Our human perspective may lead us to the conclusion that good works are a matter of the right place, right time, or physical circumstances.*
- *God’s primary preparation of the Christian to do good is inward and spiritual.*

Not So!

2 Corinthians 8:5

“And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

2 Corinthians 8:12

“For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”

“Excusing Self?”

- *We cannot excuse ourselves with the thought that if we were in a different circumstance, with different resources, we would be able to do good works, and really serve God.*
- *If our hearts are not prepared we will always be unfruitful.*
- *Does a blind man change his view by standing in front of different mirrors?*



*“God Qualifies Me Through
the call to
Repent & Obey”*

2 Timothy 2:19ff, 21

“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor...”

2 Timothy 2:19ff, 21

21 “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

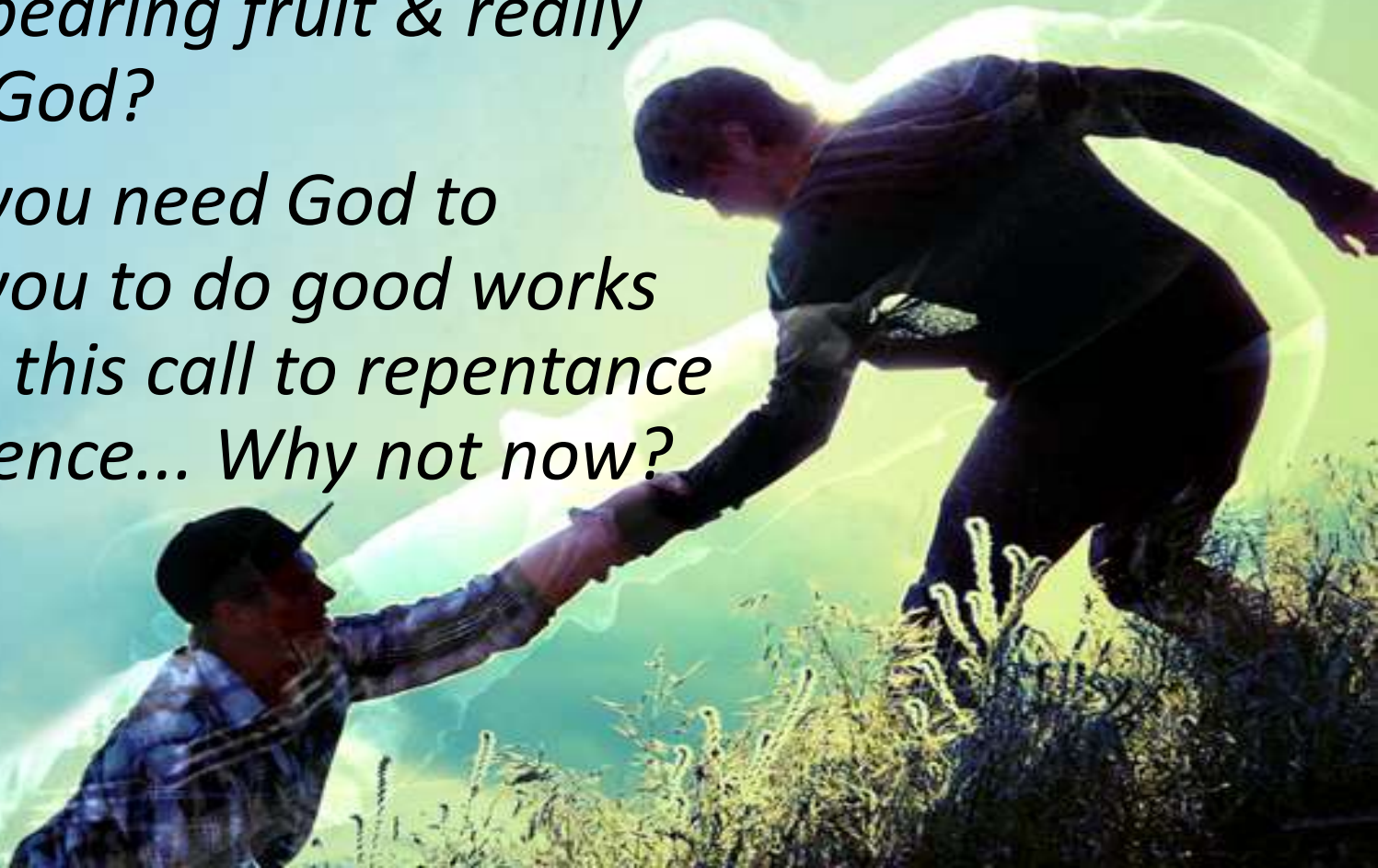
“Jesus’ Parable of the Talents”

- One of the consequences of obedience vs. disobedience was the opportunity to do more in the future.
 - ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ - Matt. 25:21
 - “So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.’- Matt. 25:27-29

Conclusion



- *Have we been developing the spiritual virtues in our lives?*
- *Are we bearing fruit & really serving God?*
- *Maybe you need God to qualify you to do good works through this call to repentance & obedience... Why not now?*



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