CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS

Man was created as an extension of God and to replicate the work of God on earth. Before we go into details of these works, we will today define what constitutes good works. Good works is defined not by good deeds but operating in the will and plans of God in doing those works. **Ephesians 2:10** says clearly that good works are; God working through those that are the creation of His work in Christ or those works done through Christ. So it is not about just doing good things. This is confirmed in what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23**. In this days we see how many of us quote the Bible to justify our actions and inactions, but the verses here gives a revelation that it is only things done in accordance with the will of the Father that are important. So good works are deeds done according to God’s will which are works done not by your own will, wisdom, skills and ability but by the will, wisdom and power of God. Sometimes, in our own mind and good intentions, and by natural or human standards, we are praised for the good things we do. But note that no matter how much we justify our actions, it makes no difference. Also without faith it is impossible to please God. That is to say that failure to apply the wisdom and power of God in whatever good you do, does not please God. Good works is when you yield yourself for God to work through you and being obedient to follow His methods, instructions and steps.

We are called to be achievers for God in order to display His greatness, love, and goodness. **1Peter 2:9 -AMP** says what our calling should achieve for God, because He has chosen to be seen or noticed through us. He must be glorified through us and this is what it means that we are His workmanship created in Christ for every good work. **Isaiah 62:1-3-AMP** is a heart cry and Prophesy about what the chosen of the Lord are to be in terms of God’s workmanship. Note the ‘words in the hand of the Lord’ in verse 3, which is the expression of being a tool in God’s hand for every good works.

So you must position yourself and expect God to work with and through you in doing His works on earth. You can yield so much to the Lord and be His tool in as much that He will not do anything around you without letting you know even if He has to use His Angels in doing it like what happened in **Genesis 18:17-19**. This is because He has made you a display of His glory and everyone around you will recognise it. This is when you no longer operate and go about your normal life in the natural or carnal way anymore but by the ability and power which God provides. Everything you do can be done by the touch of heaven, so our quest is to bring divinity into humanity.

CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS II

God is in the business of making His precious possession glories through good works, and as we understood last week He is looking to work through those that are willing to do His will as they go about their normal life in faith. In **Colossians 1:3-10** there are key things which points to how each one can meet the bill to perform good works. The factors that play as centre for these works being done in the will of the Father are faith, love, and hope as mentioned in the scripture.

1. We noted last week in Hebrews 11:6 why faith is so important; that is doing it with the ability and power of God, confident in His word and ways.
2. Love places you in the position of having the right motive, attitude and purpose for what you do. Laying down your life for others in all humility.
3. And hope is what focuses you on the outcome which is to glorify God and your eventual reward both here on earth and in Heaven.

It is very important to God that we get the basics right as we go on to do the good works. Without the above points rightly in place, our works will not survive the test of fire, 1Corinthians 3:13-21. A lot is mentioned in this scripture with respect to how our works appear in the eyes of God, clearly pointing out that using our human factor of how we feel, think, or justification does not impress God. God knows our heart and its attitude and intentions. So I rather prefer not to do anything if what I am doing has wrong tick boxes against it.

Wrong Tick Boxes focuses on self:

1. To impress people and be noticed
2. To show that I can do it better than you
3. To justify myself
4. To prove a point
5. To show my worth

Good Tick Boxes focus on others:

1. So people are blessed
2. So God is glorified
3. So I display self control
4. So I am in a state of humility
5. So the word of God is fulfilled
6. So people are edified and encouraged
7. So a need is met.

**The works**

The rest of the month we will be looking at the works God expects us to do in this life. These works can be put in 3 main categories so we will look at each category at a time. They are

1. Works in God’s household
2. Works to reveal God to the world
3. Works for wellbeing and welfare

**Works in God’s household**

In this category, there is a building up together that is required and until you position yourself well enough and fit in well enough, works cannot be done.

Building up God’s Temple;

**1Peter 2:5** show us that the main works is to present yourself to be fully built up together with God’s people. God needs His household and it is the building together of God’s people that creates this household. You are a resource or a building block which God requires for His building so give up yourself. In **Exodus 25:1-8**, we see how the shadow of God’s sanctuary was built as God required each person to bring an offering fit for the building where He will dwell. In our time it is the best of you that God wants; you are the resource, your presence, cooperation, agreement, gift, talent, love, patience, peace, self control, warmth, encouragement, edification, knowledge, prayer, money and many more.

If God will dwell among us, then we must look carefully at what and how we are building. The Sanctuary is not about how each of us wants it but God Himself has given the Patten of it and He will not dwell in an unsuitable place. The fearful thing is that we will be judged for what we do because we are either building up or destroying the sanctuary, **Ephesians 2:19-22**.

CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS III

Good works are what you do through God and what He does through you as seen in **Colossians 1:3-10;** there are key things which points to how each one can meet the requirements to perform good works. The factors that play as centre for these works being done in the will of the Father are faith, love, and hope as mentioned in the scripture.

1. We noted in Hebrews 11:6 why faith is so important; that is doing things with the ability and power of God, confident in His word and ways.
2. Love is the position of having the right motive, attitude and purpose for what you do. This is the divine flow as the love of God flows through you to others.
3. And hope focuses you on the outcome which is to glorify God and your eventual reward both here on earth and in Heaven.

**Works to reveal God to the world**

God wants to work through each one of us in order to show Himself to the world, and this is by the good works we allow Him to do through us and also doing things through our Lord Jesus Christ. God is always revealed to the world by His manifestations through those He has chosen, **1 Peter 2:4-9**. In this scripture you are chosen to be evidently blessed and put in a privileged position uncommon to men.

1. Chosen here is talking about complete separation from the rest and it means you are different. Maintaining this uniqueness before the world is in itself part of the good works.
2. Royal priesthood is; being in a place of acceptance in God’s presence as one that God will listen to. Verses 4-5 clearly points out this position which places you as the ones who can stand to bring acceptable worship, and sacrifices to God and on the behalf of men. This is to do with God listening to you and willing to do certain things in your world because of you or bringing God to bear in your physical world. Remember that priests in the Old Testament were the only ones who could serve in the temple and bring the sacrifices of the people to God; this is the same position you have been placed. We stand in a place of so much authority in as much that the salvation of souls depends on us, the mercies of God for the world depends on us. We bring light into darkness and preserve the world as the salt of the world. In **Matthew 5:13-16** we see that we have the mandate to preserve this world and to bring light where there is darkness. What we need today is to recognise our position and the dependence of God on us in order for Him to touch and affect the people of this world. So what would you do? Can you be burdened for the world around you and the people around you? Will you use your position with God to drive out darkness and the wickedness of Satan; will you have compassion and mediate for the salvation of people you encounter?
3. Declaring God’s praises, **Acts 14:8-11**. This is when we take responsibility to use our faith to demonstrate to the world the power of God and bring tangible solutions and changes beyond human ability. What can we do differently and above the abilities of men? How can we show that our God is good and cares for us? What is special in our lives that the world can admire? The faith which each child of God exercises to get the word of God and promises fulfilled is so vital; this is the only way of declaring the praises of God.

CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS IIII

 **Ephesians 2:10 and 1Peter 2:9** are both saying the same thing, as the Lord has put a high value on each of us as His special vessels for revealing Himself.

Today we are looking at the third category of good works which is with regard to your wellbeing and welfare. When God chooses anyone, He always proves the glory which accompanies such people by blessing them exceedingly. God is interested in caring for you and it is important for Him that in your pursuit of your welfare and wellbeing, He is fully involved and expects you to depend on His provision and methods of blessing you. **1Peter 5:6-7** says we have to cast all our care on Him because He cares for us. Remember that in order to please God in every good work is to ensure that you apply faith, love, and hope even when it comes to your wellbeing and welfare.

God is interested in your physical needs; your health, finances, education, family and your basic needs of food clothes and shelter as He seeks to be glorified in your pursuit for these things. These things influence the basic decisions people make, and as a result fall into diverse temptations and even situations against the will of God.

**God’s plan to prosper you**

The popular scripture of **Matthew 6:31-33** has become a bit of an offence to many of us because it judges our conduct and actions in relation to the balance between physical effort and spirituality. But I want to help us understand what the Lord is saying here. Jesus is focusing on seeking the Kingdom and its righteousness as the foremost and important step in order to prosper.

A kingdom has to do with a king and his realm of power which covers territory, resources, and the people who are citizens. The King exercises authority, power and controls the resources and wealth of the kingdom which includes the distribution of wealth for the care of citizens. So what Jesus is saying here is that, the ability to bring the Kingdom of God into your world will automatically make available the resources and wealth of this kingdom.

**God’s kingdom wealth and resources**

1. Power to create; **Romans 4:16-17**. Receive the power to make wealth, **Deuteronomy 8:6-18.**
2. Power to bring a change: **Daniel 2:21**
3. Power to secure, preserve and protect; **Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3**

In **2Corinthians 9:8** we see that having all sufficiency in all things will cause you to have abundance for every good work.