

# Do our works affect our salvation?

## Answers to Questions Concerning the Restored Gospel from [HisWorkmanship.net](http://HisWorkmanship.net)

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**Question:** [Do our works affect our salvation?](#)

### Answer(s)

Yes. God created us with the ability to choose to obey Him or to defy Him and, thus, to do good works or to do evil works. As such, we will receive our eternal reward based upon the works (deeds) we have done in this life. However, there is more to the question of works that we must consider when attempting to address the effect of works on salvation.

Jesus Christ forever answered any and all questions about *works* when He declared, "*for without me ye can do nothing*" (John 15:5). Any work we may do that is not a fruit of His Spirit at work within us is a *dead work*, and is to be repented of because it is a corrupt *work of the flesh* (Hebrews 6:1 & 9:14 with Galatians 5). In contrast, those *works* that come of His Spirit working within and through us are *good works* that bring glory to God and are not to be repented of (Matthew 5, John 14:10-12 & II Corinthians 7:10 with Ephesians 2:10 & Isaiah 26:12 & 57:19).

*For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,  
which God hath before ordained  
that we should walk in them.*

### **Ephesians 2:10**

Briefly comprehended, we are not saved by any *works* we may do (Ephesians 2:8,9, Romans 3-5). Rather, we are saved to be *created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them* (cf. Titus 1-3 & I Corinthians 5 with Matthew 25 & John 3,13-17; see also Hebrews 10:16-25). That is, from the beginning God intended – and still intends – for us to bring forth *good works (fruits)*, but only through the means He has provided for us to do so, meaning through Jesus Christ (I John 4:9-5:1 with John 15:1-17).

*And this I pray,  
that your love may abound yet more and more  
in knowledge and in all judgment;*

*That ye may approve things that are excellent;  
that ye may be sincere and  
without offense till the day of Christ;  
**Being filled with the fruits of righteousness,  
which are by Jesus Christ,  
unto the glory and praise of God.***

**Philippians 1:9-11**

*In this was manifested the love of God toward us,  
because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,  
that we might live through him.*

**I John 4:9**

Again, any *good works* that we may do will be the fruit of God's Son working within us, and it will thus bring glory to His name (Philippians 2:1-13).

By testifying that He created us in His own image (Genesis 1:27), God has assured us that He has a purpose for our lives, that is, to fulfill His *good will and pleasure* within and through us (cf. Matthew 5-7 & John 14,15; see also Philippians 2:12,13). The fruits of the *good works* He performs in our lives are to be *good works* that He also reveals. They are meant to be the fruits of His faithful labors (Philippians 1:6-11). Again, as it is written, we are His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). Our job, then, is to cooperate with God by yielding Him the fruit of His labors performed within us.

*Wherefore, my beloved,  
as ye have always obeyed,  
not as in my presence only,  
but now much more in my absence,  
**Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
For it is God which worketh in you  
both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**  
Do all things without murmurings and disputings;  
that ye may be blameless and harmless,  
the sons of God,  
without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,  
among whom ye shine as lights in the world;  
Holding forth the word of life;  
that I may rejoice in the day of Christ,  
that I have not run in vain,  
neither labored in vain.*

**Philippians 2:12-16**

The *works* we perform of our own abilities (separate of Christ) are not to be, nor can they be the foundation or basis of our salvation, nor can they even be a contribution to our faith unto salvation (Galatians 1-3, Ephesians 2 with Isaiah 64:6). Rather, the *good works* God causes to be

born and developed in and through us are the evidence of our faith in Jesus Christ; that is, they are the evidence of our salvation (Hebrews 11:1 with John 15:1-8).

Baptism, for example, is to be the revelation of Christ taking up residence within us. It testifies of His death and resurrection. It reveals that He has brought us into His death to sin and His resurrection unto a new life free of sin, one that is found only in Him. Thus, true baptism comes of yielding our lives unto Him through faith on His name, which brings the resident power of His indwelling Spirit (Philippians 3-4).

*Know ye not,  
that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ  
were baptized into his death?  
Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death;  
that like as Christ was raised up from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
even so we should walk in newness of life.  
For if we have been planted together  
in the likeness of his death,  
we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection;  
Know this, that our old man is crucified with him,  
that the body of sin might be destroyed,  
that henceforth we should not serve sin.  
For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin.  
Now if we be dead with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him;  
Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead  
dieth no more;  
death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once;  
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
**Likewise reckon ye also yourselves  
to be dead indeed unto sin,  
but alive unto God  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

**Romans 6:3-11**

*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also save us,  
(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh,  
but the answer of a good conscience toward God,)  
By the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

**I Peter 3:21**

*And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism,  
And baptism cometh by faith,  
unto the fulfilling the commandments,*

*And the fulfilling the commandments  
bringeth remission of sins,  
And the remission of sins  
bringeth meekness and lowliness of heart,  
And because of meekness and lowliness of heart  
cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost,  
Which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love,  
Which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the  
end shall come when all the saints shall dwell with God.*

**Moroni 8:29**

Thus we may know that we are brought into the provisions of God's salvation when we bear God the *fruit* (good works) of His Son in our lives (I John).

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,  
if ye have love one to another.*

**John 13:35**

*By this we know that we love the children of God,  
when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

**I John 5:2**

For Jesus has said of His sheep, they know His voice, and He knows them, and they follow Him.

*My sheep hear my voice,  
and I know them,  
and they follow me;*

*And I give unto them eternal life;  
and they shall never perish,  
neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

*My Father, which gave them me,  
is greater than all;  
and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

*I and my Father are one.*

**John 10:27-30**

By these words we learn of three important factors that are essential for our salvation: 1) hearing His voice, 2) being known to Him as one of His sheep, and 3) following Him. To appreciate these three factors further, recall how Jesus also said:

*I am the True Vine,  
and my Father is the husbandman.*

***Every branch in me that beareth not fruit  
he taketh away;***  
*And every branch that beareth fruit,  
he purgeth it,  
that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*Now ye are clean  
through the word  
which I have spoken unto you.*

*Abide in me, and I in you.  
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,  
except it abide in the vine;  
no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*I am the vine,  
Ye are the branches.  
He that abideth in me,  
and I in him,  
the same bringeth forth much fruit;  
For without me ye can do nothing.*

*If a man abide not in me,  
he is cast forth as a branch,  
and is withered;  
and men gather them,  
and cast them into the fire,  
and they are burned.*

*If ye abide in me,  
and my words abide in you,  
ye shall ask what ye will,  
and it shall be done unto you.*

*Herein is my Father glorified,  
that ye bear much fruit;  
So shall ye be my disciples.*

### **John 15:1-8**

As taught here, our being grafted in Jesus Christ involves keeping His words, loving Him unto the keeping of His commandments, and abiding in Him. It involves hearing His voice, being known to Him ("*I know my sheep...*"), and following Him.

Jesus Christ alone is able to give us a new birth, a spiritual birth (John 3, I Peter 1, James 1,

etc.). In and through Him alone can we become new creatures (Romans 6, Galatians 5, Colossians 3, etc.). And only by being grafted into Him can we bear *much fruit* to the glory of our Heavenly Father (John 15:1-8). As stewards of God, then, each and every one of us must prepare ourselves to come before Him to give an accounting of those things He has placed in our charge (I Corinthians 12 with Hebrews 6). Only by yielding Him the fruit of His Spirit, will we fulfill His will in our lives (Romans 13).

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
that everyone may receive a reward  
for the deeds done in the body;  
Things according to what he hath done,  
whether good or bad.*

## **II Corinthians 5:10**

*When the Son of Man shall come in his glory,  
and all the holy angels with him,  
Then he shall sit upon the throne of his glory;  
And before him shall be gathered all nations;  
and he shall separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd divideth sheep from the goats;  
the sheep on his right hand,  
but the goats on his left.  
And he shall sit upon his throne,  
and the twelve apostles with him.  
Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand,  
Come, ye blessed of my Father,  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you  
from the foundation of the world.  
For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat;  
I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink;  
I was a stranger, and ye took me in;  
naked, and ye clothed me;  
I was sick, and ye visited me;  
I was in prison, and ye came unto me.  
Then shall the righteous answer him, saying,  
Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee;  
or thirsty, and gave thee drink?  
When saw we thee a stranger,  
and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee?  
Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison,  
and came unto thee?  
And the king shall answer and say unto them,  
Verily I say unto you,  
inasmuch as ye have done it unto one  
of the least of these my brethren,*

*ye have done it unto me.*  
*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,*  
*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire,*  
*prepared for the devil and his angels.*  
*For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat;*  
*I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink;*  
*I was a stranger, and ye took me not in;*  
*naked, and ye clothed me not;*  
*sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*  
*Then shall they also answer him, saying,*  
*Lord, when saw we thee an hungered,*  
*or athirst, or a stranger, or naked,*  
*or sick, or in prison,*  
*and did not minister unto thee?*  
*Then shall he answer them, saying,*  
*Verily I say unto you,*  
*Inasmuch as ye did it not*  
*to one of the least of these my brethren,*  
*ye did it not unto me.*  
*And these shall go away into everlasting punishment;*  
*but the righteous into life eternal.*

**Matthew 25:32-47**

*Hereby perceive we the love of Christ,*  
*because he laid down his life for us;*  
*and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*  
*But whoso hath this world's good,*  
*and seeth his brother have need,*  
*and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him,*  
*how dwelleth the love of God in him?*  
*My little children,*  
*let us not love in word, neither in tongue only;*  
*but in deed and in truth.*

**I John 3:16-18**

Our Redeemer Lord, Jesus Christ, came into the world to destroy *the works of the devil* (I John 3:7-10). He came to take away our old sin nature and replace it with a new nature which bears Him the fruit of His Spirit, that is, *good works* (Galatians 5, Ephesians 6 with II Corinthians 5). Jesus Christ came to create in us *good works* through His baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost (Mark 1, Acts 1-5, John 14). He came to give us His Holy Spirit of truth whereby we may grow and abide in His love unto unfeigned and fervent love of each other (Romans 5:5, I Peter 1:22,23, John 13:34,35, John 15:1-17).

By being born again of the Lord's Holy Spirit, we become *new creatures* in Christ by old things passing away (II Corinthians 5, Colossians 3). We are *created* in Jesus Christ unto *good works*, in part, so that the world may know God and believe that He sent His Only Begotten Son

into the world to save the world from sin (John 13-17). Therefore, whosoever believes on Him will not perish but shall have everlasting life (John 3, Ephesians 2).

Jesus Christ started and finished the work necessary for our redemption and salvation (Mark 1, John 19, Philippians 1). He redeemed mankind from the fall (Romans 5). Jesus alone could and did atone for our sins by offering Himself as an infinite and eternal sacrifice for sin (Alma 16:210-217, II Nephi 6:10-19). He alone was found worthy to satisfy the demands of divine justice so that the arm of divine mercy could be extended unto us on *the conditions of repentance* (Revelation 5, Alma 16, Romans 5, Helaman 2).

We cannot add to or take away from the work of atoning for our sins, which work was carried out by Jesus Christ. Redemption and salvation are found in Him alone. No flesh will glory in His presence (I Corinthians 1). He has tread the winepress alone (Isaiah 63:3 & Revelation 19:15). The work of salvation that Jesus has accomplished is perfect and lacks nothing. It needs nothing from us.

Does this mean everyone is automatically saved? No. For the atoning blood of Jesus Christ to be applied to us, we must respond to the invitation, the call, the command of God to be gathered into His sheepfold (John 10). We must accept and abide in His words (Matthew 7). We must continue in His Word (Luke 6). We must watch unto prayer (Luke 21:36 with Luke 8 & 14). We must hearken unto His voice. We must believe all that has been written about Jesus and grow in His grace (Luke 24:24-26, II Peter 3:17,18).

Salvation from the desperate condition of our fallen natures and God's judgment against all sin required the intervention of an Intercessor Redeemer, One who would offer an atonement for sin (Romans 5-8). Thus, in Jesus Christ, God has given us our stewardship in the form of many gifts by which we may bring forth the works of righteousness. He will hold us accountable for how we have applied them (Matthew 25). Thus, in Christ, we will be judged and rewarded according to our submission to His will (Galatians 6:7-9 with Romans 6:16).

God ever always labors with and among us in such a way that He retains forever His judgment seat. At the same time, God ever always labors with and among us in such a way that He retains forever His mercy seat. In doing so He is able to hold us accountable for our actions while offering us mercy according to *the conditions of repentance* while it is yet called *Today* (I John 1,2, Hebrews 3 & 4 with Matthew 25).

In summary, through His Spirit, our Lord works out His perfecting will within and through our lives, revealing His will and purposes for us (Philippians 2, I John 3, James 1, etc.). As members of His church (body), our duty before the Lord is to yield to His Lordship, to be His body through whom He performs His *good works* in this world today (Matthew 5 & 25, John 14, Colossians 1, etc.). Herein, Jesus said, is His Father glorified, that we bear much fruit, specifically the fruit of His Spirit (John 15 with Galatians 5). More on this topic may be found in the following links:

- Paul on Works
- [The Report Card](#)

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