

God Does the Fixin' (We Don't)

"How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?" – Galatians 3:3 (NLT)

"And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit." – 2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMPC)

"He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you." – Philippians 1:6 (AMPC)

Under this Covenant of Grace, God does not want us focused on our sins or the bad things we do, He wants us focused on what Jesus Christ has done; the good things that we were given credit for, at the Cross.

As we shift the focus away from our short-comings, to the Grace and Truth of Jesus, we realize that condemnation and guilt cannot live in, or occupy the space that the Truth of Jesus occupies. Then, we stop working so hard to not do bad things, and stop working so hard to do good things.

Instead, we are like a tree. A tree does not struggle to bear fruit, it does not strain and labor. It just happens naturally, because it is a tree. In the same way, when we accept and grow in our new identity in Jesus, and focus on Him instead of us, we will begin to bear good fruit (good deeds) without much effort. Now, if when a tree begins to grow new leaves, it happens to still have some dead leaves from a former season, the tree does not labor to cut off the old leaves. Instead, the sap, or life-blood, which flows to the branches, takes up the space where the dead leaves are, and the dead leaves just drop off.

Here are some additional Scriptures that support this topic:

"He refreshes and restores my life (my self). He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him—not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake." – Psalm 23:3 (AMPC)

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"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." – Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV)

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away (lifts up); and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." – John 15:2-3 (NKJV)

"Are you [so blind as to] trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repent (to change your mind and inner man to accept God's will)?"
– Romans 2:4 (AMPC)

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous." – Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

"For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren." – Romans 8:29 (AMPC)

"To the church (assembly) of God which is in Corinth, to those consecrated and purified and made holy in Christ Jesus, [who are] selected and called to be saints (God's people), together with all those who in any place call upon and give honor to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours." – 1 Corinthians 1:2 (AMPC)

"And He will establish you to the end [keep you steadfast, give you strength, and guarantee your vindication; He will be your warrant against all accusation or indictment so that you will be] guiltless and irreproachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)." – 1 Corinthians 1:8 (AMPC)

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"But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]."

– 1 Corinthians 1:30 (AMPC)

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

– 1 Corinthians 15:22 (NKJV)

"For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God." – Ephesians 2:8 (AMPC)

"Because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love." – Ephesians 4:16 (AMPC)

"Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light."

– Colossians 1:12 (AMPC)

"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." – Colossians 1:21-22 (NKJV)

"God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." – Colossians 1:27-28 (NKJV)

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"And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]."

– Colossians 2:10 (AMPC)

"You have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it."

– Colossians 3:10 (AMPC)

"And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)." – 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (AMPC)

"And God will use this persecution to show His justice and to make you worthy of His Kingdom, for which you are suffering." – 2 Thessalonians 1:5 (NLT)

"We can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit Who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth." – 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NLT)

"He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds." – Titus 2:14 (NLT)

"[And He did it in order] that we might be justified by His grace (by His favor, wholly undeserved), [that we might be acknowledged and counted as conformed to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action], and that we might become heirs of eternal life according to [our] hope." – Titus 3:7 (AMPC)

"So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters." – Hebrews 2:11 (NLT)

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"We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
– Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)

"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."
– Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

"And to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in heaven, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect." – Hebrews 12:23 (AMPC)

"Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]." – Jude 1:24 (AMPC)