



by Debbie Pruden



WHAT ARE OUR COMMANDS FOR GOOD WORKS

Hebrews 10:24 “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and **good deeds.**”

vs. 25 “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another;** and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

I Timothy 6:18 “Instruct them to **do good** to be **rich in good works,** to be **generous and ready to share.**”

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may **see your good works,** and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

I Corinthians 10:24 “Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.”

Colossians 1: 10 “So that you will walk a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respect, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God.”



WHAT DOES MY FLESH SAY ABOUT MY TIME AND ENERGIES

You deserve it.

You are so busy, you will go insane if you do all that.

Others have more resources to do that kind of thing.

That just isn't my personality.

I already am doing such and such
(gave at the office response).

I don't know how.

I took my turn.



HOW CAN I MAKE THIS REAL IN MY LIFE

Recognize God's incredible mercy toward you:

Romans 12:1 “Therefore I urge you brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship.”

See yourself as a servant: Philippians 2:3,4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Follow the Lord as your example: James 1:22 “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hears who delude themselves.” I Corinthians 5:15 “And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

Ask for strength: Isaiah 40:29 “He gives strength to the weary”, Psalm 27:14 “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Cling to Bible promises: Proverbs 3:5,6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Psalm 16:11 “In your presence is fullness of joy.”





WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE

Acts 28: a display of extraordinary kindness.

There are 276 people in a sail boat during a terrible storm. They are afraid for their lives. Paul speaks on the 14th day and says “Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for you preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish.” Before the trip we see in 27:23 that he spoke with the angel of God and was standing on His promise to him that even though circumstances were very much to the contrary Paul knew he would be delivered. In the middle of a storm (vs. 25) Paul is being a comfort to others. They run into a reef and swim to the shore of an island. It is cold and rainy. The natives build them a fire. Even Paul helps in the gathering of the sticks. They end up staying three months and said when they left, the people of the island “supplied us with all we needed.”

There is not always time to put it on the schedule. Sometimes it makes me and my family uncomfortable. It can stretch your resources. It may become more involved than you first realized. The circumstances around it may look very grim.



WE'RE IN A BATTLE

Don't think the battle is over until it's over.

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.”

What can discourage us from being zealous about getting involved in good works?

Defeats of the past
Our health
Fear of the future
Looking at others
Selfish wants





REWARD!

II Kings 20:1-11: Hezekiah recounted his good deeds upon his sick bed and obtained Gods favor in doing so.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 16:27 “He will reward each according to his works.”

Ephesians 6:8 “knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.”

Mark 9:41 “For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.”

Matthew 6:3,4 “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man, according to what he has done.



WHY AT THIS TIME IN MY LIFE? OR AM I PATTERN STATUS?



Prov.16:31 “A gray head is a crown of glory;
Titus 2:7 “In all things showing thyself a **pattern of good works**, (down to vs. 8) having no evil thing to say of you.”
vs. 14 “**zealous of good works.**”

Our verses for this class tell us to “teach the younger women.” One of the most effective ways we can teach them is to simply be that pattern they can look to for example.



MY PRAYER

“Lord, help me to do great things as though they were little, since I do them with Your power;
and little things as though they were great
since I do them in Your name.”

-Blaise Pascal