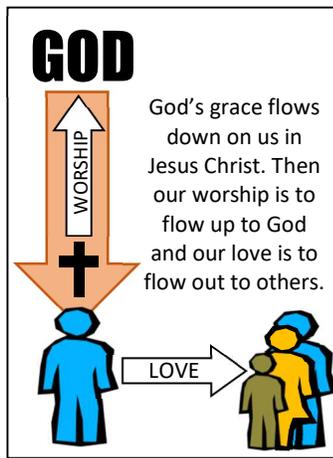




Lesson 9

# GOOD WORKS: SHINING THE LIGHT

*Good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruit and evidence of a true and living faith. By them believers show their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance of salvation, edify their brothers in the Lord, and become ornaments of all those who profess the gospel. Good works in believers silence the criticism of the enemies of the gospel. They also glorify God by showing that believers are the workmanship and creation of Jesus Christ, because their aim is that holiness of living which leads to eternal life. Believers get the ability to do good works entirely from the Spirit of Christ. [Matthew 5:16; John 15:1-17; Romans 6:15-23; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17; Titus 2:1-15; James 2:18; 1 Peter 1:5-10; 2:9-17; 1 John 2:3-6] —Westminster Confession of Faith XVI (1647)*



The Great Commission flows out of the Great Commandment. We are called to love God and love others (Matt. 22:36-40). Loving others begins with our physical and spiritual families and then reaches out to others who do not know Jesus. We are Christ's witnesses to the world, shining His light wherever we go, showing His love to whom-ever we meet, and sharing His good news whenever we can.

- We are not saved \_\_\_\_\_ good works but \_\_\_\_\_ good works.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

—Ephesians 2:8-10

- We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ for good works as God's people.

*He gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

—Titus 2:14

- We are to shine the light of Christ through our good works so that the world may \_\_\_\_\_ and may \_\_\_\_\_.

*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

—Matthew 5:16

*It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

*Paul states: "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Implied in his words is the notion of evangelism as a process.*

—Steve Sjogren

*God alone knows our good works; all we know is His good work.*

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Good works are not the cause of our salvation; good works are the evidence of our salvation. Faith in Christ always results in good works.*

—Ibrahim Emile

*If we give God service it must be because He gives us grace. We work for Him because He works in us.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

*For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them.*

—Augustine (354-430)

*God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.*

—Martin Luther (1483-1546)

## THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:25-37)

**The Question:** What shall I \_\_\_\_\_ to inherit eternal life? (10:25)

**The Answer:** Love \_\_\_\_\_ and love your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.  
“Do this and you shall live” (10:26-28).

**The Justification:** “Who is my neighbor?” Whom do I have to love?  
What are the limits? What are the exceptions? (10:29)

### The Parable:

*The Traveler*

*The Muggers*

*The Priest & the Levite*

*The Samaritan*

*The Question.* “Which of these three acted as a neighbor?” (10:36)

Jesus turns the question from “who is \_\_\_\_\_ to me?” (whom do I have to love?) to “am I \_\_\_\_\_ to others in need?” (am I a loving person?).

A person filled with the love of God is one who...

- \_\_\_\_\_ differently (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-16).
- \_\_\_\_\_ differently (cf. Matt. 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34).
- \_\_\_\_\_ differently (cf. Titus 3:1-8; 1 John 3:16-18).

**The Application:** “Go and do likewise” (10:37)

### Walking the God-Centered Path This Week

- Pray that Jesus would give you His eyes this week to see people around you as made in the image of God and for whom He died.
- Practice a “random act of kindness” this week.
- Discuss with your family, your friends, or your community group a particular project that you could do to be a blessing to others.
- Complete the Lesson 10 study on *Evangelism: Sharing the Gospel*.

**Lawyer.** Greek, *nomikos*, “an expert in the Mosaic Law.”

*The Jews split hairs over this command and excluded from “neighbor” Gentiles and Samaritans. So here was his loop-hole. The Jews made racial exceptions as many, alas, do today.* —A.T. Robertson

*The Ten Commandments were given to people who were already sinners. The purpose of the law is not to save from sin, but to produce the knowledge of sin. The function of the law is to show man what a guilty sinner he is.*

—William MacDonald

**Robbers.** Greek, *lestes*, “one who robs through open violence or force.” Different from *kleptes*, “one who robs covertly.”

*The Lord tells him that he ought to be a neighbor to any man and every man in need.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

*Samaritans were despised and hated by Jews [cf. John 8:48]. This story would have seemed impossible to a Jewish audience.*

—Hampton Keathley IV

*Oil soothed the victim’s wounds, and wine disinfected them.*

—Joachim Jeremias

*Two denarii would have paid for the injured man’s room and board for anywhere from three weeks to two months.*

—John MacArthur, Jr.

*Jesus reversed the question the expert in religious law asked to one of becoming a neighbor by loving. “Do not think about who they are, but who you are,” was His reply.*

—The NET Bible