

Tree of Life! Part 4: "Good Works!"

Looking at the Tree of Life... "He is the true vine and His Father is the planter! **John 15.1** "We are His branches and if we abide in Him, and Him in us, we will bear much fruit!" **v5** "If we abide in His words we will be like trees planted by rivers of living water that bear fruit and whose vitality doesn't wither! **Ps 1.2,3**

He came to save the world and make disciples! And those who believe on Him, *as the scripture says*, out of their bellies will flow rivers of living water. **John 7.38** Each one of us, *living in Jesus*, becomes a source of spiritual provision, refreshing, and life! Think about that promise uttered to a people in a land of desert and rock... And for our dry and thirsty world!

Jesus disciplined by living out His values! He modeled and spoke about living to do God's will rather than His own! **John 4.34, 5.30, 6.38, 7.16, 8.26** He modeled love, care, service and teaching... to keep God's name before them and keep them in His name! **John 17.12, 26 18.9** He modeled a rightly ordered family dynamic! **Luke 2.40ff John 2.1ff Gen 1.28 Eph 5.21-6.4 Col 3.18-21 1Pet 3.1-12 Titus 1.6 1Tim 3.4, 4.12, 5.4-8,14 2Tim 2.22 Matt 19.4-9,12 1Cor 7.1,2,9, 32 Mark 3.32-35 Luke 8.21**

Punctuating the "right order" by believing in Him as the scripture says... "Those who hear the word of God and do it... are rightly ordered with Me!"

Have you been thinking about it...? Did you look at your family dynamics, comparing them to His words? Are you going to hear and do something with His will or be a hearer only? **Jam 1.22** Men resolving, women respecting, parents nurturing, kids obeying, singles behaving, adult-kids honoring, peers relating... all submitting in love! Are you going to keep God's name before them and keep them in His name? **John 17.12,26 18.9**

Looking at the Tree of Life... To add His 'value' of good works!

"Let me tell you how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power, who went *around doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil for God was with Him!*" **Acts 10.38** "For this purpose was the son of God manifested, *to destroy the works of the devil!*" **1John 3.8** "He that sanctifies and those who are sanctified are one... and *Jesus became one of us to destroy him who had the power of death, the devil... to liberate captives and to be merciful in things pertaining to God!*" **Hebrews 2.11-15**

Doing Good... Not really capable of sustaining "good works" aside from Holy Spirit power!

Good works! Not kalos: common, or, agathos: beautiful, ergon: well spent energies... But, euergetes: philanthropic works! Jesus went around, sourced by the Holy Spirit, *doing philanthropic works, of spirit and substance, to all who were oppressed by the devil!* **And we should be doing the same! Works of spirit and substance!**

Nothing says "love" like something from the heart, to relieve suffering and oppression!

Good Works... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. **Matthew 5.16** Not bragging about the gifts you give! But affirming that the fruit of the Tree of Life is part of your lifestyle! We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2.10** God “fit” us for good works! Charge them... to do good, to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. **1Timothy 6.18,19** ‘Wealthy’ in good works! The scripture is given by God... so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **2Timothy 3.16.17** What we need is found in the word! In all things show yourself to be a pattern of good works... **Titus 2.7** Jesus gave himself for us, to redeem and purify a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **2.14** Affirm constantly that those who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable. **3.8** Let ours learn to maintain good works for necessary purposes so that they aren’t unfruitful. **3.14** Meeting urgent needs of others!

Good Works...! Are evidently one of Jesus core values! He lived His core values to make disciples! When was the last time for you? Today, for your family? Of course! But that’s natural, expected and *reciprocal!* What about the supernatural kind!

“If you do good to them which do good to you, what thanks do you have? Even sinners do the same.” Luke 6.33

Luke 6.27-40 Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful... The disciple is not above his master but everyone that is ‘completing, adjusting, joining’ will be like his master! –Jesus, Manifesto

Good Works... Must be charitable! “Love,” His love, launches the process! Good works, w/out love, profits nothing! “Though I exercise gifts, have faith to move mountains, and good works to the laying down my life, without love it profits me nothing!” **1Cor 13.1-3** Today, many feel “accomplished” by giving to charities... The object is not “how I feel” but how it helps another person!

Must be equitable! As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” **Galatians 6.10** But too often we only hear “household!” Or, our best friends! People we like! And we can and should help our loved ones and friends! **Jesus: “But even sinners do that!”** Love and do good... and you will be the children of the Highest for He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Be merciful as your Father is also merciful! **Luke 7.35,36**

Must be plentiful! Not only because loved and not-so-much are a large group of people... “ALL!” But because we want to be like Him! He went around doing good, *and healing all who were oppressed of the devil for God was with Him!* **Acts 10.38**

There are a lot of oppressed, depressed, suppressed, people in our worlds, who need to see the light of our good works... because they will glorify God for them... *and He will respond!*

Let’s grip our faith without wavering and let’s provoke one another to love and good works! **Hebrews 10.24,25**