

Faith and Good Works

by Clement of Rome

Faith is the means by which God justifies men and grants blessings, and we should strive to live a Christian life by doing good works with a whole heart.

Scripture: Genesis 22:9, Genesis 28:13, Romans 4:2, Ephesians 2:8, Ephesians 2:10, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 11:8, James 2:17

Topics: "Faith And Works", "Justification By Faith"

Description

Clement of Rome emphasizes the importance of seeking God's blessings as our primary objective, following the examples of faith displayed by our forefathers like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These patriarchs were blessed not by their own efforts, but by their faith and obedience to God's will. Clement reminds us that our justification comes through faith in Christ, not by our own works or virtues. He encourages believers to eagerly engage in good works and Christian love, recognizing that even the Creator delights in His works and calls us to fulfill His will with dedication and strength.

Transcript

God's blessing must be our objective, and the way to win it our study. Search the records of ancient times. Why was our father Abraham blessed? Was it not because his upright and straightforward conduct was inspired by faith? As for Isaac's faith, it was so strong that, assured of the outcome, he willingly allowed himself to be offered in sacrifice. Jacob had the humility to leave his native land on account of his brother, and go and serve Laban. He was given the twelve tribes of Israel.

Honest reflection upon each of these examples will make us realise the magnitude of God's gifts. All the priests and levites who served the altar of God were descended from Jacob. The manhood of the Lord Jesus derived from him. Through the tribe of Judah, kings, princes and rulers sprang from him. Nor are his other tribes without their honour, for God promised Abraham: "Your descendants shall be as the stars of heaven".

It is obvious, therefore, that none of these owed their honor and exaltation to themselves, or to their own labors, or to their deeds of virtue. No; they owed everything to God's will. So likewise with us, who by his will are called in Christ Jesus. We are not justified by our wisdom, intelligence, piety, or by any action of ours, however holy, but by faith, the one means by which God has justified men from the beginning. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

What must we do then, brothers? Give up good works? Stop practicing Christian love? God forbid! We must be ready and eager for every opportunity to do good, and put our whole heart into it. Even the Creator and Lord of the universe rejoices in his works. By his supreme power he set the heavens in their place; by his infinite wisdom he gave them their order. He separated the land from the waters surrounding it and made his own will its firm foundation. By his command he brought to life the beasts that roam the earth. He created the sea and all its living creatures, and then by his power set bounds to it. Finally, with his own holy and undefiled hands, he formed man, the highest and most intelligent of his creatures, the copy of his own image. "Let us make man", God said, "in our image and likeness. And God made man, male and female he made them". Then, when he had finished making all his creatures, God gave them his approval and blessing: "Increase and multiply", he charged them.

We must recognize, therefore, that all upright men have been graced by good works, and that even the Lord himself took delight in the glory his works gave him. This should inspire us with a resolute determination to do his will and make us put our whole strength into the work of living a Christian life.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/clement-of-rome/faith-and-good-works/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net