

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV)

In other words, the things we do will not earn for us our salvation. But it is because of our salvation, our faith in Jesus Christ, that **we want to** do the good works that God instills in us because we are now a part of His family. I think these verses are very clear, that our works will never be adequate to earn our ticket into Heaven. Specifically so we cannot brag to anyone about what we've done.

It can be hard to remember this when we get caught up in our daily lives. When we grow weary and finally take a moment to pray, we may find ourselves reasoning with God, asking for his favor on our prayers as we give him a list of the 'work' we did on his behalf that week. "I gave money to the church, I helped in the nursery, I taught the small group last Wednesday."

Thankfully, God doesn't think like we do. His ways are not our ways, his thoughts, are not our thoughts. Oh, how I wish my thoughts could be like his. What we do for God's kingdom is so very important, but not if they're done with selfish motives. I know God blesses us and the things we do, when they are done out of love for others and for Him.

I have spent most of my life trying so hard to be loved and accepted by others. I assume this comes from what I experienced to be rejection from my parents, my siblings, close friends, my ex-spouse, and even in my job. I've never felt like I was able to 'measure up', by anyone else's standards.

Even though I know that I know that I know works will not grant me access into anything, I have believed that **my works**, especially, could never be good enough, because I will never be good enough. It's only by God's grace that I'm even breathing. It's like being the last pick in a ball game. I'm just grateful to be on the team, even if I was the last pick. But fearing at any moment, I'll get kicked out for not being good enough. Last one in, first one out.

When feeling defeated, this is where my thoughts lie. I try every day to do the right things, say the right things, practice my faith inwardly and outwardly. But there is always a small voice (the enemy) telling me I'm just one slip-up away from being discarded or worse, abandoned. My friends, this is a very scary place to be.

When I'm feeling stronger, and **I remember to whom I belong**, I feel invincible. I feel God's favor with me, and I am filled with joy, truly. My heart is full of worship and awe of who God is, and I'm sure that I have a purpose, and want to do all I can for Jesus. This is where I would like to stay, forever.

Try not to get caught up in your work for God. Focus more on your relationship with him, and everything else will fall into place. He knows we struggle, and like children, we seek rewards for the things we do well. **I want to learn how to love well.** I don't think I'm very good at it, but I'm still a work in progress.

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Blessings,

Lisa Jo

[Chris Tomlin - Is He Worthy? \(Live\)](#)