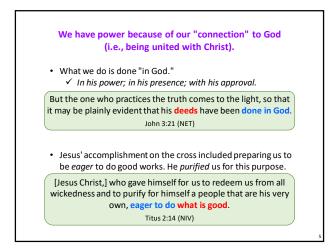


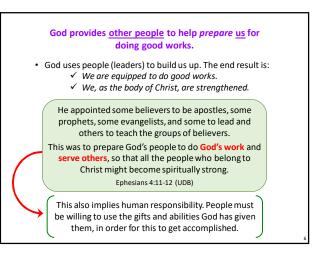


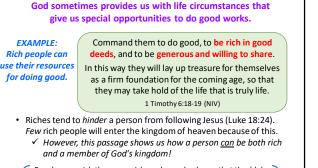
## God empowers us to do good works.

- This does not cancel *our responsibility* to <u>choose</u> to do the good works. Rather, it explains *why* we are capable of doing them.
   Without God's gracious (undeserved) empowerment, we, *by nature*, don't do works that are good (taking into consideration both the actions and the motives).
- It's all part of what happens when we come under the New Covenant (Hebrews 10:16). It's the result of being changed into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:20). It's what happens when we put on the new self (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10).
- Paul experienced a wide variety of life circumstances. Here is how he had the power to respond in a *good* way in all of them:

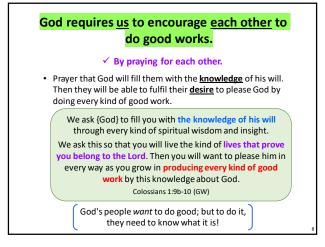
I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13 (BSB)







People may wish they were rich, and may daydream that they'd do many good things with those riches. But don't use that as an excuse! Such circumstances are NOT a prerequisite for doing good works! In fact, many <u>poor</u> people do more good than most <u>rich</u> people. They may have their own special opportunities that the rich don't have.



 Prayer that God will provide them with the <u>power</u> to accomplish the good things they desire to do.

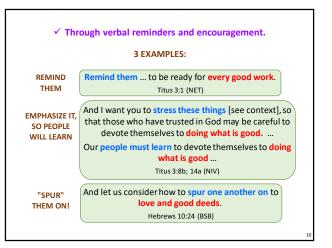
So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

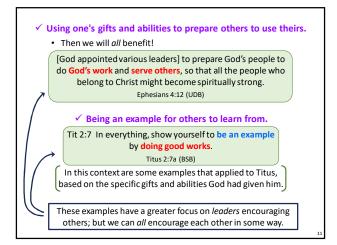
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NLT)

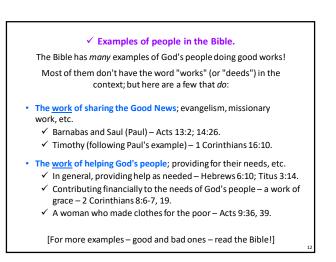
Since they are following Jesus, they *have* this desire. They also know that God's grace made it possible.

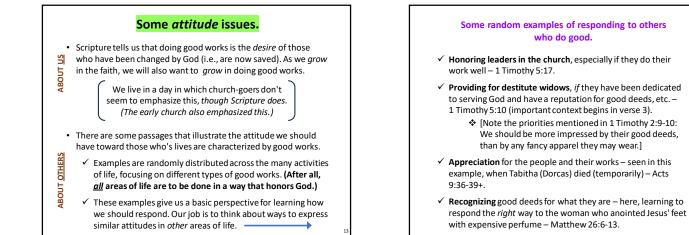
Prayer that God will <u>encourage</u> and <u>strengthen</u> them in those works.
 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father ...
 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good

word and deed. 2 Thessalonians 2:16a, 17 (BSB)







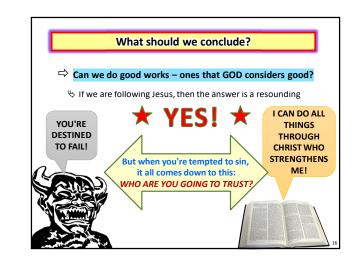


- ✓ Gratitude, thankfulness to God for what others do 2 Corinthians 9:12 (because they were helping the poor Christians in Jerusalem); 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (because their lives were characterized by works, the result of their faith and love).
- ✓ Submitting to leaders who serve you 1 Corinthians 16:16.
   (Don't make doing God's work difficult for them!)

## What about those who *claim* to be saved, but *don't* do good works?

## Don't do *anything* that encourages them to stay that way! Don't even *feed* them, if doing so will reinforce their sin!

- ✓ Applied to lazy busybodies, who would rather sponge off the good works of *others*, than work to take care of *themselves* – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; also 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.
- ✓ Applied to pleasure-seeking widows, who want to be fed by the church − 1 Timothy 5:3-10.



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Do what you have the power to do!

Do you **TRUST** God, who *promised* you the <u>power</u> to do good works ... and even prepared the <u>opportunities</u> for you to do them?

Your mission:

THIS TRUST – for doing good works – IS THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF *GENUINE* FAITH!