

Good

There is doing right. And then there is doing Good. Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. Galatians 2:16. So What is being or doing Good? How does the Bible help us with this question and guide us?

Well to start with one cannot begin to understand this without the help of the Holy Spirit. For to know what is Good one truly needs to be transformed in God's eyes. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2. We need the Lord's presence and blessings to understand and to do what's Good. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! 1 Chronicles 16:11. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8. For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

But what actually is Good and how would one know that? The closest answer one possibly could get to, from a practical point of view is this verse from Matthew 7:12- "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Or perhaps this verse- Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23. For anything you do in the Lord's name and for him is bound to be good. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10. Doing good is further explained in the Bible as seeking justice or fighting oppression or helping the needy- Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Isaiah 1:17. And as we saw in the chapter on Eternal Life, Jesus Christ gave us this direction about doing good- And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." Luke 10:25-37. Strive for

peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14

The Bible often answers issues from the other angle. In this case what you shouldn't do, so you are in the good, is very important too. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3**. This is a key lesson on what you can do to ensure being in the Good- keeping the interest of others. As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. **1 Timothy 6:17-19**. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. **Proverbs 3:27-28**. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. **James 4:17**

How would one know that they are doing Good? To start with one would never feel ashamed of doing good. And anything good need not be hidden. Doing good will make the person shine in God's glory. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:28**. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. **Matthew 7:16-20**. Your good deeds and thoughts are the fruit of your deep faith and loving relationship in God and you will be known by them. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, **Titus 2:7**. To make it even simpler and plain, God gave this direction for doing good- Let all that you do be done in love. **1 Corinthians 16:14**

Being good is about living your faith. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **James 2:14-17**. Do not neglect to

do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:18. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Psalm 37:3 Living a life by faith equips one to do good. That the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:17 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15. And being in the company of those who do good leads you in that direction. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, Hebrews 10:24. Obedience and being supportive of others is a key aspect of doing good. Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, Titus 3:1.

And in the end it is worth reminding of what Jesus himself said about being Good? And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. Luke 18:19. Absolute goodness lies with God. What we humans can do is to strive in the direction of being good. And never get tired of it. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9. The following verse from Peter sums up why we should be doing Good always- Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:13-17 And God cautions us from not getting distracted from the Good too. Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare. Proverbs 22:24-25. Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 1 Corinthians 15:33