

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY QUOTES ON OUR PART IN GETTING VICTORY OVER SIN

Table of Contents

WE MUST COOPERATE WITH CHRIST IN THE WORK OF SALVATION..... 1
GOOD WORKS ARE NECESSARY THROUGHOUT OUR SANCTIFICATION 2
GOOD WORKS ARE NECESSARY IN SANCTIFICATION..... 3
RIGHT-DOING BY FAITH RETAINS OUR JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION..... 4

WE MUST COOPERATE WITH CHRIST IN THE WORK OF SALVATION

In our endeavor to obtain salvation we must cooperate with divine agencies. There is a certain work that we must engage in, certain tasks that we must perform in order to place ourselves in harmony with the divine so that Christ can do for us that which He is willing and waiting to impart to us.

God has created us free moral agents. This means that He respects our will, our desires, and the choices that we make. He does not interfere with them, set them aside or override them if we are intent upon having our own way. He allows us to act out our desires wherever they may lead unless we pray that His will rather than ours be done in our lives. This means that God's interaction with our will is secondary. That is, it takes place only if the primacy of our desires acquiesces in God's will for us. He will lead us if we allow Him to lead us and place our lives in His hands. There exists a divine principle of cooperation between us and God which is stated as follows:

"While God was working in Daniel and his companions 'to will and to do of His good pleasure,' they were working out their own salvation. Herein is revealed the outworking, of the divine principle of cooperation, without which no true success can be obtained. Human effort avails nothing' without divine power; and without human endeavor, divine effort is with many of no avail. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do. But never as a substitute for our effort." Prophets and Kings" 486-487.

1. "No man can of himself work out his own salvation, and God cannot do this work for him without his cooperation. But when man works earnestly, God works with him, giving him power to become a son of God." 6 Testimonies, 372.'
2. "We must make more earnest decided efforts, if we would have the Lord Jesus abide with us as our counselor and helper." 1 Selected Messages, 319.
3. The Lord does not propose to do for us either the willing or the doing. This is our proper work. As soon as we earnestly enter upon the work, God's grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort. Our souls are to be aroused to cooperate: The Holy Spirit, works the human agent to work out our own salvation. This is the practical lesson the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us. The whole work of the Christian is comprised in willing and doing." Testimonies to Ministers, 240, 241.
4. "Let no man present the idea that man has little, or nothing to do in the great work of overcoming; for God does nothing without man's cooperation. "1 Selected Messages, 381."

5. "Let no man say that our works have nothing to do with our rank and position before God . . . Effort and labor are required on the part of the receiver of God's grace." 1 Selected Messages, 381.'

6. "Earthly blessings cannot be obtained without toil, and can we expect that spiritual and heavenly blessings will come without effort on our part?" 1 Selected Messages, 359.

7. Now we want that faith. But will man be saved in indolence? Can he be saved in doing nothing? Never, never! He must be a colaborer with Jesus Christ. He cannot save himself. "We are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). {FW 71}

8. " but they say that Christ has borne all the burden, all the suffering, all the self-denial, and they are willing to let Him bear it. They say that there is nothing for them to do but to believe; but Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). . . . {Mar 236.4}

GOOD WORKS ARE NECESSARY THROUGHOUT OUR SANCTIFICATION

In the exercise of faith we must faithfully work to bring forth fruit. This is indicated in the following statements:

1. "We are to do all we can on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to organize to enter in at the straight gate. In one way we are thrown upon our own energies; we are to strive earnestly to be zealous and to repent, to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts from every defilement. . The Bible teaches that everything regarding our salvation (all phases) depends upon our own course of action. If we perish, the responsibility rests wholly upon ourselves. . If we accept God's terms, we may lay hold on eternal life . . Faith and works go hand in hand; they act harmoniously in the work of overcoming. Works without faith is dead; faith without works is dead." Faith and Works, 48. "

2. "It is an error to believe that since by grace alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption (sanctification and glorification)." Steps to Christ, 60.

3. "He who is trying to reach heaven (glorification) by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without obedience. But his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure." 1 Selected Messages, 364.

4. "Some say that Christ has borne all the burden, all the suffering, all the self-denial, and they are willing to let Him bear it. They say that there is nothing for them to do but believe; but Christ says: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Matthew 16:24.

5. "If you say 'I am saved' and disregard the commandments of God, you will be eternally lost." 1 Selected Messages, 318.

6. "When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up the deficiency , with His own divine merit." Faith and Works, 50.

7. "Can a man be saved (sanctified) in doing nothing? Never, never. He must be a colaborer with Christ. He cannot save himself. "We are laborers together with God." 1 Corinthians 3:9.

8. "Earthly blessings cannot be obtained without toil, and can we expect that spiritual and heavenly blessings will come without effort on our part?" 1 Selected Messages, 359.

9. "When we have prayed for something we are to do our best to have it come to pass." 4 Testimonies, 115.

10. "Those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin, will be disappointed." 1 Selected Messages, 336.

11. "Engaging in the struggle here below--work out your own salvation--strain every muscle and train every faculty:" Review and Herald April, 28, 1910.

12. "WE should not wait for God to do for us what we can do for ourselves." My Life Today, 119.

13. "We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works. Jesus says: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." 1 Selected Messages, 397.

14. "Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Through faith the Holy Spirit works in the heart to create holiness therein; but this cannot be done unless the human agent will work with Christ." 1 Selected Messages, 374. .

15. "Apart from Christ no one can do good works. . Faith and works go together, believing and doing are blended." 1 Selected Messages, 373.

16. "Although the good works of man are of no more value without faith in Jesus than was the offering of Cain, yet covered with the merit of Christ they testify to the worthiness of the doer to inherit eternal life (glorification)." 1 Selected Messages, 382.

17. "The condition of eternal life (glorification) is now what it has always been. . Perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness." Steps to Christ, 62.

18. "The Lord will receive the sinner when he repents and forsakes his sins so that he can work with his efforts in seeking perfection of character (sanctification)" 5 Testimonies, 631.

19. "Faith and works are two oars which are to be used equally." Welfare Ministry, 316.

GOOD WORKS ARE NECESSARY IN SANCTIFICATION

Bearing fruit means practicing the truths of God in our own lives so that others may obtain the benefits of our justification and sanctification, and are helped toward their own justification or salvation. Sanctification means to believe the truth and to practice it (My Life Today, 261).

Unless the life-giving truths of God's word are faithfully carried out in the life, no man can see the kingdom of heaven (glorification) (faith and Works. 32).

The works that we should do are the works in which the Holy Spirit is our guide and helper. They should be works in which the Holy Spirit cooperates with us. "Man cannot be saved (sanctified) without obedience, but his works should not be of himself. Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure, ' (1 Selected Messages, 364).

The word 'saved' here means sanctified because obedience to all of the commandments comes during sanctification. Education, 7.

So we find that there are conditions to our receiving justification and sanctification and the righteousness of Christ. . **While good works will not even save one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works' (1 Selected Messages, 377).**

While good works will not even save one soul' means in justification, and 'it is impossible for even one soul to be saved' means sanctification. Works of faith are involved in obeying God's law, for 'obedience to the law of God is sanctification' (Faith and Works, 85). By obedience the truth will sanctify the soul and will help us overcome all weakness of character.

"It is the work of conversion (which here means justification) and sanctification to reconcile men to God by bringing them in accord with the principles of His law (Great Controversy, 461).

Sanctification is a progressive work. It is not attained in an hour, or a day, and then maintained without any special effort on our part (2 Testimonies 472).

Continual growth in grace takes effort, and can be achieved only by daily conformity to God (4 Testimonies, 299).

Even with Christ living within us through His Holy Spirit such conformity is not automatic. It takes earnest, decided effort on our part if we would have the Lord Jesus abide with us as counsellor and helper (1 Selected Messages, 319).

The reason for this is that God has given us freedom of choice and a will. He never overrides these against our will. So the initiative in staying with Christ resides in us. God never forces the will. -Great Controversy, 591.

RIGHT-DOING BY FAITH RETAINS OUR JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

An individual who has been justified will now do good works in order to develop the perfection of his character, his sanctification. When we spoke of an individual not being saved by works we were referring to his initial contact with Christ or his justification. After an individual has been justified he must become sanctified. This means that he must develop his character unto higher and ever higher levels of perfection or sanctification. Hence the works which he does during sanctification are works which not only sanctify him, but these same works also maintain his justification or justify him. This is the reason why the Bible speaks of persons being justified by their works, while it also speaks of individuals not being justified by works. This means that only justified persons, only sanctified persons, only believers who have placed their faith in Christ can be justified by works. It means that the works which sanctify also justify, and that the works which justify also sanctify. This principle is made clear in the following statements:

1. "In order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience through active living faith that works by love and purifies the soul:"-1 Selected Messages, 366.
2. "The Christian cannot maintain sanctification without special effort on his part:"-2 Testimonies 472.
3. "We must make earnest decided efforts if we would have the Lord Jesus abide with us as our counsellor and helper." 1 Selected Messages, 319.
4. "Righteousness is obedience to the law. The sinner is incapable of rendering it . . . He can attain it only through faith. God places the obedience of the Son to the sinner's account and pardons and justifies the repentant sinner and treats him as though he were righteous. . . When we do our best He becomes our righteousness.
5. "Conversion (sanctification) may be viewed as a daily experience.
6. "Genuine faith will be manifested in good 'works for good works are the fruit of faith. . . The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul. . . Where faith is good works appear." 1 Selected Messages, 39.
7. "Faith will never save (sanctify and glorify) you unless it is justified by works." 2 Testimonies, 159.
8. "Christ came to the earth, taking humanity and standing as man's representative, to show in the controversy with Satan that man, as God created him, connected with the Father and the Son, could obey every divine requirement:" 7 Bible Commentary 926.
9. "Conversion brings man into a new relation with God." Our High Calling 215.
10. "When a man is converted, when he comes back to his allegiance to God, he then places himself in a right relation to Him, . . .whereby he will regain the moral image of his Maker." Review and Herald March 1, 1887.
11. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. Isaiah 59 :2.
12. "In Him was no guile or sinfulness; He was ever pure and undefiled; yet He took upon Him our sinful nature. Review and Herald Dec. 15, 1896.
13. "He [Judas] . . . did not become transformed, and converted through connection with the True Vine. This dry sapling adhered not to the Vine until it grew into a fruitful, living branch. He revealed that he was the graft that did not bear fruit,-the graft that did not, fiber by fiber and vein by vein, become knit with the Vine, and partake of its life." Sons and Daughters of God 291.
14. "A mere profession of godliness is worthless." Sons and Daughters of God 297. "like Judas, we may hold the truth in righteousness." Signs of the Times June 5, 1884.
15. "Repentance for sin is the first fruits of the working of the Holy Spirit in the Life." 6 Bible Commentary 1068.
16. "If you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today." In Heavenly Places 227.

17. "A knowledge of Christ will avail nothing unless we become like Him in character, bearing the same likeness, and representing His Spirit to the world. Christ is of no value to us unless He is formed within, the hope of glory. If we do not know Him as our personal Saviour, a theoretical knowledge will do us no good." That I May Know Him 107.
18. "It is through the tangible ingredients of relationship Bible study, prayer, and Christian witness--that we enter into relationship with Him and that we continue to abide in Him, as well. What will be the result? We will experience so close a relationship with Him that Jesus describes it as dwelling in Him, and He in us (See John 17:20-23)." "Ministry" magazine March, 1982, page 9.
19. "The Three Tangibles: Paul says in Philippians 2:12, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. " How do you work out your own salvation? What is your part? What can you do? Three things. The study of the Bible and spending time in prayer are the first two. The third is Christian witness. " To Know God 67..
20. "The purpose of the daily relationship with Christ is communication. If you maintain regular communication, you will have a relationship. " To Know God 52.
21. " . . Spending time together. It's just that simple. " To Know God 46..
22. "A mere assent to this union while the affections are not detached from the world, its pleasures and its dissipations, only emboldens the heart in disobedience." 5 Testimonies 232. "To claim union with Christ (one which is not genuine) hardens the heart in disobedience and self-confidence." 5 Testimonies 48..
23. "The hope which had been so precious to them lost its attractions; for the specious delusions of Satan almost wholly extinguished the light of salvation through the merits of a crucified Saviour, and men were led to seek to make an atonement through works of their own,-by fasts and penances, and through the payment of money to the church. It was more agreeable to the natural heart thus to seek justification than to seek it through repentance and faith, through belief in, and obedience to, the truth. Review and Herald Nov. 22,1892.
24. "The author of the book positively asserts that "if you enter into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and continue that relationship with Him from now until He comes again, He will do the rest." To Know God 40,101.
25. "if you continue the relationship with Jesus, sooner or later your sin is going to go. That's the way it works. That's the only way it works-" To Know God, 94.
26. "Those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin, will be disappointed." Maranatha, 227.