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WHAT ABOUT GOOD WORKS?

I always like it when someone does something nice for me without asking. It is a true blessing. Yet, many would do things to try to earn love from another person. That truly is manipulation, and anyone doing it should stop. Also, there are those people that demand that we do things to prove our love. That is manipulation also.

Many cults are “works” oriented. This means they believe if they do enough good, and it outweighs the bad, then God will be pleased with them. Some ways that they do this are knocking on doors, handing out magazines, and taking ridicule. Many also get caught up in works, hoping that doing all the right things at Church or for your family, but doing it out of guilt rather than motivated by the love for God.

In Ephesians 2:8-9 it tells us, ***“For by grace (undeserved favor) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*** Doing the right thing does not save us. We can never be good enough because of the sin nature inherited from Adam. We receive Christ through faith, and after receiving we do the right things out of love.

God wants us to do good works, but not to earn his love. His love is a free gift, given to all those that will receive it. Works come as a result of that love we have for God. We do it to please Him. Just like a husband or wife want to please each other, they do things for each other out of love.

If we have love for God, it is natural to do things for him. Just don't think it makes him love us any more than He does. He could never love us any more than He does, because He gave His ultimate gift when He gave us Jesus. There isn't any better gift of love. We will be rewarded for what we do with what He gives us, after we are saved, but it doesn't earn us salvation. Salvation is a free gift received by faith.

Are we love motivated or works motivated? I pray that all you do is out of love and not for “brownie” points. Those that have the wrong motivation will see those works burned up. They will still be saved but will have little if any reward. Let love be your motivation.