

Sermon Notes
Work Produced By Faith
May 22, 2022

1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The goal of this message is that the work that we do for God will be produced by our faith rather than by selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Luke 17:6 NIV

“He replied, ‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.’”

We don’t need to increase the amount of faith that we have. We just need to grow in the understanding of the faith that we have.

Faith is not a “work.” It does not merit salvation; it is only the means by which one accepts God’s free salvation. - Harold W. Hoehner, *“Ephesians,”* in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 624.

Romans 10:9-10 NIV

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Questions to Ask:

- Is the work that I’m engaged in produced by my faith?
- What is prompting me to do the work I am doing?
- Am I working because I see a need?
- Am I working to make myself feel better?
- Am I working to promote myself or for the approval of man?
- Am I working FOR God’s approval or FROM God’s approval?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

In the *Enduring Word Commentary* of Romans 12:1 David Guzik wrote, "You may do all kinds of work for God, but never give Him your *self*."

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' **23** And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Romans 12:3-8 NIV

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Galatians 2:20 NIV

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

We grow in our faith by offering ourselves as a living sacrifice to God, by thinking of ourselves with sober judgment, and by living each day by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. Then the work that we do for God will be produced by faith, our labor will be prompted by love, and we will have endurance because of our hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.