

1. His work for us:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

2. His work in us:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

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1. His work for us:

“Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (John 6:28-29).

So do we believe and have this saving faith in Christ? It will manifest itself for Jesus said: *“Therefore by their fruits you will know them”* (Matthew 7:20).

A saving faith not only believes that Jesus is the way but is committed to follow in the way. It must be a heart experience of the Lord, not merely a head knowledge.

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2. His work in us:

His purpose in saving us - *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Mat 5:16 NKJV) .

The example of our Lord - *“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do”* (John 17:4).

He perfectly completed the works prepared for Him by the Father (John 17:4)

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How can we know and do the works He has prepared for us?

The Holy Spirit produces His works in us as we meditate on His word and wait daily in His presence for His leading.

Am I totally committed? Can I say, **“Lord, all that I am and have is Yours.**

A prayer - Lord, what do you want me to do”? This was the secret of Paul’s life (Acts Ch. 9)

a. Since we live in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)

b. Let us walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)

b. Let us be led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18).

Do we have active works based on faith in Him? If so, He will lead us into the work He has for us.

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Do we have the fervency of first love?

The Thessalonians: *“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of*

hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father” (1 Thess. 1:3)

This is first love! Paul was there only three Sabbaths (Saturdays).

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess. 1:9-10) .

These Thessalonians were on fire for the Lord! There were no lost opportunities! “From you the word of the Lord has sounded out...” (1 Thess. 1:8).

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In contrast, the Ephesians had lost their way:

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left (abandoned) your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent” (Revelations 2:4-5).

They had abandoned or forsaken their first love. Perhaps life was good, they prospered materially. But they were not walking with the Lord. – not taking up the cross daily and following our Lord.

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They had forgotten His cleansing and purpose in saving them:

“...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:14).

So what are the marks of lost first love?

a. Eyes fixed on the temporal and material -

b. Failure to walk in the Spirit and do the works God had prepared for them

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The rewards of first love:

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We should be excited at the possibilities that daily come our way to serve the saints and to reach out to the lost.

Always be ready to give to anyone a reason for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).