

Father, we ask and pray that we be given the grace to be transformed into the image of your Son, Jesus. To serve as he served and walk as he walked. We ask for your grace to be able to humble ourselves to your word. And to transform our minds to come into agreement with your Word and out of agreement with the deceit of this fallen world. We thank you for this and thank you for supplying everything we need to overcome.
in Jesus name amen

Romans 5 **6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who **for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, -----.

How much Jesus loves us. Why do we allow the devil to bring condemnation, guilt and shame upon us? We hear the gospel, and believe by faith and realize that our sins are forgiven, and that God has made a way for us to be saved from this fallen world. At this point, when we first believe, all we have done is accept the good news and believe God, that he has made a way for us through Jesus Christ to be saved from eternal separation from God. There is a way back to God! There is hope! God is offering us a way back to the tree of life which was cut off from humanity when Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden. Jesus Christ is that way. To be saved we have done NOTHING but believe, even amidst the darkest sin, Jesus died for us all who believe. It's that simple. We start by faith. We believed God. We are forgiven. By grace, a gift, freely given and offered by God. Nothing needed on our part but to believe and repent ----- turn away from ungodliness. There is nothing we can add to this to get us more saved, all we can now do is continue in faith. Our walk with God begins with faith and continues with faith, it is all by faith, the works of man do not save us. Jesus saves us.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

We started in faith and our Lord wants us to continue in faith, and faith is what pleases God. Our fleshly good deeds help us to **prove to ourselves** (because **God already knows our heart**) that we have believed, but the works of our flesh are not faith. They are not what saves us. Jesus saved us. The things we do with our bodies and the things we do with the things we own, and the way we treat others help **assure us** that we have truly believed and are also a witness to those around us to help bring them also to know Jesus as their savior. Our actions help save others because it can help others see the truth of Gods power to change lives, through salvation in the name of Jesus Christ, because they see us, as believers change from a life of sin and many times

not nice people, into someone who begins to show love and compassion and forgiveness. It doesn't happen overnight but is a process. We begin as children in our faith and grow up into maturity in Jesus image **as we obey**. Others see evidence in our lives which can then in turn be used by the **Holy Spirit working** in us to bring others also into salvation. It doesn't save us more. It can witness to others though. And it **proves to ourselves** that we have believed. Faith without works is dead. If there is no change in our lives then most likely we are lacking faith or don't actually believe God at all **in our heart**. Without faith, we cannot please God. We are saved by faith.

Ephesians 2 **8** For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **9 Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

We are not saved by our works which come after we receive salvation. Our works later on are a witness to those around us to allow the Holy Spirit to draw those around us to Jesus also. To bring other lost souls to Jesus. Our works also help us sow a good harvest instead of an evil harvest so we can reap a good harvest instead of an evil harvest. Reaping and sowing is like the law of gravity, it exists, and as we sow good, we reap good. Instead of the evil we reaped before we knew Jesus. If we sow faith to God we reap a heavenly harvest. If we sow to the things of this world we reap things of this world. If we sow to the flesh (the fallen nature) we reap from a fallen world a fallen harvest! We want a harvest in heaven. Sow to God. Faith sows a heavenly harvest. If our faith sows to the nature and likeness of Jesus Christ. Jesus came as a servant and he sacrificed what he, in the flesh may have desired, for what God wanted him to do. He sacrificed himself for us. He sowed to God. He made the way for us. He wants to continue this work in us by us being like Him so that he can continue to minister to others through us. We must come into his likeness for Him to be able to do this.

Galatians 6 **7** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. **9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.** **10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We see our good works do not save us, but we reap a harvest from God who rewards those that seek him. It does not save us but it has rewards from God, not only in this world but eternally. When we see it this way pride is removed because we are the ones receiving from God, we are not striving **for** Him. We are **not striving** but **serving**, the motive is different. Also it is a witness to others, and a proof of our faith. It assures us.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the **word of their testimony**; -----.

We by faith and by being lead by the Holy Spirit are lead to do good works because good works will come as we begin to walk in love as we obey the principles that Jesus left us. We build up a **testimony** which helps us to overcome. As we obey, God rewards us and we begin to have a testimony that acts like a foundation for us in **assurance** that God rewards our obedience to his Word and is faithful. Our hope in Him grows stronger and stronger. We walk as Jesus walked and as we grow in Him from glory to glory, more and more, day by day, into His image, as the Holy Spirit who is our helper and comforter leads and guides us. Remember God will not allow us to earn our way to heaven. Good works have rewards and blessings of many kinds but do not in themselves add to our salvation. If we do good works in order to earn our way to heaven we are

being fooled. The good works will come naturally to us as we are transformed into Jesus image and walk as he walked. He came as a servant and he operated in faith. He spoke in faith and brought things that are unseen and not a part of this natural world to be. It wasn't works of his flesh, it was works of faith operating through the Holy Spirit. He didn't run around doing his own thing, he did what he saw his Father doing. How did he see? In the Spirit. He knew the Word. he believed God. He **proved he believed** by his faith in the things that he did. He **proved he had faith** by the things he did which the flesh cannot do. Bringing the unseen into reality. If he had done nothing, then it would be said he had not faith. Faith without works is dead! His faith was justified by the things he did. He spoke the word and believed it and brought it to pass. Works of faith.

Hebrews 11 **1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

John 5 19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will **shew** thee my faith **by my works**.

Our works and deeds simply prove that we have faith. If we run around doing good works thinking it will save us and get us to heaven we are being deceived. We are saved by faith alone! In Jesus, He is the one who overcame! The good works are the result of the changes that the Holy Spirit is bringing about in our hearts and minds and souls as we follow Him and are lead by Him. The good works are the result of the love of God in us, the Holy Spirit, as we obey, forgiving and not judging, not pointing at others faults, resisting evil, turning from lust of all kinds and covetousness and idolatry and contention. Jesus is **more interested in relationship** with us at the beginning than for us to prove what nice people we are all of a sudden by our own nice deeds.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

We need to **seek God first** in relationship before we start relying on what **we think** is right. If we don't do this we are **striving instead of serving**. It is **earning** instead of **Gods grace**. We cannot earn salvation. Jesus wants to serve **through us**, Him in us, **His works of service** through us. If our nice deeds are not motivated by Love, by the Holy Spirit in us, if they are not done through the Holy Spirit, through Gods love which is selfless and expects nothing in return, then it may be a work of the flesh and be carnal(not of God). God wants us to do these things through relationship with him. Being lead by the Spirit and not lead by condemnation or fear or the need to perform for God. It is by grace we are saved. Gods love is self sacrificing and full of humility. The good deeds are an outpouring of this attitude, the **attitude of a servant** and the Spirit of Love which is provided by God. Being a servant to others takes a lot of humility. Our flesh hates to be a servant to others. satan hates it because Love overcomes him. He hates it when we love God more than ourself and him. We are no longer worshipping him when we serve others and not ourself. Serving others is what Jesus showed us and that is what the apostles in the early church showed us. They were teaching us to serve others. To serve the body of Jesus. The church.

It becomes a witness to the world when we allow Jesus to reign in our mortal bodies. Serving is the absolute reverse to the nature of satan and we do not want him as our father any more. We hate his image now and cast self exaltation of every kind down, and so cast him down under our feet where Jesus has put him. Avoid his ways and avoid contention of every kind.

Romans 16 [17](#) Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.** [18](#) For they that are such **serve not our Lord Jesus Christ**, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. [19](#) For your **obedience** is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. [20](#) And the God of peace **shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

If we are contentious and fault finding we are actually servants of satan. It would be false humility to think we have humility if we find ourself in contention and division with others. God says avoid such. We avoid satan who is **working in such people** and **avoid being** such a person ourself lest we allow satan to work through us to **cause others to stumble**. Causing them to become offended because of **our lack of love toward them**. We are continually turning from satan's ways, his arrogance and pride and allowing the Holy Spirit to give us **grace** to serve others. To give a **testimony** to others to be able to **see the love of God**. It can be a big struggle to remove ourselves **off the throne of our life** and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us with **His works**. To die to self. To live to God. To serve and sacrifice as our Lord did. The way.

Matthew 7 [22](#) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23](#) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

We can do many wonderful things, signs, wonders, miracles, but **if it exalts us** instead of our Lord we haven't known him. We've **taken the glory for ourself** and so given glory to satan, while using Jesus name. We've used his name to do miracles, but have used it in vain. We have used the gifts to exalt self and not Jesus. Wrong god! Jesus would not know us. If God is not given the glory it is sowing to self. Temporary reward! Sow to God and get a harvest in God.

2Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Luke 18:14 :for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

If we stay on the throne exalting our **self**, to be seen and approved of men we are allowing satan to deceive us. Jesus showed us the way. He humbled himself and served others. Serving self is what satan wants us to do because that is what he also wanted. He wants us to keep or to put on **his** image. He wants to prevent us from putting on Jesus image. He wants us to use Jesus name and get us to take the glory for the power and works given us **by grace** by Jesus and for us to **take the credit** for it to ourself, if we do this it gives satan glory and not Jesus. We must die to self. We must always give God the glory in all things. We must do all things in true humility and give God glory. If we do not do this it is **false humility. We are robbing God!**

Isaiah 14 [14](#) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

If we stay in satan's image it does not bode well for us, heres what God replied to him.

Isaiah 14 15 Yet thou shalt be brought **down to hell**, to the sides of the pit.

Galatians 6 7 Be not deceived; God is **not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Will we sow to self or sow to others? Will we sow to our reputation? or to Gods glory. to satan's image? or Gods. Will we sow to the flesh? The flesh loves to be higher than others just like satan does. Will we sow satan's ways or will we sow to Jesus ways by serving others as he did. We must be serving each other especially the brethren, who are the church and who have Jesus likeness **growing in them also** day by day. Jesus is in us! when we serve each other, we serve Jesus. We are all a part of His body, the church. If all the parts of Jesus body serve each other and unite, the body thrives, the church thrives, we all grow and lift each other up serving one another, we are the church. Jesus in us the hope of glory. The more we serve others the greater the victory over satan. The more he gets trampled under our feet and the more **his kingdom is plundered**. Why let him plunder us when we can plunder him. Plunder him! Give God the glory for every good. The more we humble ourself the more of Jesus we can enjoy. More joy more peace more love! **His** love not ours. It is Him in us that produces the love, when He is come in us we begin to **desire** to serve. We don't serve because we are under law to serve. We actually want to serve Jesus and build up his body the church. Each other. We enjoy it. It means more to us than the things that this world has to offer. We look to our heavenly hope and not the pleasing of our fleshly desires.

1Thessalonians 2 19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? **20** For ye are our glory and joy.

The creator of all things actually loves us so much, that he wants to be with us forever. He made us in His image and likeness and our **hope** is to come into the image of His Son, here and now. By becoming like Him here and now, in this life. **Whilst our souls are still within this flesh**. The **transformation takes place here, now, in this fallen world**. We must turn from satan's ways and humble ourself as Jesus did, as the apostles did. Not putting ourselves higher than others or as superior to others. Jesus was meek and lowly and He said if you have seen Me you have seen the Father. This is what God is like. What He wants us to be like. Meek, humble, lowly, an attitude of serving others and God and **not ourself**. **Stop serving satan, stop serving self**.

Matthew 11 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11 27 All things have been delivered unto me of my Father: and no one knoweth the Son, save the Father; neither doth any know the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal him.

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Jesus revealed our Father in heaven because he did what he saw the Father do. God is meek and humble despite being almighty God who can do all things and has all power and knows all. He is still meek and humble. If God with all power and authority is meek and humble, how

much more should we **become meek and humble** and serve as Jesus served. God is Love.

1Corinthians 13 **4** Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; **6** rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; **7** beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

When we are behaving in this way, suffering long, envying not, not lifting up ourselves or allowing pride to enter, behaving seemly, seeking not for ourself but for others, not allowing ourselves to be provoked, remembering not evil that is done to us, hating unrighteousness and loving the truth, bearing all things, believing all things that God has promised, hoping in the **assurance** that Gods promises are the truth for us, and enduring the fiery trials that we go through to prove our faith and humble ourselves. When we are doing these things, from this, ----- good deeds will come naturally and will have come by the grace of God by faith as we obey the Holy Spirit as he is **leading us to do these very things**. The good works come not by self effort but by a servant attitude. An attitude of humility. Bearing up under offense of others even when it does not seem fair or deserved. Love forgives. God forgives **all our sin**. **FORGIVE ALL THINGS!**

Matthew 20:28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

If Jesus walked in this attitude of a servant, He certainly also expects us to as well. And our flesh and our carnal minds, and our fallen nature and the devil **will resist us** and do everything to **prevent us from doing this**. That is why we are given the Holy Spirit who is our comforter to help guide and empower us **through faith** to be **able** to do it. We **have the power to overcome**.

Matthew 20 **25** But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **26** Not so shall it be among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; **27** and whosoever would be **first among you shall be your servant**:

A fallen world! This world has it the other way around because this world serves its father whose name is satan. satan wants us to believe the opposite of what God says. He has tried to train us to think like him. Worthless in Gods eyes. God says the first among us will be a servant. That's Gods Word **believe him** and not the lies of the fallen world. Believe God! Walking in the kind of love described in corinthians 13:4-7 causes pride to die. It causes the flesh to die. satan and his demons are always busy at work in us and around us trying to keep us chained and imprisoned in unforgiveness and pride and finger pointing and blame and every kind of lie and deceit. As long as we don't become servants to others, as Jesus did, he is happy. As long as we don't forgive others as Jesus forgives us, he knows we are still his prisoner. He still has a foothold in our lives to torment us! In our minds, our bodies, and our souls, and our emotions. But if we serve others, we are walking as Jesus walked and being set free. If we are being set free it means satan is losing his dominion over us and our families. It means we are becoming like our Father in heaven. It means that we are destroying satans kingdom instead of being a part of it. We are becoming a servant of Jesus instead of a servant of satan. It is a walk. Just as Jesus walked to overcome so must we.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of **obedience unto righteousness**?

When we stop serving ourselves and the lusts of our flesh, when we deny ourselves and the evil spirits who have up till now ruled and reigned over us, we begin to walk in victory. When we forgive others we walk in victory. When we know longer judge we are no longer judged. The shackles begin to break each time we let go of bitterness and resentment. We begin to walk as Jesus walked and it comes first through self denial and humility by the power of God, by grace through faith and obedience to the written word of God and the living Word of God who is the Holy Spirit. When we serve others, not to be seen of men but out of humility, toward not those that will repay us but to those in need, of whom we expect nothing in return. Then we are walking in true humility and love. There is nothing in it for us, especially if we don't do it to be seen of men. We do it to lift others up. Pride wants everyone to know how holy we are and how good we are. It is better to know that God sees our deeds and motivations and thoughts and decisions of the heart. It is wise to be pleasing in His sight, and to understand that he will remember for eternity. Men will many times forget five minutes later. God will reward us. If we do it to impress men we have our reward already. Our **pride is rewarded and grows** unfortunately if it is for our own glory. If we do it to please God He will reward us. If we do it to please men we have already been rewarded.

Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your righteousness before men, to be seen of them: else ye have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:4 That your alms may be in secret: and your Father who sees in secret himself shall reward you openly.

If we do our righteous deeds so that others think and say how good and great we are, we allow pride to stay within us and we also miss out on our reward from our heavenly Father. If we do everything in front of others to be seen of others then we are building ourselves up in the eyes of men rather than concerning ourselves with the way God sees us. Impressing a man or men is very short sighted and the reward is even shorter. Impressing God is very long sighted and in fact eternal and so is the reward. If we love to have a reputation in front of men more than we want to be high in Gods esteem then we love ourselves more than we love God. If we want to prove that what we are doing is purely to serve others, through love, as much as possible we do it to be seen of God and not of man. This gives no place for us to be puffed up with pride and is therefore a protection for us against becoming prideful by showing how righteous we are to others. God will lift us up Himself when it is time. It is **self righteous** if pride is involved. It's the wrong way. Faith in Jesus is what makes us righteous. Our works show that we believe and that we are becoming like Jesus, but they are not what saves. We were saved when we believed before we did any works. Works do not then make us more saved. Jesus saved us, works are evidence that we are saved. Believing is what makes us righteous, by our faith that Jesus has provided salvation to us already. There is NOTHING that we can add to make us more saved than when we first believed. God will test our faith, and our works which come later on after we have been saved will simply show **ourseves**, God and the world that yes we do believe and do have faith. They are evidence **and a witness** that we were saved when we first believed.

James 2 **14** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them

not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? [17](#) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

[18](#) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. [19](#) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. [20](#) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? [21](#) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? [22](#) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? [23](#) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was **imputed unto him for righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God. [24](#) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. [25](#) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? [26](#) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

If we have no evidence of becoming like Jesus, of being humble, and meek and serving others, if we are constantly thinking of self and our own lusts, where is the evidence of our faith? Have we even believed? Are we contentious or humble? Does the knowledge we have puff us up with pride to make us feel better than others? Or do we give God glory for his grace toward us. Can we say we believe if we do not change? What does God say if we want to be prideful and choose not obey the commandment to love our neighbor as our self.

John 15:22 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15 [4](#) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, **except ye abide** in me. [5](#) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit**: for **without me** ye can do nothing.

We must abide in Jesus. We cannot run around doing what we think is right in our own eyes and produce our own fruit. Our own good deeds whilst they may be nice are not the fruit that abides unless it is done in faith by abiding in Jesus and listening to and following the Holy Spirit. It is then his works and not ours when it is done in faith by **abiding in Him**. His fruit. We have to listen to the Holy Spirit, the still small voice. Anyone can run around doing good things, even unbelievers can do this, what they think is right in their own eyes. The fruit God wants is fruit that comes through faith, through obedience to the word and the Holy Spirit. We must abide in Him.

Father, we ask and pray that we be given the grace to be transformed into the image of your Son, Jesus. To serve as he served and walk as he walked. We ask for your grace to be able to humble ourselves to your word. And to transform our minds to come into agreement with your Word and out of agreement with the deceit of this fallen world. We thank you for this and thank you for supplying everything we need to overcome.

in Jesus name amen