

Throughout the course of your day, the Spirit is going to prompt you on how to do the good deeds He wants you to do.

Well, you do good however the Spirit leads you. Listen to the Holy Spirit throughout the course of every day. *Why* do good? It's your destiny. *Where* do you do good? Wherever you are. *How* do you do good? However the Spirit prompts you to do it. And you'll feel so blessed as you do that.

Share a time where the Holy Spirit led you to "do good" to someone else. What happened?

You may say – "What if I step out and go on a mission trip, or go downtown to care for the poor, what if I get there and they don't receive us?" What if I get there and someone accuses my motives? There is no such thing as a risk-free relationship with God. Whenever you do good... there is risk! If you share your faith... there is risk. If you step out and go on a mission trip... there is risk. If you try to help someone in need... there is risk.

Yes, we need to be wise and avoid certain risks at times in our lives. But very few great things for God happen without risk.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

You may remember, we started the series with the example of Jesus Christ who washed the feet of His disciples. And then he said those famous words in **John 13:17**, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." What can you do? How can you do good as a lifestyle to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ? What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you to do?

PRAYER

Take time to pray that everyone in the group would learn to truly live to serve others and do good.



The Power of Doing Good

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Basket Southshore Distribution – 11/22
Small Group Training – 12/6
JOY: A Women's Christmas Celebration – 12/9
End of the Year Legacy Offering – 12/13-14
Christmas Services – 12/20-21, 12/24

WARM~UP

Have you ever served someone in a way that helped meet one of his or her basic, everyday needs? What did you do and how did it feel to serve in that way?

WORD

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856. He became an educator, orator, author and leader of the African-American community. He was freed from slavery as a child, and then earned his way through an education at Hampton Institute and Wayland Seminary where he learned to love both Christ and the Bible. As a young man, he was appointed as the first leader of the new Tuskegee Institute, then a teachers' college for African Americans. He was successful in building

relationships with major philanthropists who contributed millions of dollars for education and helped pay for hundreds of public schools for black children in the South.

Mother Theresa was born the youngest of three children in the former Yugoslavia in 1910. She joined a youth group, and by age 17 she knew that she wanted her life to be God-guided. She became a high school geography teacher, and was promoted to high school principal in 1944. But her career there was ended because she contracted tuberculosis. In 1948 she started an unofficial school for young children in India, and she combined teaching and medical care to nurse them toward health. She devoted her entire adulthood to providing medical care to the dying people of India.

These two individuals did extraordinary good. These two individuals are not going to be remembered for their attainment of wealth or power, or because they built industries or armies. They just decided that their daily job description was to “do good.” They put on their work gloves every day and “did good” until their last day. In doing so their lives empowered the lives of an entire generation and motivated thousands of people to higher levels of compassion.

How can we live a life that improves our world, that blesses our lives and enriches the lives of others? To learn more we are going to look at **A Few Big Questions About Doing Good**. Before getting to those questions take a moment to read Titus 3:1, 8 and 14 together as a group.

1. The “Why” Question.

Why should we live beyond ourselves? Why should we go out of our way to do good deeds? Why should we break ranks with so many other people in our world whose chief goal is good times, not good deeds? Jesus Christ is our model in this. Let’s look at **Acts 10:38**. It says, “**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by**

the devil, for God was with Him.” He is the model we are to follow. **Ephesians 2:10** says, “**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**”

What is your motive to “do good”?

2. Where should I be doing all of these good deeds?

Where? You may be familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The guy is walking down the road and gets beat up, mugged, and left for dead. Two religious leaders walk on by. They don’t want to get involved with the guy for whatever reason. And then a third person comes along, and he decides to do good to that guy who is beaten up and lying on the side of the road. He washes his wounds, loads him up on his donkey, takes him to an inn and pays for his care there. Where should someone do good? Well, wherever you are - wherever goodness needs to be done! When you go home after this small group, do good in your home. Do good to your spouse. Do kind deeds for your children. Children, do kind deeds for your parents. Remember, it is a lifestyle.

Where do you need to “do good” this week?

3. **How do I do the good works that God wants me to do?**

Let’s just get practical. How do you do the good works that God wants you to do? How do you do them? The answer: However the Holy Spirit leads.

One of the greatest things about the Christian life is the guiding, whispering, prompting power of the Holy Spirit who said to the Good Samaritan when he saw the beat-up guy, “This is a good work that God has prepared in advance for you to do. You’re going to do it right here. This is where you are. And what you do is bind the wounds. Wash his wounds, bandage them, pick the guy up and take him to an inn.” Those were the specific orders for that guy, and he did them as the Spirit prompted him.