

Created for Good Works – God’s Purpose for Every Believer



Living with Purpose – Faith That Moves Beyond Belief (Week 1)

Introduction

We are starting a brand-new series called **Living with Purpose – Faith That Moves Beyond Belief**.

This series is about living out faith in everyday life. It is about obedience, witness, and endurance. It is not only about what we believe. It is about how we live because of what we believe.

In our previous two series, we focused on identity and belonging. We talked about who we are in Christ and why the church still matters. Those teachings reminded us that we are not alone. We belong to Jesus. We belong to His people. We belong to His mission.

Now, we are moving forward from identity into purpose. We are asking, “What does it look like to live out faith on Monday, not only on Sunday?”

We are talking about Christian purpose that shows up in real decisions, real words, and real actions.

Let us begin with a question that is simple, but it is also powerful: **Was I saved just to believe, or to be sent?**

Scripture Reading

Our Scripture today is **Ephesians 2:8–10**.

Ephesians 2:8–10

(8) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (9) not by works, so that no one can boast. (10) For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This passage gives us a foundation for the whole series. It tells us how salvation happens. It tells us why salvation happens, and it tells us what salvation produces.

Many believers know verses 8 and 9. They are grateful for grace. They understand salvation is a gift. But we must also pay attention to verse 10. Verse 10 tells us that God saved us on purpose and for a purpose. He did not save us by our works. But He did save us for good works.

That means your faith is not accidental. Your life in Christ is intentional. Your salvation is not only a rescue from sin. It is also a calling into mission.

Grace Saves Us, Not Our Effort

Let us start where Paul starts: “By grace you have been saved through faith.”



Grace means God moved toward us when we could not move toward Him. It means God gave what we did not earn. It means God loved us while we were still sinners. Faith is not a payment, and it is not a badge for good people. Faith is the open hand that receives what God gives. Paul is clear about this. Salvation is not from ourselves. It is the gift of God. It is not by works, so that no one can boast.

This matters for Christian purpose. Many people think purpose starts with performance. They think purpose means, "I must prove I am valuable." They think God uses only strong people, talented people, or impressive people. But grace says something different. Grace says, "God loved you before you could do anything for Him." This is where purpose begins. Purpose begins with identity that rests in grace.

Illustration and Life Application

Think about how people treat a job interview. Many people walk in feeling pressure. They feel they must convince someone to accept them. They hide weakness because they fear rejection.

Some believers relate to God like that. They treat the Christian life as a spiritual interview. They think God is always measuring them, and that failure means rejection.

But Ephesians 2 says salvation is not a job interview. Salvation is a gift.

If you live like you must earn God's love, you will live exhausted. If you live like you must earn your place, you will live afraid. Grace gives security. Grace reminds you that Jesus is faithful, Jesus is righteous, and Jesus brings you near.

Your Christian purpose does not start with your strength. It starts with God's grace.

Reflection Question

Where have I been trying to earn what God already gives freely? Where have I been living like I must prove myself to God?

You Are God's Workmanship, Not a Random Life

Now Paul moves to identity: "For we are God's handiwork."

That word "handiwork" means a crafted work. It means something made with intention. It is like an artist shaping a masterpiece or a builder creating something strong and beautiful. This means you are not an accident. Your story is not meaningless. Your life is not random. God created you. He formed you, and He knows you.

This does not mean your life has been easy. It does not mean you have not faced pain. It does not mean you have not made mistakes. But it does mean your identity is not defined by your worst moment. Your identity is not defined by your past. Your identity is not defined by what others said about you. Your identity is defined by God's work in Christ.

Paul says we are "created in Christ Jesus."

God does not simply polish the old you. God creates something new in you through Christ. You are not only forgiven. You are being remade. You are being shaped.



Illustration and Life Application

Think about a person who restores an old house. The house might look worn out. The walls might be damaged. The floors might creak. But the restorer sees potential. The restorer sees what it can become. They do not only paint over problems. They repair the structure. They replace what is broken. They strengthen what is weak. They bring it back to life.

God is the One who restores people. God sees what you can become in Christ. He is not only covering your past. He is rebuilding your future.

This also means you have value before you ever do a single good work. Your value does not come from performance, productivity, or popularity. Your value comes from the fact that you belong to God and you are His workmanship.

Reflection Question

Do I see myself as God's workmanship? Or do I see myself as a problem to fix?

Saved to Walk in Good Works God Prepared

Now we arrive at the purpose statement in Ephesians 2: "Created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." This is where many believers get confused. We are not saved by good works. But we are saved for good works.

Good works are not the root of salvation. Good works are the fruit of salvation. Good works are the result of grace. They are not the reason for grace.

So what are "good works"? Good works are not only big public acts. Good works are obedience to Christ in everyday life. Good works are the choices that reflect Jesus.

Good works can be speaking truth with love, forgiving someone who hurt you, serving your family with patience, and working with integrity when no one is watching. Good works can also be praying for someone and then reaching out to encourage them, or sharing the gospel with kindness and clarity.

Good works are missional because they show people what Jesus is like.

Paul says God prepared these works beforehand. That means God is already at work in your week. God is already arranging moments and opening doors. He is already placing people in your path.

God is not calling you to a single heroic moment. God is calling you to a faithful life.

Illustration and Life Application

Many people want a clear purpose, but they want it like a map. They want God to show them every step for the next ten years. But often God gives purpose like a path. God gives the next step. He gives today's obedience.

Purpose is not always found on a stage. Purpose is often found in a kitchen, in a workplace, in a classroom, in a text message, in a hard conversation, or in a quiet prayer.

If you want Christian purpose, start with obedience.



Reflection Question

What good work might God already be placing in front of me this week? Who is God calling me to love, serve, forgive, encourage, or speak to?

This Week

Here are a few simple steps for this week. Keep them simple. Keep them real. This is how you begin living out faith with Christian purpose.

1. Pray one sentence each morning: "Lord Jesus, lead me into the good works You prepared for me today."
2. Choose one intentional act of obedience. Pick one action you will take this week that reflects Jesus. Write it down and do it.
3. Look for one person to encourage. Send a text. Make a call. Speak life. Pray with them if you can.
4. End each day with one question: "Did I walk in what God put in front of me today?" If the answer is no, do not fall into shame. Ask for grace and try again tomorrow.

Closing Encouragement

If you have ever wondered whether your life matters, hear this clearly. You are saved by grace. You are God's workmanship. You are created in Christ for purpose. You are called to walk in good works.

Your faith is not accidental. It is intentional and missional.

Before we close, please share this teaching with someone who needs encouragement. Share it with someone who is asking why they are here. Share it with someone who needs to be reminded that Jesus saves us and sends us.

Next week, we will talk about what happens when purpose meets real life.



Leader Notes and Small Group Discussion Questions

Leader Notes (for Cell Sites and Small Groups)

This teaching focuses on Christian purpose rooted in grace. Keep the tone encouraging and practical. Help the group rest in grace first, then move into identity and action.

Create a safe environment. Remind the group that nobody has to share private details. Encourage participation at different levels. (This follows your standard leader-note guardrails style.)

Keep the group anchored in Scripture. Ephesians 2:8–10 clearly shows grace, identity, and purpose.

Optional group action: Have each person choose one “This Week” step and share it with the group for encouragement and accountability.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you hear “Christian purpose,” what comes to mind first?
2. What makes it hard for people to believe they are saved by grace and not by effort?

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 2:8–10

3. What stands out to you most in Ephesians 2:8–10, and why?
4. Why do you think God designed salvation to remove boasting?

Section 1: Grace Saves Us, Not Our Effort

5. In what ways do believers sometimes treat the Christian life like a “spiritual interview”?
6. What changes in your daily life when you truly rest in grace?

Section 2: You Are God’s Workmanship

7. What does it mean to you personally that you are God’s handiwork?
8. Which is harder for you to believe: “I am forgiven,” or “I am being remade”? Why?

Section 3: Saved to Walk in Good Works

9. What are “good works” that can happen in ordinary life (home, work, neighborhood)?
10. What does it look like to live purpose like a path, not a map?

This Week

11. Which one step will you choose this week, and what will it look like in practical terms?
12. How can the group encourage and follow up with one another?

