



Everyday FAITH Family Page

3 in 1: Discovering Our Triune God

Key Point

The Holy Spirit helped a poor widow give a rich offering. The Holy Spirit helps me do good works too.

Bible Words

We are . . . created in Christ Jesus for good works . . . that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10

Law/Gospel

I do not rely on God or credit Him with the things I have; therefore, I give offerings or serve others sparingly, reluctantly, or for the wrong reason. **For Christ's sake, God forgives my sinful motivations and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, makes my works into good and holy acts that please Him.**

Dig Deeper

Read Ephesians 2:4–10 to learn more about the special gifts we receive from God through Christ Jesus.

The Spirit Produces Good Works: A Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41–44

Women who lost a husband in the ancient world lost everything. In this agrarian culture, women generally relied on husbands or sons to finance the families. The widow in this narrative had nothing to her name except two coins valued at a few cents.

When the widow placed both of her coins in the temple offering box, Jesus saw that the Holy Spirit led her to give more than the rich people who gave large sums of money. They gave small amounts of their abundant wealth, but the widow gave “everything she had, all she had to live on” (Mark 12:44).

This poor widow had a rich faith in God. She trusted God to provide for her even though she gave all her money to the temple. While rich people flaunted their apparent generosity, the widow humbly gave everything she had to praise and honor to God. She trusted in God's care, while the wealthy people relied on themselves.

God's Workmanship

The Holy Spirit also gives us, like the widow, the ability to do good works, serving others and furthering the work of God's kingdom. These actions are pleasing to God because they glorify Him.

We do not earn forgiveness or salvation by doing good works. These spiritual gifts come from God by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as God's children, thankful for what He does for us. Because of Christ's work on the cross, we can love, serve, and forgive others as He loves, serves, and forgives us.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, lead us to perform the works You set before us, that we might glorify our Savior. In Jesus. Amen.