

Are Christians blessed because of works?

The answer depends on the definitions

- What is it to be blessed?
- What qualifies as works?

Blessed

Two words are translated “blessed.”

- To speak well of
 - Bless food (Matthew 14:19)
 - Bless a person (Matthew 21:9)
 - Bless God (Luke 2:28)
 - Blessed by God (Matthew 25:34)
 - Title of God (Mark 14:61)

Blessed

Two words are translated “blessed.”

- Above the cares of this life
 - The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3 – 11)
 - The forgiven (Romans 4:6 – 9)
 - Hope (Titus 2:13)
 - Title of God (1 Timothy 1:11)

Blessed

The idea that “blessed” means that God makes good things happen to you is not how the word is used in the Bible. Many people are taught that incorrect definition and develop understandings of various passages because of it.

Works

The same word is used to describe:

- God’s work
- Jesus’ work
- Ordinary work
- Evil works
- Good works
- In contrast to faith

Judged by Works

- Romans 2:6 – 7 God will render to each according to his deeds (Psalms 62:12, Proverbs 24:12)
- 1 Peter 1:17 The Father judges without partiality each one’s work
- Revelation 2:23 I shall give to each according to your works
- Revelation 20:12 – 13 The dead were judged according to their works
- Revelation 22:12 My reward is given to each one according to his work

Faith versus Works

- Romans 3:27 – 28 The law of faith, not of works
- Romans 4:2 – 5 Justified by faith, not works
- Galatians 2:16 A man is not justified by the works of the Law but by the faith of Jesus
- Galatians 3:2, 5 Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by the hearing of faith?
- Ephesians 2:8 – 9 By grace you have been saved...not of works lest anyone should boast
- Titus 3:5 Not by works which we have done but according to His mercy, He saved us

Faith and Works

- John 6:28 – 29 This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 Christians are encouraged to abound in the work of the Lord
- Matthew 5:16 That they may see your good works and glorify God
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 You will have an abundance for every good work.
- Galatians 6:4 Let each one examine his own work
- Ephesians 2:10 We are created for good works which God prepared beforehand

Faith and Works

- 1 Timothy 6:18 That they be rich in good works
- 2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work
- Titus 1:16 Some profess to know God but in works deny Him
- Titus 2:14 Purify for Himself a peculiar people, zealous for good works
- Titus 3:8 Be careful to maintain good works
- James 2:24 Man is justified by works, not by faith only

Reward for Works

- Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust to forget your good works
- Revelation 2:26 He who overcomes and keeps my works until the end, to him I will give power
- 1 Corinthians 3:8 Each one will receive his own reward according to his labor.
- 2 John 8 Do not lose those things we have worked for, but that we may receive a full reward

Summary

Are Christians blessed because of their works?

- Yes if the works are the product of faith.
- Not if the works are to earn God's favor.
- Yes because doing good things allows us to rise above the cares of this life.
- But outsiders will still complain (e.g., 1 Peter 2:12, 20)
- Yes because rewards are handed out in heaven.
- Not in this life; the early Christians had it rough