

Series: Little Steps That Make A Huge Difference In A Christian's Life!

Have you ever had little or simple things:

- ◆ transform your life?
- ◆ Make a big difference?

Title: Good Flows To Others, From Jesus' True Followers!

John 15:1–17 (NLT) *Jesus, the True Vine* “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

⁹ “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Good things come from God...

James 1:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

...so of course, good things come from disciples (true followers)!



Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT) ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT) ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

James 2:14–26 (NLT)

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰ How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

²¹ Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. ²⁴ So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

²⁵ Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. ²⁶ Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.



Works don’t save us, but if we have true faith, it causes action. There is to be an outflow of good fruit (good actions) from our lives! That outflow is not for us, but it does bless us!

1 Timothy 6:18–19 (NLT) ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Matthew 6:19–20 (NLT) *Teaching about Money and Possessions* ¹⁹“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰**Store your treasures in heaven**, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Galatians 6:9–10 (NLT) ⁹**So let’s not get tired of doing what is good.** At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. ¹⁰Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should **do good to everyone**—especially to those in the family of faith.

Acts 20:33–35 (NLT) ³³“I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. ³⁴You know that these hands of mine have worked to **supply my own needs** and **even the needs of those who were with me.** ³⁵And I have **been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard.** You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**”

Step: Choose and Be Satisfied When We Love, Serve, Help, and Give To Others!

Choose to be satisfied when good fruit is produced that helps others!

Questions for Thought and/or Prayer Time This Week:

- Do you believe that true disciple produce much fruit (do a lot of good)?
- Do good things flow from our lives?
- True faith causes obedient action. Is your life an example of faith in action?
- Do you believe its is more blessed to give than to receive?
- Do you ever underestimated the good things that are already coming from your life?
- Do you recognize satisfaction and joy in your heart and mind when good fruit is produced?

John 15:8 (NLT) ⁸**When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.**