

Hello. I am really excited! We are about to embark on an adventure that I believe will be life changing for you. I went on a mission's trip to Kenya and Uganda and that's where I first started teaching these truths. And it blessed so many people's lives. These are practical truths that will help you in your walk, to help you to be the person that God has called you to be.

This is the first session of a series called, "Abounding in the Good Works of God." The title for this session is: "We are Special Because God Says So." Are you ready to begin? Awesome! Let's go!

Way too many times we allow the opinion of other people to help us decide whether we're good or whether we're bad, and how we feel about ourselves. But the only opinion that really should matter to us, is Gods. He's the creator of the Heavens and the Earth. His opinion is what matters by far the most. So, let's find out what God says about us. Let's see what God says about you.

Psalms 139:14

I give thanks to you, for I am amazing and wonderful; your works are wonderful and my soul is abundantly aware of this.

God is saying that we are amazing, that we're wonderful. And we really are! He's talking to you and he's talking to me. And I want to tell you right now, that you are a very special person.

Some people don't think that they're very special because they compare themselves to other people. And they say, "Oh, that person can do that, and I can't. Or that person looks like that and I don't look like that. Or that person has such and such ability and I don't have that ability." But the truth is that you are unique, and so you shouldn't be comparing yourself to anybody else. You are special amongst all the people of the world and God has given you talents and abilities that no one else has that are just for you. And we're going to look at that.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

*And God is able to bless you **abundantly**, so that in **all** things at **all** times, having **all** that you need, you will abound in **every** good work.*

Now this is a very important verse, so I want to look at it really closely here. God says that he is able to bless you how much? Not just a little bit, but he

says **abundantly**. So that in how many things? Not just a few things here and there, but in **all** things! And for how many times? All times. Having not just some things that you're going to need, but he says **all** that you need. So that you can abound in much more than just a few good works. He's talking about you and he's talking about me. And that's why you know that you are special, because God has given you these things so that you can abound in every good work.

Wow! This is a promise of God! Notice in this verse that it is not limited to where you live. It's not limited to how much money you have. It's not limited to your talents or abilities. It's a promise because you are unique, and God has a special plan for your life. And he promises to equip you to perform the things that he has called you to do.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in union with Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Wow! He has given us every spiritual blessing. During my early years of my Christian life, I did not see this. I did not see a God who is blessing me with every spiritual blessing. I saw a God who was legalistic. I saw a God who was waiting for me to do something wrong so he could punish me. I saw a God who was looking at me to say, "Why did you do that? And why aren't you doing this?" I saw God as being critical. But this is not the true God. The true God is a God of love.

And the true relationship that we are to have with God is not where we fear him. That we're looking like, "Oh my. If I do something wrong, he's going to get upset." But rather, it is one of love. Where we're to walk in love, understanding that he loves us and that he wants what's best for us.

Ephesians 1:4

just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish in his presence in love,

God devised a wonderful plan for us. In Ephesians 2:1 it says that we were dead in trespasses and sins. But by way of his Son Jesus Christ, God picked us up, dusted us off, cleaned out all of our past and he molded us into a brand-new creation in Christ Jesus. And once we've been saved through

Jesus Christ, Romans 8 verses 38 and 39 tells us that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The world hand picks those that they think are deserving. When I was little, I would get together with a group of guys and we would play a game of kickball or baseball or some other sport like that. We would first choose two captains. Then the captains would pick the players that they wanted to compete on their team. They would start by picking who they thought was the most talented player. Next, they would select the second most talented player.

And the sad part about this picking was that, at the very end, there would always be one boy left. And this is the boy that no one seemed to want on their team. He was the last one, and so the captain who had the very last pick reluctantly had to choose this boy to be a part of his team, whether he wanted him or not. And in many instances, he did not really want him. You should look at the kids face. He is sad and gloomy because he knows he's not thought of as being an important member of that team.

This is not the way of God with us. We are all on God's first team. We are all very important to God and he has selected us, primed us and groomed us, so that we can succeed in this life to fulfill his purpose. We have all been equipped by God so that we can thrive on his first team. Isn't that wonderful?

2 Corinthians 5:17

So then, if anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new creation, the old things have passed away, Look!, things have become new.

Do you understand this? The old things have passed away. Then the verse finishes by saying, "... Look! Things have become new."

God has rescued us out from our old man nature, and he's given us a new nature. And this nature that God has given us is a nature of love. It is a nature of Hope. And it is a nature that has cleansed us from our sin. When God looks down upon us, he sees the holiness of the spirit that he created in us. Do you know what that means? It doesn't matter what anyone else says about you. What names they call you. How they look down upon you, because you have been renewed. And the real you is more awesome than what we can even comprehend.

Everyone who has confessed Jesus as their Lord and believed in their heart that God raised him from the dead is saved and they are a part of God's first team. God has transformed each of us spiritually. And since we've been transformed by God, I want to help this to become a reality for you in your day-to-day living. And I believe that is why you are taking this class. Through Jesus Christ, God has made you someone that is special, and someone that is great.

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill is not able to be hidden.

This is what God Almighty says about you. He's the creator of the heavens and the Earth! So, what are you going to choose to believe? What men say about you? Or what God says about you?

I've had supposedly mature Christian leaders tell me that I wasn't welcome to speak at their fellowships, suggest that I was a heretic, even accuse me of not being saved! So why does this happen? Because when you're standing on the truth, Satan doesn't like it. And so, he orchestrates accusations against you. And he will attempt to defame you. Anything to try and keep you from standing on the truth.

But the true God says you are righteous. The true God says he has called you to do great and wonderful works. So, who are you going to believe? Man? Or God? I tell you who I believe. I believe God! What about you?

Matthew 5:15-16

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a peck-basket, but on the stand, and it shines to all who are in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before people so that they can see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We need to believe what God says about us. Then we need to walk in the light that God has given us. Proudly and boldly, we need to go forth and let our light shine to the world.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

I didn't write this. I didn't give my life for you. Jesus Christ died on the cross to make this available. You are God's handiwork. He molded you. He formed you into something very, very special. There's a purpose and a reason for your life. The promise is right here in this verse. Do you see it? God has prepared in advance the good works that he is has in mind for you to do. God did this.

Recently my youngest daughter was in a huge cross country meet that was hosted by my daughter's school. There were 22 schools that traveled to this area to be a part of this event. There's a lot of hard work that goes into putting together something like this. My wife came home very sore from working all day on a weekend to help get this ready. There were a lot of volunteers that did a lot of work to make it happen.

All the athletes had to do was to show up for the meet and compete. What would happen if the competitors didn't show up for the race? It would have meant that all of the hard work and preparation would have been for naught, right?

As it turned out, all the teams did show up, and they had a great time competing. My daughter, who was in ninth grade at the time, got 28th Place out of 137 runners. The meet was successful because of the competitors.

In Ephesians 2:10, God says he has prepared for us to walk. He made us ready to go! The racetrack is all set. But we have to rise up and compete. Otherwise everything that he did for us in preparing for our walk is in vain.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 so that the person dedicated to God can be complete, furnished completely for every good work.*

These verses say that all scripture is made available to us so that we can be completely furnished for every good work. Remember, in 2nd Corinthians 9:8 we read that God has blessed us abundantly so that we could do every

good work. And it is by reading the scriptures that we are able to understand what God's will is, to guide us along into performing those good works. And so, if we are going to reach our goal that God has in mind, we must understand and believe the scriptures. It is the scriptures that are going to equip us and furnish us.

Because this is so important, every point that I make to you in these sessions, I plan to support with scripture, as I have done to this point. This will enable you to be completely furnished to carry out, not my will for your life, but God's plan and will for your life.

Do you believe what it says about you in Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 10? Do you believe that God created you to be his Masterpiece? That you are a very special person to him? So much so that he planned in advance the good works that you were to perform in his name? Don't believe it because I said it. Believe it because the Word of God says it!

Every single person in the body of Christ is extremely important to God. We are very special to him and he has a wonderful and awesome plan for our life. If we will put our trust in him, and commit ourselves to doing his will for our life, he will take the unique talents and abilities that we have and he will put it to work so that we can have a huge impact on the hearts and lives of other people.

In the next session we are going to look closely at the nature of God. In 1st John chapter 4, verse 16 it says that "God is love." That is his nature. Love is to be the foundation in our relationship with God, and in our relationship with each other. And we are going to address this subject next. Until then, remember that God loves you and so do I.

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