



## WCF Prayer:

### Chapter 16 - Of Good Works

Loving and gracious God,

You reveal to us in your Word that faith that is not demonstrated in our lives is not true, living faith. We know that you call us to serve you, your church, and your world through what we call "good works."

Lord Almighty, you teach us that a "good work" is only that which you have expressly commanded in your Word. We confess that as human beings, we often devise our own plans—sometimes with great zeal or under the pretence of good intentions—yet these are not what you require. Teach us your commandments, O Lord, and empower us so that our actions may be the natural overflow of lives shaped by your law.

Lord, may our lives be forever fruitful as we show the evidence of a living faith in Jesus. May these good works demonstrate our profound thankfulness for your grace. As we live out this faith through our actions, may we be strengthened in the assurance of our salvation.

We pray that others witnessing these works may be built up in their faith in Christ. May our deeds become like precious jewels, adorning our profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Lord, may these works also silence those who would speak against the Gospel, bringing glory to you—the one true living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What a privilege it is to know that through faith in Jesus Christ, we share in this calling to bear fruit which accompanies eternal life. We praise you for this honour. Yet, Heavenly Father, we readily confess that we are unable to perform any good work without the power of the Spirit of Christ working within us. Even as you gift your people with various graces, it is your Spirit who works in them to accomplish your good and perfect will.

We marvel at the influence of your Spirit within us; yet, Lord, let us never use this truth as an excuse for negligence. May we never wait for a "special stirring" before we perform your will, but rather be diligent in stirring up the grace you have already placed within us.

Lord, forgive us for the temptation to think that we can ever exceed what you require. We know that even our best efforts fall short of our duty. Help us to remain clear-headed, never imagining that our works can merit the pardon of sin or earn eternal life. We acknowledge the infinite gap between ourselves as creatures and you as our Creator. Nothing we do can ever satisfy the debt we owe for our sins. When we have done all we can, we are still only lowly servants who have done no more than our duty.

We recognize that our works are only "good" because they are worked in us by your Spirit. And yet, because they are worked through us as fallen human beings, they are corrupted by our fallen nature and mixed with weakness. In themselves, they could never withstand the measure of your perfect judgment.

We marvel that having united us to your Son through faith, you accept not only us but also our works as "good" because of our union with Christ.

We marvel, then, that having united us to your Son through faith, you accept not only our persons but also our works as "good" because of our union with Christ. It is astonishing that although our works are accompanied by many imperfections, you accept and reward those that are sincere, looking upon them through the love you have for your Son.

Lord, we acknowledge that many in this world perform acts commanded in your Word which benefit themselves and others. However, Lord we see that because their hearts are not purified by faith in Christ these works are not in themselves pleasing to you.

We see their works are not undertaken with a heartfelt obedience to do your will. They may be commanded in your Word but they are so often undertaken in a wrong manner and without the right and true objective, to glorify you.

Lord we see that although lives might be bettered by these works of unbelievers, we understand they flow sinful lives that just cannot please you. Lord, we see that while

these works are not pleasing to you in themselves, their neglect is even more displeasing to you and is evidence of how far we are from you in our sin.

We acknowledge all of this Lord God and are humbled by your grace and pray that we might delight to see blessing from the works you call us to undertake in the name of Jesus.

May our works always begin and end in your grace and for your glory.

Amen.