

WE WERE (RE)CREATED FOR GREAT THINGS

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Today's main passage

Romans 12:1-3 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Today's main point

We have been made for good works and the world needs these. Good works naturally flow out of us when we are living as we were truly made to be. In order to know and become who we truly are, we must be connected to God, like a branch on a vine. We each have a role in nurturing this connection.

How will you nurture your relationship with God this year?

Words, phrases, images, examples that stuck out to me.

1. What is refreshing, rejuvenating to your soul and fills you with delight (e.g. people, places, activities).
2. What activities do you need to avoid, limit, or eliminate that pull you away from your connection to God?
3. Imagine your life lived out in faith (a steadfast trust in God's sufficiency). What does it look like?
4. What are some rhythms: daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly you would like to develop or continue (in order to nurture your spirit, advance your calling, and grow your relationship with God)?
5. What are the challenging "have to's" in the next 3-6 months of your life that will impact your rhythms?
6. What is the one thing you sense the Holy Spirit directing you to start doing?

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Colossians 1:9-10 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

2 Timothy 2:21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 4:21-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness