**Section 6 Our Security and Heavenly rewards (Scripture Verses are from the NIV unless otherwise noted)**

**6) Our security --- God won’t kick us off of His team and offers us the opportunity to receive heavenly rewards.**

**Our heavenly coaches the Father, Son and Holy Spirit use discipline to child train us on the road to spiritual maturity so we may obtain heavenly rewards.**

**The natural tendency of our sinful nature is to be drawn to sinful behavior and live independent lives following our own will instead of seeking God’s will. Often, through life’s troubles, trials and temptations which often can be far beyond our natural ability to handle, God moves us to greater dependence on Him. One of our greatest needs for everyday living is Godly character. Through child training God disciplines us so we may partake of His divine character as we learn to draw off of God’s fruitful life within us.**

*Hebrews 12:1-2 …let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,****2****fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith…*

 *Hebrews 12:7-10 NKJV*

***7****If[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012:%207-12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30220a)*] you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?****8****But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.****9****Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?****10****For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

*2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

**God’s child training through His word and circumstances often includes more than just discipline for sin but also for instruction to train us to participate in fruitful good works.**

*2 Timothy 3:16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,****17****so that the servant of God[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Timothy3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29871a)*] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**God is faithful and true as a good Father.**

*Psalm 89 30-33 “If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes,****31****if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands,****32****I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging;****33****but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness*

**Our goal should be not to sin. Yet, we do.**

*1 John 2:1-2**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.****2****He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Failure is part of any learning process including our spiritual life but we should keep short accounts with God. After confession and repentance, we are to continue practicing forgetting our past failures and pursuing dependence on Jesus toward maturity.**

 *1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

*Philippians 3:12-14* **12***Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.****13****Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,****14****I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

**Unconfessed sin impacts our fellowship with God and our ability to be used by Him. Fellowship implies oneness of purpose with God. Sin does not impact our standing as God’s child. Unconfessed sin will lead to discipline in order to move us to repentance.**

*1 John 1:6* *If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.*

*Ephesians 5:8-11 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light****9****(for the fruit of the Spirit[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29314b)*] is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),****10****finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.****11****And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

*2 Timothy 2:19-21 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”* ***20****In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.****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.*

**Failure to repent and ungodly living grieves the Holy Spirit who loves us, lives in us and seals us for the day of redemption.**

*Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20* **19***Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;****20****you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

**It is always better not to sin since there may be unwanted consequences resulting from our sinful behavior.**

*Galatians6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.****8****Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life*.

**Failure to repent leads to progressive child training beginning with God speaking to us through circumstances, His word or admonishment of others. If unheeded can lead to severer child training even weakness, sickness, physical death. Yet, as we know from other scriptures, not all sickness, weakness or death is a direct result of an individual’s sin.**

*Psalm 32: 3-5**When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.****4****For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm32:3-5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14360a)*]****5****Then I acknowledged my sin to you  and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

*1 Corinthian 11:30-32 NKJV* ***30****For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.****31****For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.****32****But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

**As God’s child we have the great privilege to come to Him with great confidence to receive forgiveness and help in time of need.**

*Hebrews 4:16* *Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**God is true to His word to never abandon us His children regardless of how we might feel.**

*Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Hebrews 13:5… “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you”...*

**God’s ultimate goal for child training is for us to live fruitful lives which lead to heavenly rewards. Abiding in Jesus is the path to being fruitful.**

*Hebrews 12:11****11****Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

*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.*

*John 15:8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

**Ultimately, our greatest reward is God Himself and to spend an eternity with Him in heaven.**

*Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram.   I am your shield,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis15:1&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-362a" \o "See footnote a)]  your very great reward.[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis15:1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-362b)*]”*

**An incorrect interpretation of scripture can lead us to conclude that once we receive Jesus we are to shift to a works mindset which can lead to frustration, burnout and disillusionment with the Christian life. We are rewarded for how effectively we allow Jesus to live through us to accomplish His life plan for us. Our process of sanctification occurs as we by faith are led by the Holy Spirit into the good works He has prepared us to do.**

*John 6:28-29 T**hen they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”****29****Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”*

*Acts 26:17-18 (Jesus’s words to the Apostle Paul)* *I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them****18****to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and* ***a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’***

*Romans 1:17* *For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans1:17&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-27948a" \o "See footnote a)] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans1:17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27948b)*]*

**The Holy Spirit is the source of a fruitful life which reflects the life of Jesus.**

*Galatians 5:22-23**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,****23****gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**The source of all fruitful good works is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into those unique good works that are prepared for each of us to do. God wants to work through us with our cooperation to fulfill our special calling.**

*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.*

*Philippians 2:12-13…* *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,****13****for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

*Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

**We are to be always abounding in the work of the Lord following His leading and working heartily unto the Lord who will reward us.**

*1 Corinthians 15:58**Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

*Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,****24****since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

**Fruitful, profitable good works are to be done in love through the power of the Holy Spirit not from a fleshly motivation.**

*1 Corinthians 13: 1-3KJV**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.* ***2****And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.* ***3****And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

*John 6:63 NKJV It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

**Every child of God will stand before the judgement seat of God to evaluate if our works are to be rewarded or destroyed. The biblical meaning of bad in the below verse means worthless. The worthless works appear to have their origin from our flesh which profits nothing. It is interesting that one of Satan’s names is Belial which means worthless.**

*2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

**Our worthless works will be destroyed by fire at the judgement seat by Jesus.**

*1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.****12****If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,****13****their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.****14****If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.****15****If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

**There may be momentary shame at the judgement seat for missing out on the great rewards that Jesus had planned for us. Abiding in Jesus appears to be the key to a fruitful rewarded life.**

*1 John2:28 NKJV****And now, little children, abide in Him****, that when[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1john2:28&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30579a)*] He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*

**On a larger scale the earth with its worthless works will be consumed by fire.**

*2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

**The works of the Holy Spirit motivated by His supernatural love and leading will be rewarded. The fruitful works which will be rewarded are many and varied according to our unique calling, giftings and resources. Listed are a few examples.**

**Bearing fruit is linked to prayer.** *John 15:7-8NKJV**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john15:7-8&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26707a)*] ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.****8****By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples*.

**A fruitful life is conducting ourselves by the power of the Holy Spirit with Godly character in our daily lives.** *Galatians 5:22-23*

**Enduring temptation against sin and earthly trials by the power of the Holy Spirit is rewarded.**

*James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

**Godly speech including praising God can be fruitful behavior.**

*Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*

**Giving financial help to fellow believers in need with the proper motive is fruitful.**

*Romans 15:26,28**NKJV**For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.*

**Showing hospitality, helping or supporting God’s fellow workers even in small ways allows us to share in their reward.** *Matt 10:40-42 Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.****41****Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.****42****And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”*

**Living by Godly wisdom and helping win souls for Christ will be rewarded.**

*Daniel 12:3* *Those who are wise[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel12:3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22085a)*] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

**Doing good works with a correct motive of love are fruitful.**

*Titus 3:14* *And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.*

**Helping widows and orphans in distress with a loving motivation is a fruitful activity.**

*James 1:*27 *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

**Suffering persecution for the sake of Christ results in a great reward.**

*Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**Completion of our heavenly assignment and faithful to the Lord to the end results in reward.** *2 Timothy 4:7-8* *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.****8****Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.*

**Christian’s rewards are dependent on being faithful to the end of our lives**

*Revelation 2:26**And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

**Some of the below bible verses offer some possible reasons for loss or diminished heavenly rewards which include incorrect motivation, being led astray by incorrect doctrine, supporting those promoting false doctrine and worldly entanglement. Generally, unfruitful, unrewarded works are a product of the sinful nature instead of good works motivated by the Holy Spirit.**

**Preaching the gospel for wrong motive.**

*Philippians 1:15 NKJV Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife…*

**Embracing false doctrine of worship of angels or attempting to use religious rituals as substitute for true godliness which both lead us away from the centrality of Christ and possible loss of reward.**

*Colossians 2:18-19 NKJV Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29513d)*] seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,****19****and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.*

**Embracing false doctrine which excludes Jesus or supporting others who promote it.**

*2 John 7-8**I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.****8****Watch out that you do not lose what we[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2john&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30654a)*] have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.*

**Embracing doctrine which moves us off of a simple life of faith in Jesus can lead to loss of reward.**

*Hebrews 10:35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.*

**Excessive entanglement in the things of this world can lead to an unfruitful life.**

*Matthew 13:22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.*

**Hopefully, we see that the entire Christian life from beginning to end is maintaining the centrality of Jesus as our focus through the power of the Holy Spirit. If we make it our ambition to practice child- like dependence on the resources of God and not on ourselves we can allow Jesus to express His fruitful life through ours. Doing fruitful good works which will be rewarded are a by- product of concentrating on abiding in Jesus so His resurrection life can be expressed through us in a special way.**

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