



ON THE GOD-GIVEN ABILITY OF BELIEVERS TO DO GOOD

Proposition: *servants of Christ are specially suited to act for the well-being of any enterprise to which they are called by God.*

This ability to do good is rooted in these qualities.

1. The believer knows and worships God as revealed in His word.
 - a. His mind is shaped by biblical principles—by the truth about God, the world, and people. Rom 12:1–2
 - b. He is thus enabled him to stand firm in a principled way, for the good and against evil. He has an integrity and an inner moral strength to turn away from mere expediency. Dan 6:3–5; 11:32
 - c. He maintains the practices of devotion that mark one who knows God and this leads to practical wisdom, for the same Word that revealed His God gives him insight into the world God made by wisdom. Prov 3:21–26
 - d. He has the ability to discern good from evil, from the word at work in his heart, a tender conscience, and constant use. Heb 5:12–14
2. He has a right fear of the Lord that leads him to trust in and be accountable to the Lord.
 - a. He has a dependence upon providence—only then can we function in a godly way in an ungodly world. He sees that every situation in life, favorable or otherwise, is a strategic, divinely given opportunity to bring glory to God. Prov. 16:33; Gen. 50:20
 - b. He has confidence in the Lord that bring grace under pressure. Not awkward nor offensive, but quiet confidence. This allows the believer to speak the truth in love. A contentious spirit is no evidence of confidence in God. 1Tim. 3:3
 - c. Humbled before the Lord, he has turned away from self-aggrandizement. Rom. 12:3; Phil. 2:3
 - d. As accountable to the Lord, whatever power and position the believer may have is not abused for his own sake. Col. 4:1

3. The believer has a knowledge of the passing character of this world and of his true citizenship in heaven. Phil 3:20–21
 - a. Thus he has no utopian expectations about any task in this world. Phil 3:12–14
 - b. The believer is not overcome by setbacks, but can persevere, for he knows that he is called to faithfulness, and that the Lord will not fail to preserve him or the heavenly city, come what may for any earthly city. Col 3:1–2
4. The believer is an example to others of a profitable way of life. Phil. 2:15; 1Pet. 2:12
5. The believer seeks the glory of God above all things. 1Cor. 10:31
 - a. The believer pursues his task as a service to his Lord first and foremost. Col. 3:17; Matt. 25:21
 - b. For the Lord's glory, the believer will seek to act with excellence at his task. Col. 3:23
6. Believers enjoy the power of the Spirit of God to motivate:
 - a. in virtue Gal 5:13–14
 - b. in service 1Pet. 4:10
 - c. in self-sacrifice Matt. 16:24
 - d. in suffering Rom. 5:3–5; 8:18, 28
7. The believer, acknowledging the rule of Christ, may in His service rightly look for His blessing in their labor, and this will be a blessing to all. Psa. 1:3; Phil. 1:22