- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (NIV)

Doing good can sometimes feel unrewarding. You might help others, give generously, offer your time and resources—and still feel overlooked, unappreciated, or even used. Yet Scripture reminds us that our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Doing Good is Often Costly-and That's the Point

True goodness often involves sacrifice. Biblical "good" isn't just being nice; it's self-giving love that mirrors God's heart. When you give without expecting anything in return, you are practicing *agape*—the unconditional love described in 1 Corinthians 13.

Examples of this kind of goodness include:

- **Helping the vulnerable**, like orphans and the poor (James 1:27).
- **Sacrificing your own comfort** to uplift others (Philippians 2:3-4).
- **Teaching, mentoring, or giving** to those who cannot repay you (Luke 14:12-14).
- Sharing the Gospel without expecting praise or reward (Matthew 10:8).

These acts reflect God's heart. Jesus Himself said, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

You May Grow Weary-but Stay the Course

God understands that doing good can be tiring. That's why we're reminded again and again not to give up.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." — Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul knew firsthand the hardships of serving others. Yet he taught that perseverance in doing good reflects genuine faith (Romans 2:6-7). Every act of goodness is a seed. It may take time, but it will bear fruit.

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A Real-Life Example: Mordecai's Story (Esther 6)
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Mordecai once saved King Xerxes by exposing an assassination plot, but he received no immediate reward. Time passed—he was forgotten. But at a crucial moment, the king couldn't sleep and ordered the royal records to be read. That night, he rediscovered Mordecai's deed and chose to honor him publicly.

This story reveals a deeper spiritual truth:

God does not forget the faithful acts of His people. Even when it seems like nothing is happening, God is working behind the scenes.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

- Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)

The Eternal Perspective

Paul writes in Romans 2:6-10 (NIV):

"God 'will repay each person according to what they have done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life... glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good."

In God's economy, doing good is never wasted. It may not bring fame or riches in this life, but it stores up eternal reward.

"And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." $$\operatorname{good."}$

Jesus Himself said: **"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."** — Matthew 6:20 (NIV)

So What Should You Do?

- Keep doing good even when it's hard.
- Encourage the weak in faith (Romans 15:1).
- Pray for others, especially those who struggle (James 5:16).
- Share the message of salvation (Romans 10:14–15).
- Be a light in dark places (Matthew 5:16).

Ask yourself: What good am I doing for God—not just for people, but for His glory?

Conclusion: God Sees, God Rewards

Don't lose heart. Whether you're planting seeds through kindness, generosity, or truth-telling, God sees—and in His time, He will reward.

"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." — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

Share the Message

If this has encouraged you, consider sharing it with someone who may be close to giving up. Let's keep each other strong in doing what is good—for the glory of God.

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