Doctrine of Good Works

1. Good works are those works done by the power of the Holy Spirit and with a proper motive that conform to the will of God.

2. When performed in the energy of God’s Spirit, good works can be called “divine good.”

3. The production of divine good in the life of the believer is identifiable.
   - The Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
   - Crucifixion of the flesh. Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
   - Living and walking in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
   - Not being proud, not lying and not being covetous. Galatians 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

4. Divine good stands in contrast to human good which are good deeds done in the flesh apart from the empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit. The works of the flesh can be easily identified.
   - Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

5. Good works are designed to bring glory to God and to be seen by others.
   - Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

6. Though Jesus did many good works, He was hated by His enemies to the point they wanted to kill Him by stoning.
   - John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?
7. The good works that individuals do for the Lord are recognized and remembered by others.

- Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

8. Normally, when a person performs good works in society, there is no reason to be afraid.

- Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

9. The Lord expects His followers to perform good works.

- Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

10. Christian women perform good works by being sober and dressing appropriately.

- 1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

11. When the church considers formally helping a widow, her good works are to be considered.

- 1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

12. Good works are manifested to the public and bad works cannot be hid.

- 1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

13. Special attention is given to prosperous Christians to perform divine good with the resources God has entrusted to them. Elders are to specifically charge or instruct the rich not to be proud and to be ready to give to others.

- 1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

14. In order to help the Christian produce divine good, God has given the Scriptures to be studied and applied.
• 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

15. It is the will of the Lord that Christians consistently perform divine good.

• Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity.

16. Christians are to be passionate about performing divine good.

• Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

17. Christians are to guard their hearts and their lives in order to consistently produce divine good.

• Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

18. The production of divine good reproduces itself so that the Christian’s life is fruitful and not barren.

• Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

19. Believers are to exhort one another to love and to good works.

• Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

20. The production of divine good is designed to be an effective tool of evangelism.

• 1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.