

## Scripture Reading: John 13:31-35

*Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier.*

—Thomas S. Monson

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**D**o you know for what you were created? If not, consider what the Bible says: “We are what [God] has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand *to be our way of life*” (Ephesians 2:10).

There it is. We were created to do good. Moreover, doing good is to be “our way of life.” Doing good is just who we are — or at least, who we’re supposed to be.

The apostle James says that faith without works is dead. The late Ethel Barrett — well-known Christian educator and storyteller some years ago — used to explain “faith without works” this way:

Faith and works are like the oars of a rowboat. If you only have one, you will only be able to row in tight circles — ultimately, going nowhere.

Perhaps you remember the fable of the man, the tiger and the fox. A man walking through a forest saw a fox that had lost its legs. The man wondered how the fox lived. Then he saw a tiger come with game in its mouth. The tiger ate its fill and left the rest for the fox.

The man saw the hand of God in this, and he decided that he would rest in a corner with full trust that the Lord would provide him with all he needed, just as he did for the fox.

So he did this for many days, but no one brought him anything. When he was almost at death’s door, he heard a voice say, “O you who are in a path of error, open your eyes to the truth! Follow the example of the tiger and stop imitating the fox.”

The apostle James would agree. Be the person who gives, not takes all the time.

If we preach it, we must practice it.

If we talk it, we must walk it.

It’s who we are; it’s the reason we were created!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for giving me purpose and meaning in my life. May my every word and deed bring glory to your name. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*