

Self-Effort vs. Redeemed Effort

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Broadcast Dates: 12/10/25-12/12/25

Message Date: 6/1/25 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Galatians 3:3, *NLT*
- 2 Corinthians 3:7
- 2 Corinthians 3:7, *NLT*
- Hebrews 10:14
- Hebrews 10:14
- Philippians 2:12, 13
- Hebrews 4:2, 3, 11

Summary:

When we first get saved, one of the biggest changes we undergo is a shift in mindset. Until we learn to begin renewing our minds, we tend to think we must continue striving through our own efforts to follow a list of rules. This was okay under the old covenant, but we're now living under the new covenant. Religion has trained most people according to the law, which requires people to work hard to try to be righteous before God. We now no longer have to strive for God to approve of us, because He already accepted and approved of us when we received Him. The effort of trying to get God to do what is complete has been replaced by the effort to maintain an intimate, personal relationship with Him. Now, the only effort required is the effort to participate in what's already finished through Jesus.

Notes:

1. Grace has replaced the law-based requirement to work and perform to get God's approval of us.
2. After getting born again, we must be careful not to fall back into self-effort. God has redeemed and saved us from this.
3. The law did what it was supposed to do in its season, but was intended to fade away. The law of works could not access the glory that Adam had lost on behalf of mankind.
4. God *already* approves of us when we trust in the finished works of Jesus. No self-effort is needed.
5. Under the new covenant, obedience is measured by faith, not by works. Instead of self-effort, God in us inspires our efforts.
6. We must make the effort to stay rooted in grace when everything around us tries to pull us back into performance.

Category: grace

Keywords: self-effort, redeemed, mindset, renewing our minds, striving, efforts, righteous, complete