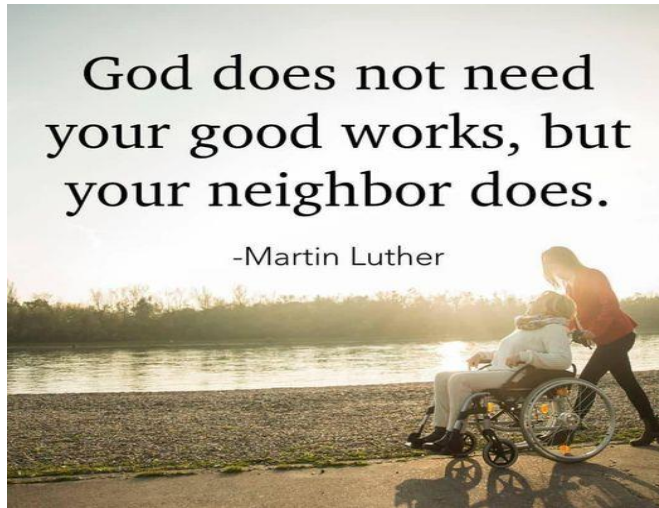


Reflection

God does not need
your good works, but
your neighbor does.

-Martin Luther



What are good works? They are the response to discipleship. Pastor has been preaching on this quite a bit since that is the focus of the gospels right now. Good works are the sign of a sincere and grateful faith. We are told to “Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” (Mathew 5:16 NKJV)

Mother Teresa says, “It may happen that a mere smile, a short visit, the lighting of a lamp, writing a letter for a blind man, carrying a bucket of charcoal, offering a pair of sandals, reading the newspaper for someone—something small, very small—may, in fact, be our love of God in action.” (A Life for God, 77)

Surely, it is through these acts of love that we are, in fact, Christians---followers of Christ. Yes, we gather on Sunday to collectively worship our God. But if it doesn’t lead us to go out and live as Christians---giving a smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, ...to those outside our place of worship—we are not living our faith. Our love of God must be **seen** and not just **heard**. And that is indeed the mission statement of Spirit of Hope, “Making Christ Known”.

Blessings,
Rosemary