

# The Best Reward for Doing Good

*"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." Matt. 6:2*

The best reward for doing good is becoming a better person. We can "see" God and future rewards only by faith, not by sight. By definition, an "act of faith" is done in the presence of doubt. Otherwise we would not call it "faith," but "certainty." Of the three examples below, who do you feel is making the most progress towards the goal of becoming like Christ?

1. The church member who tithes to the church, knowing that God will *"open up the windows of heaven"* (as in Malachi) and bless him financially in greater measure than what was given.
2. The seeker who gives his life to Christ in order to escape the torments of Hell and go to Heaven after death.
3. The agnostic or atheist who joins the Peace Corps because he/she genuinely wants to help people.

I do believe that one of the reasons that God "hides Himself" from us, and does not provide us with absolute "certainty" on all doctrinal matters, is so that we might more easily become good simply for goodness sake. He wants us to be good, not for immediate or future rewards, but because we have actually become good people.

I know this is controversial, but I believe that even Christ had to live with a degree of uncertainty while on Earth, hence the agonizing outpouring of grief in His prayer at Gethsemane.