

Actions Speak

There are more than a few shortsighted Christians who never achieve a growing transformation experience because they never take the initiative to put their faith into action. These dear souls may have a strong faith. They may spend a great deal of time in personal Bible study and prayer; yet, they stop short of actually – putting their faith to work. It is not that this missing effort is paramount to their salvation; however, putting action behind the words they see and hear, would be a strong testimony to the world around them, and an undeniable growth, in their walk with Christ.

The Biblical concept describes it like this: *“Dear brothers and sisters, what’s the use of saying you have faith if you don’t prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can’t save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, ‘Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well’ – but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?”* (James 2:14-16).

In their preaching commentary on James, authors William Baker and Tom Ellsworth use the following story to illustrate the above text. “A frontier congregation had gathered at the church building to pray for a family whose log home had been destroyed by a twister on the prairie. One pioneer mother and her children arrived a little late. As they took their place in the little church building, one of the older, pious members smugly asked, ‘Isn’t your husband coming?’ The young mother responded softly, ‘No, he can’t come this evening, but he sent his prayers in the wagon.’ Outside – was a wagon bed full of food and supplies.”

It is one thing to hide the words of your faith deep in your heart. It is still another to intensify that faith into action. The first, may keep you safe and feeling righteous. The second, will lead to a much more powerful life of transformation.

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