

Show Faith Through Actions

SCRIPTURE: James 2:18 *But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works, and I by my works will show you my faith."*

James 2:26 *For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.*

Acts 10:42 *He commanded us to preach to the people.*

Many people associate me with the 7-Ups, a Christian men's group that started in 1995 and that you can count on to always be there, the slogan being "We Never Not Meet". Our mission statement is clear, "Beginning with Fellowship and Studying God's Word We search for the Truth in our Lives and Share with others, While Trying Not To Judge Others, But Just "Do Unto Others." We meet, we have a website, and we send emails. Everyone is always welcome.

Between meetings, we often share our faith by giving out pennies that have been stamped with a hole in the shape of a cross in the middle to remind people of the love of Christ. Over the years I have probably given out 2,000 of them a year and often I hear back from people who have received them. The woman who is my dentist kept hers and months later told me she had made a cross bracelet from them. Another member had given one to the owner of a jewelry store and found it on display, made into a necklace for an angel. People often keep them for years. These tokens of our love for Christ and Christ's love for us are an outward and visible reminder to those we come into contact with about our faith.

As we often see in the Bible, it was the works of Jesus and the disciples that was first noticed by the people. All of the preaching and testimony was often overshadowed by action. This fact of human nature is most often noticed when referring to the way parents try to teach children to behave in one way and act in the opposite way. But it is true for everyone. As Francis of Assisi advised, "Preach the Gospel at all times - and when necessary, use words." How much more effective is the person who lives what he believes!

Many of you know that I have been a reasonably successful business man, working in the chemical industry for many years. I have only had one claim on my business insurance, a claim by a customer that was badly burned when he misused one of my company's chemicals. The claim was denied by the insurance company because it was clear that the customer had allowed the chemical to freeze, which altered its properties when it was subsequently thawed and resulted in the injury. The court agreed and the man was out of luck. It did not seem right to me and I asked the insurance company to at least pay his medical bills, and although there was no legal duty to do so, they agreed. It was the right thing.

PRAYER: Lord, help us to show our faith by the way we live so that others will know the love of Christ.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Do the right thing for others.

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