

Actions Speak Louder than Words

James

by Don Falkos

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Don't look at difficulties as bad. Dealing with them will bring growth in your patience, which can only be good. The same is true when facing down temptations, which by the way do not come from God but are the result of our own desires.

Don't just listen to God's word. Do what it says. You can say you have faith, but actions speak louder than words. Don't just say to someone in need, "Stay warm and eat well." What good does that do? Give that person some food and clothing! Care for widows and orphans; treat the poor with dignity; don't show favoritism for the wealthy. Simply put, as the scriptures say, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Faith on its own is incomplete. You believe there is one God. Well, good for you. The demons believe that, too, and tremble in terror. Without good deeds growing out of it your faith is dead and useless.

If you claim to be devout but don't control your tongue, you're fooling yourself. From the tongue come both blessings and curses. That's just not right. Do your best to master it.

Humble yourself before God, and do as God has instructed you. If you know what God wants you to do but don't do it, you will be condemned. If you gain wealth by paying insufficient wages to the workers under you, you will be condemned. If you spend your life satisfying your own desires while ignoring the needs of the less fortunate, you will be condemned.

If you are in need, pray! If anyone else is in need, pray! Pray for each other. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.