

Faith and Action
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Favorite Verses
Summer Series 2010

Where We're Going

- ▶ Discuss the Importance of ACTION related to faith
- ▶ Identify what prevents us from acting
- ▶ Provide some tips to overcome obstacles
- ▶ Recommended actions (homework)

▶ 2

I Know I Should, But...

▶ QUESTIONS

- ▶ Do you have difficulty getting certain things done?
- ▶ Are there things you should be doing, but just can't seem to start?
- ▶ Do you want to do more, be more, help more but can't seem to get things done?
- ▶ Are your intentions strong & noble...but go nowhere?

▶ 3

Scriptural Basis

James 2:14-19 (NIV)

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷**In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

¹⁹**You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.**

▶ 4

Faith & Deeds (Action)

▶ James 2:14

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can **such faith** save him?

- ▶ "...such faith..." – incomplete?
- ▶ Strong faith should inspire action

▶ 5

Strong Belief will Drive Action

▶ I believe that:

- ▶ You are a great cook, but...
- ▶ Airplanes are safer than cars, but...
- ▶ Church is important, but...
- ▶ Do your actions match what you know?
- ▶ Do you ever think "I should..., but"?
- ▶ If you have "Should Buts" disease, act now!

▶ 6

What Prevents Us from Action?

- ▶ Fear of failure
- ▶ Too big a step, Too big a bite
- ▶ Target unclear (More, better, & other shoulda/coulda weasel words)
- ▶ Too picky to start, no perfection yet (analysis paralysis)
- ▶ Too busy

Good Deeds – Positive Influence

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

*¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your **good deeds** and praise your Father in heaven.*

Knowledge is Required

- ▶ Knowing establishes DIRECTION
- ▶ Knowing can drive positive results
- ▶ I Peter 13:1 (NIV) from Sunday night
 - ▶ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- ▶ Scriptural search using Bible Explorer
 - ▶ Action, Works, Deeds – good and bad
- ▶ Knowledge & choice define values

Faith Based Action is Critical

- ▶ Actions drive change (set in motion)
 - ▶ Self
 - ▶ Family, Friends, & Community
- ▶ Knowledge without use. Faith without works.
- ▶ Quick activity – no paper required, no turn-ins
 - ▶ What are the 5 Most Important Things TO YOU?
 - ▶ Where do you spend most of your time?

Faith & Works – Strengthen & Grow

- ▶ Does stronger faith grow works?
- ▶ Do more works increase faith?



Gain Knowledge and Take Action

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

²⁵But the man who **looks intently into the perfect law** that gives freedom, and **continues to do this**, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Faith & Works – Glorify

Colossians 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

▶ 13

Living By Example – Deeds (Action)

James 3:13 (NIV)

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, **by deeds done** in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

▶ 14

Homework

1. Pick one thing you need to do
2. Identify what is stopping you
3. Find scripture to set your direction
4. Define a SMART goal (Specific, Measurable, Relevant, Time-based)
5. Write down the first small step you will do
6. Take action, take more steps

Repeat as necessary

▶ 15

Where We've Been

- ▶ Faith & good deeds (ACTION) are important
- ▶ Good deeds are influential & beneficial
- ▶ Barriers exist that prevent action
- ▶ You can use scripture to help focus on what you should work on first
