

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

James 1:26-27 “If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world”

The expression, “put your money where your mouth is” is an old one. The idea behind this saying is it is easy to talk about doing something but harder to actually do what you should. James says, if you talk about how religious you are but your actions do not demonstrate that you are truly a Christian, the faith you profess is worthless. To say you are a Christian and then the way you live (thoughts, words, actions) are not in conformity with Christianity, you are a hypocrite, an imposter, like the Pharisees were at the time of Jesus.

Once again James provides a contrast. This time he contrasts the person who says they are a Christian but their life does not demonstrate what they confess with the person who confesses their faith in Jesus and lives their life in a way that is in accord with His word and will. James is quite blunt about the former saying such a profession of faith is “worthless” and the latter is “pure and undefiled.”

Verses 26 and 27 go together with verses 19 and 20 where James wrote, “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” Jesus said that on the day of Judgement, “. . .the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:37-40)

Prayer: Send Your Holy Spirit into my heart, O Lord, that my life mirrors the faith you have given me in Jesus. In His holy name. Amen.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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