

If We Don't Do Something...

THE DECIDED LIFE

James 2:14-26 *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. 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, 16 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? 17 So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all -- it is dead and useless. 18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds." 19 Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror! 20 Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did -- by his actions. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." He was even called "the friend of God." 24 So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. 25 Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions -- when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 Just as the body is dead without a spirit, so also faith is dead without good deeds.*

James is talking to the _____.

God expects His children to be people of _____.

Proverbs 13:4 *Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied.*

Proverbs 14:23 *Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!*

Proverbs 10:4-5 *Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. 5 A wise youth works hard all summer; a youth who sleeps away the hour of opportunity brings shame.*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 *Whoever does not work should not eat.*

_____ don't change anything until they are acted upon.

The one thing that always debilitates action is _____.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

Psalms 56:3-4 *But when I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 O God, I praise your word. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?*

The problem isn't that we experience fear, the problem is when we allow fear to _____ our path.

Isaiah 41:10 *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*

There's a big difference between doing nothing and _____.

Ephesians 6:11-17 *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

What God does in us _____ is often just as important as what it is we are waiting for.

Luke 18:35-43 *As they approached Jericho (Jesus and all those with Him), a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. ³⁶When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going by. ³⁸So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹The crowds ahead of Jesus tried to hush the man, but he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. ⁴¹Then Jesus asked the man, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he pleaded, "I want to see!" ⁴²And Jesus said, "All right, you can see! Your faith has healed you." ⁴³Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.*

1. Waiting is a good time to _____ who God is.

Matthew 22:42 *"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "He is the son of David."*

2. Waiting keeps us from getting _____ of God.

3. Waiting allows God to do His _____.

Matthew 10:50 *Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.*

OBSTACLE TO WAITING: _____

Isaiah 40:31 *But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.*