



June 18, 2018

Faith into Action

"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:15-17)

Make no mistake about it; salvation is from God, 100% fully and completely. The Bible is absolutely clear on this - we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We have no merit in our salvation nor can ever "do enough" to be worthy of it, and in today's passage James is not saying that we do! Instead what he is saying is that salvation brings with it responsibility. We are not saved by good works, we are saved *for* good works. The Bible says that we are Christ's representatives, *"as though God were making his appeal through us"* (2 Corinthians 5:20). What we do matters, not for our salvation, but for our witness.

If you claim to be a Christian coach you can be sure that your fellow coaches, players, opponents and umpires are watching and your claim of faith in Christ will be verified or denied by what you do and by what you say on the field. *"What good is it,"* James asks, *"if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?"* (James 2:14). It's no good, he says. The proof that your faith is genuine is demonstrated by your actions – not by the scoreboard.

Through our faith in Christ our heavenly father grants us opportunity to put our faith into action! As coaches you have an opportunity daily to let all those you are in contact with on the field know that you are Christian that happens to be a coach. Not a coach that happens to be a Christian.

Use your opportunity today and coach from your faith. Show and let others know that you are a follower of Christ. *"Go coach 'em up!"*

Question: Is your faith made complete by the fruit it produces (James 2:22)?

Challenge: Read James 2 and examine yourself. Is the source of your works a healthy desire to bring God glory, or an impossible attempt to win his favor?

Prayer: Lord, I know I bring nothing to my salvation except my sin. I want to honor my Savior with my life of love and obedience. Help me to do that.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball