

Wednesday - March 4

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

James 2:14 (NRSV)

Whoa that makes you stop in your tracks and think, doesn't it? You gotta be working for the kingdom!

It's a passage that challenges us but deep down in your heart you know it is true.

Faith is essential. Why else would Jesus have died for us? But if we have faith in God and his spirit lives in us how can that spirit be alive if it's not doing the thing Jesus would have us do? How would or could his Kingdom come?

Just recently on the radio someone explained this very well. There is God and there is man. There is the heart that is hidden and the hands and feet and voice that are seen and heard. God alone knows what's in your heart and that's your faith. Man can't see that faith. It is known only to you and God. He can see through that faith in action though the works of your hands and feet and can hear what your lips say. Like a tree, faith is the root on which we stand and by which we are fed but what we can share is the fruit of faith through our works and that's real sweet.

Works for Jesus are like exercising a muscle. They build you up and bring you joy when you see the results. Each one may have a different focus for their work maybe in supporting missions or Sunday school, praying for the sick, making meals for the poor or singing in the choir. Mine is spending time with prisoners. This has been one of the greatest blessings in my life and has enriched my faith tremendously. That's why I want to end by sharing with you the Kairos Prison Ministry community prayer that sums things up so well.

Gillian

Prayer: Jesus come join us in our journey as we seek Your will for this community. Teach us to love each other as You loved us. To give ourselves as You gave Yourself so that the kingdom of God might be made present to all. Amen.