

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Just Do It" 2/16/2022

"Faith without works is dead" (James 2:17)

James' words really make us think. Some people see works righteousness is this, If I work hard enough I'll ... Get what I want. Be saved. Impress others. But, I think, James is just telling us, everybody lives is Missouri, Show Me. People need to see our faith in action. Do we practice what we preach? Do we really love others, welcome all, care for the children, have concern for our planet? How do we reflect the love of God to those around us?

The wise sage, Anonymous, once said, "The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention." I look at my to-do list – if I accomplished it all I'd be a rock star, well, I'd feel satisfied. I have great intentions when I write out the list, but the sun rises and the best intentions go out the window. We can blame Covid, but it's often just another excuse. I try to convince myself to do the next thing NOW. To put aside my book or phone, turn off the TV, focus and get it done. Just do it. Write the letter. Make the phone call. Visit the neighbor.

Yes, we need quiet time. Jesus often went off by Himself to pray, to be still, to recharge. But we are called to serve, to reflect God's love – not just to our pets. We need to be in motion, to be out with those whom we are to love and serve. We need to take the initiative to be who God created us to be. Some people are great at it. They spread encouragement and peace, they make others feel important and cared for. We are all to do that. We live in community.

I don't think it's always easy, sometimes we are busy with our stuff, sometimes we are selfish. It happens, but as we take our eyes off of ourselves, and look out into the world God so loves, we see there are people who need us, lonely people who need to be reminded of their worth – and we are the people sent to do that.

If we don't go, it doesn't get done. Pick up the phone, let someone know you care. Send a Thinking of You card. Drop off a plate of cookies. Volunteer at a Senior Care Facility or the local thrift store or food bank. Offer to sit with their kids so a single parent can have some Me time. Visit a shut in. Shovel someone's sidewalk. Encourage someone. Compliment them. Tell someone you love them. Show others God's love in a tangible way.

Nothing difficult, but if it's on your list and never gets crossed off – it's just a good intention. So, just do it. Show others you care, so they will know they are loved. Just a small deed to show them God's love. Let's live our faith.

Please pray along with me: God of love and life. Thank You for Your love. For showing me daily how much You care. Create in me a heart which loves and show me ways to share this love with my neighbor. May my life show Your love and my faith to others.

Amen I bid you peace