

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD"

"Even so faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:17

The apostle James, half-brother of Jesus, explains true salvation by asking several questions regarding faith and works. *"What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"* (James 2: 14-16) James answers the questions with the verse for today: *"Faith without works is dead."* How many of us really want an active, productive faith that makes a real difference in our world? True living faith requires us to *"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory, both now and ever. Amen."* (2 Peter 3:18) James continued his discussion: *"But someone will say you have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do."* (James 2:18) Faith is an action word as explained in James 2:20: *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."* In this time of crisis on several fronts, praise God that we see so many people all over the world working out their faith, protesting and demonstrating for righteousness and justice. Even if we do not actively protest, there are works we can do. *By all means, each one of us should vote in every election from local to national; we must complete the census to be counted; and we can encourage everyone in our sphere of influence to do the same.* Jesus said: *"I must work the works of Him who has sent me while it is day; the night comes when no man can work."* (St. John 9:4) A living active faith means that in spite of problems, pains, and perplexities, we *"let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven."* (St. Matthew 5:16)

Jesus described the lady of Canaan who needed help for her severely demon possessed daughter as having **great faith**. What do we learn from her? First, as the Canaanite woman did, we learn in all situations, to turn to the one who can help us. This remarkably interesting and impressive encounter with Jesus is found in **St. Matthew 15:21-28**. This lady of Canaan put forth much effort to see Jesus; she worked out her faith. Yes, genuine faith is more than belief in certain facts; it results in action. When Jesus did not answer her at first and the disciples wanted her to leave, she persisted. (St. Matthew 15:23) Then when Jesus said: *"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel,"* instead of being insulted or leaving, she worshipped Jesus. (St. Matthew 15:24-25) Then Jesus said: *"It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs."* (St. Matthew 15:26) Knowing that Jesus was the answer to her dilemma, she answered Jesus back with: *"Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the master's table."* (St. Matthew 15:27) At that point, Jesus pays her a wonderful compliment and heals her daughter. *"O woman, great is thy faith."* (St. Matthew 15:28) This lady applied works to her strong faith in Jesus and her persistent effort paid off. Indeed, she fought the good fight of faith, not letting anyone or anything stop her. She was a faith walker, not just a faith talker. What about you?

How will you respond to today's message?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Please bless me to develop great faith.
Help me to keep my eyes on Jesus and
allow the Holy Spirit to control my
actions. I desire to live by faith and not
by sight. Establish the works of my
hands. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
