

Faithless Action and Actionless Faith

by A.W. Tozer

Faith is not a substitute for moral conduct, but a means toward it, and Christlike conduct is the end of Christian faith.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22, James 2:17

Topics: "Faith and Works", "Christian Conduct"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes that true faith is not a replacement for moral conduct but rather a catalyst for it. He illustrates that just as a tree exists to produce fruit, faith should lead to Christlike actions. Tozer warns against the dangerous misconception that faith can exist without corresponding works, which has resulted in a distorted Christian life. He likens this error to a flawed foundation in construction, leading to unsightly and unstable spiritual structures. Ultimately, he reminds us that we will be held accountable for how we live out our faith in action.

Transcript

Rightly understood, faith is not a substitute for moral conduct but a means toward it. The tree does not serve in lieu of fruit but as an agent by which fruit is secured. Fruit, not trees, is the end God has in mind in yonder orchard; so Christlike conduct is the end of Christian faith. To oppose faith to works is to make the fruit the enemy to the tree; yet that is exactly what we have managed to do.

And the consequences have been disastrous.

A miscalculation in laying the foundation of a building will throw the whole superstructure out of plumb, and the error that gave us faith as a substitute for action instead of faith in action has raised up in our day unsymmetrical and ugly temples of which we may well be ashamed, and for which we shall surely give a strict account in the day when Christ judges the secrets of our hearts.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/faithless-action-and-actionless-faith/>

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