

Don't Tell Me, Show Me!

Ponder: Proof

Scripture: "Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (Jas. 2:18b, NKJV).

I lived a few years in Missouri, famously known as "the 'show me' state." Residents there seemed no different than in other places as to wanting proof before believing something. Christians realize that faith involves the unseen, but faith is not blind. We can and should seek evidence.

Under the Law of Moses, a healed leper couldn't just announce that he was well. He had to prove to the priest that he was free of the disease before he could rejoin the community. When Jesus cleansed the leper in Matthew 8, He commanded him to "go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded as a testimony to them" (v. 4).

The Lord's brother James challenged his readers, "Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James wanted proof. "Show me!" Merely claiming to have Biblical faith is easy. It's also empty. But backing up the claim with works verifies its legitimacy.

Wisdom likewise must be demonstrated, not merely claimed. "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom" (Jas. 3:13, ESV).

Sometimes we fail to recognize proof when it's shown to us. Philip, after walking with Jesus over three years, said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us" (John 14:8). Hear the disappointment in Jesus' reply: "Have I been with you so long, yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (v. 9).

Faith is neither blind nor solitary. Let us seek proof; and let us provide proof that we actually have faith. In addition, let us recognize proof when it is shown to us!

Hymn: "I Am Resolved"

Prayer: Father, we thank You for the proof You have shown that Jesus is Your Son and the Bible is Your word. Help us to recognize this proof, and to show our faith and wisdom by our works of obedience to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.