

Faith and Works

I will use my freedom to serve others in love. I have been given freedom because of all Jesus has done for me and I will use that freedom to serve others. I recognize and understand freedom demands responsibility; I will not use my freedom to do as I please or to fulfill selfish desires. Rather I will use my freedom to serve others in love; this is the only appropriate expression of the freedom and grace I have in Jesus.

To serve for any reason other than love is foolish. I do not serve in hope of winning God's approval, love or acceptance. In truth there is nothing I can do to make God love me more than He does this very moment; He loves me completely. There is nothing I can do to win His approval or acceptance; through Jesus, He approves of me completely and I am fully loved. I use my freedom to serve others in love because it is the natural outcome of a heart of love.

My faith is worthless, my words are hollow and my beliefs unfounded unless they are accompanied by faith in action through service. So today I put my faith into action. Positive action is the fruit and proof my faith is real. I am choosing to focus on serving others, for I understand there is a connection between loving others and serving others. I will use my freedom to serve others in love.

Real love requires action through service. It is the logical and natural outcome of love. Talk alone is not enough. Faith is not a matter of simply reciting the right words; it is always accompanied by action – action expressed through serving others in love. And I will begin with those closest to me, because to serve them is to love them. I will use my freedom to serve others in love.

The connection of love to service best expresses my thanks and praise to God for the freedom I have in Jesus. Jesus said to love and then serve. Service is the outward expression of love and the way I will express appreciation of others' worth. Jesus taught that serving others is also the ultimate demonstration of leadership and greatness. Jesus' mission was to serve others and to give His life away. As I continue to follow and put my faith in Him I will use my freedom to serve others in love.

Today I ask God to burden my heart for others because today I take on His lifestyle of service so my life will conform to His image. And I will back up my faith with actions; my faith will always be accompanied with action. I will use my freedom to serve others in love.

Study: Faith and Works

Day 1: God at Work in Me - *Romans 7:4* (Page 861); *Psalms 37:5* (Page 411)

Day 2: Living out My Faith - *James 2:14-18* (Page 931); *Psalms 39:7* (Page 431)

Day 3: His Purpose - *Ephesians 2:10* (Page 896); *John 10:10* (Page 819)

Day 4: Know Christ - *Matthew 7:21-23* (Page 738); *Psalms 37:9* (Page 430)

Day 5: Eager to Serve God - *1 Peter 5:1-4* (Page 937); *1 Corinthians 9:19-23* (Page 875)

Day 6: Humble Obedience - *Philippians 2:5-8* (Page 900); *John 13:14-15* (Page 822)

Day 7: Wisdom in My Actions - *Galatians 5:13-14* (Page 893). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:13 *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."* Galatians 5:13

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?