

1 Corinthians 9:14

Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

I was listening to pastor Jon Courson teaching the other day when he asked the following question, which I decided to elaborate on a little.

Let's say for the next month you had to move out of your home and move in with a deaf person, and you don't know sign language, and the deaf person cannot read lips or read. So based upon you living with this deaf person, would he or she know that you are a Christian based upon your life, without them knowing you were a Christian prior to this?

People wear their Christian t-shirts, play their Christian music and teachings. But not being able to hear your music or the teachings you may listen to, and unable to read your t-shirt. Would that person want to be like you (as a Christian)?

The book of James is one of my favorite books in the bible. It's in your face Christianity, that we all need sometimes. James, the half brother of Jesus, addresses this same question, in a sense.

† **James 2:15-16** *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*

Sometimes we get so caught up in doing the right "spiritual" thing that we overlook doing what is good for others.

Jesus addresses this as well.

† **Mark 7:9-13** *He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"--' (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

Today's devotional is not a beatdown, but rather something for us all to stop and take a look at, and see if our walk, matches our talk. You can say all the right words, but if your life does not match them, then they mean nothing.

† **1 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT2)** *If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*