

Flipping Your Faith

By Randal Stephens

Have you ever walked into a room and without a thought at all, flipped the switch on the wall? Of course you have, and what happened? The light came on. And you knew it would, every single time, not because you could see the electricity working or even because you really knew *how* it was working behind that wall. You flipped the switch because from your earliest days, before you were tall enough to even reach it, you saw someone flip that switch and you saw the light come on, every single time. And at some point, you got big enough to flip that switch yourself, so when you wanted the light on, you just did it. And the light came on for you too, every single time.

What you saw shaped the way you live your life.

If you had never seen it happen, you would most certainly have lived your life in the dark, until someone came along and flipped that switch and you saw its power. After that, you would surely no longer live your life in the dark, but in the light. Your spiritual faith behaves the same way.

In James 2:20, we are told that "faith without works is dead." (NAS) Most believe, incorrectly, that faith can simply be boiled down to what we believe, but Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is "substance" and "evidence"(KJV). In other words, *living* faith is made of very real, very visible things that represent what we hope for and what we can't see.

Earlier in that same passage from James chapter 2, James writes, "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." (NIV) He is saying faith is your belief but not belief only; faith is represented by *everything else you do*. It's your actions that let the rest of the world know what you believe. And make no mistake, it doesn't matter what you say, or what you say you believe, because what you *truly* believe will always be revealed in what you do.

Faith is not simply abstract, but tangible. It moves and breathes. It clothes, feeds, and it shelters. It paints a room, hauls the garbage, and pays for a tire. Faith is the shovel in the soil and the knock on the door. Simply put, faith *does*.

Remember the lesson of that light switch. You learned how to flip it by watching others flip it. And so it is with your faith; it must be alive, like the electricity behind that wall. It must be pulsing within you, ready for the smallest opportunity to be used. And there are countless opportunities every day. But, like that switch on the wall, your faith has to be "flipped," or it's just stagnant power, good for nothing. Have you flipped your faith today?

Blessings from Randal Stephens at: www.christsbondservants.org

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