



Intentions

“The road to hell is paved with good intentions”. It is hard to dispute the wisdom of that phrase. We all have good intentions, but sometimes they hit the wall of intentions of someone else!

So often we try to do what we think another person would want – but we fail to check in with them to see if what WE think is what THEY really want. I intend to be nice to them, but I may very well be getting in their way! I don't like to think about life that way, but I also know it happens.

So, what do we do with our good intentions? How do we “act out” our lives of faith? How do we let the world know that our faith is important even when we are getting the word from them that they don't care about faith, that they think “faith” is just out there someplace and has no real impact on the world? How do we let our friends and neighbors know that our faith is important not only to us but to the world?

If you have the answers to all these questions, please see me as soon as possible as I really don't know how to answer them very well!

Sometimes I think that the internet has let loose a lot of spiritual pap. Maybe pastors get more of it because people think we are not spiritual enough! or because they think we would like this stuff. But it is pap – it's the baby food of spiritualism. And often it's combined with magic – “Pass this on to ten people and in 20 minutes you will receive a special blessing!” I suspect the intentions of people are good, but what it shows me is that somewhere along the way, the

Church in the world has failed in its intention to build and mature faith. I also wonder if some of those who send this stuff along are trying to assure me that under their non-attending church exterior, they are really very spiritual people. I don't know. I don't know their intentions.

But do they know my intentions? Do I show people, by my life and my words, that faith is important and that faith is the foundation of my life? I don't know that, either. In fact, the further I go along in life, the less I am sure that what I do really does reflect the life God wants me to live and the mission God has for me in my retirement. But then I think most of us spend a good part of our lives seeking our mission of the moment!

I do have options. The biggest option is prayer. It is important that each day I wake up and put my day in the hands of God. I may have good intentions, but I have no idea what God's intentions are for me that day! I need to "check in" and seek God's guidance for my life. Sometimes we get so involved in what we are doing or what we want to do, we forget that God has a plan for us, too. We need to be open to things that come to us and open to hearing God's call every single moment of every single day.

I'm sure most of us have good intentions in life as we walk the path. But let's not forget that God has intentions as well, ones that he want' us to be included in. Let's try to keep our ears and hearts open to his call and pave our walk with God's intentions!

TAK

--- Thoughts of the Week
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