

## Living Out Faith at Work (2nd Part) - What does it mean to live faith out?

To live faith out does not mean we have to go about setting up or joining lunch-hour bible study or prayer groups or always “pushing” our religious beliefs into the open in workplaces. To live faith out means to act out accepted or professed faith, that is, to present the faith in action; translate faith teachings or doctrines into action; or to express directly our faith teachings in overt behaviour without modification to comply with social norm. It means exhibiting observable behaviour (in form of speech or actions) that aligns with or reflect the core of faith teachings as we engage in relationships (family, business, spiritual, friendships, physical, authority etc.).

Living faith out also means having an answer when asked about what an individual believes or why a person acts in a certain way. When faith is being lived out, it is expected that an individual will experience making hard choices in order to align activities or behaviour with faith teachings; work with others in the workplace to make the workplace and the world a better place; show love unto others; and encourage people to be the best that God wants them to be.

God has called us to the manifestation of our faith in the public arena not for our own glory or praise but that people may know that God is the source, power, one in-charge of all that we have or achieved (Matthew 5:15-17). This is why John the Baptist stated in Jn. 3:27 that “A man can receive only what is given to him from heaven.” So we need to acknowledge that God is the source of what we have and we should refrain from calling ourselves self-made persons.

Thomas Linacre made a statement that "Either these are not the gospels, or we're not Christians," as he recognized a great disparity between those who proclaimed Christ and how they lived their lives. Thus if our faith life is not validated through our behaviour then one must question if we even have a genuine relationship with Christ. (TGIF Vol. 2, August 23, 2008)

We are to reflect the values of Jesus Christ in our lives as we have been called to be salt and light to the world. Some of the ways we can know Jesus' values are through reading His Word; listening to biblically-based teachings; studying His Word; and sharing what the Holy Spirit has expounded in our hearts with others. It is when we know His values that we can put them into action, which is God's expectation as it brings Him glory. If you consider that you spend about 72,800 hours at work if you work for 35 years, do you think your workplace is a good place for ministry? There are no TV Shows that have run that long and we know many TV Shows have influenced people for life.

You've got an opportunity to influence people for life. What are you doing about that?

Have a blessed week.

