

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 33

Action Not Words

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Our words are powerful and can hurt or help one another. With social media we see words that are harmful and those that are uplifting. We choose what words we use. Will they be hurtful or kind, uplifting and helpful? We make that choice every time we say something. But what does the Bible say about our words? The Bible says a lot about our words, but in 1 John 3:18, the Bible says, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth." What does that mean?

Our actions:

We choose what words we will use with one another and we choose how we act every day. Our goal each day is to become more like Christ. Christ laid down his life for his friends. Christ GAVE his life for his friends; well, for all of us. We can say a lot of superfluous words and we can say we love you or them but that is not what the scripture says here. We are to love with actions and in truth. How do we act? We spend time, money, and talents day after day. Are we showing love as we spend? We have had two specific requests for the precious children of Morningstar - to pray every day and to give every day for 40 days. Those are actions! Will you commit to continuing what we have all started? Will you do it in truth?

Loving with our actions and in truth:

The easiest way to love with actions and in truth is to decide every day that we are going to truly try to show love with our actions. Choose every day to become more like Christ and love with actions and in truth. God shows us his love abundantly! Christ gave abundantly! Let us pray fervently and give abundantly.

A life of Loving with actions:

If you choose every day that you are going to show love through your actions, eventually it will happen more and more without you even thinking about it. The children at Morningstar are there, day after day, moment after moment being cared for by many people from the Director to the workers in the kitchen - all of whom love those children dearly.

Our prayer:

Lord God, I pray for the precious children at Morningstar. I pray for the workers that are there with them; please give them the words to say to them and guide their actions so the children will see how much they are loved. Thank you for all of the people who are praying and giving with me right now. I pray that we would all ponder these words and, according to Your will, we will know exactly what to pray for, would pray fervently, and would give abundantly. Thank you for blessing us so abundantly so we can be a blessing. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice through fasting throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributors

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our **children** through **real relationships**

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