



“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly.” – Teddy Roosevelt

Energy may be the least appreciated dimension of love because it is the least sentimental.

How we invest our energy reveals our true priorities.

“It is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.” – Thomas Edison

God ideas do not become a Reality without some blood, sweat and tears.

Newspring Core Value: Pray like it depends on God and work like it depends on you.

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 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. You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” – James 2:14-26 (NIV)

We falsely view righteousness as doing nothing wrong. We practice holiness by subtraction.

The problem with this approach is this: you can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right.

Goodness is not the absence of badness. Righteousness means more than doing nothing wrong... It means doing something right!

Two Kinds of Sin:

1. A sin of _____.
2. A sin of _____.

The greatest risk is taking no risk.

Righteousness is using all our God-given gifts to their full God-given potential.

Love does not play it safe – it takes risk. Love does not make excuses – it takes responsibility. Love does not see problems – it seizes opportunities to step in.

“Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the scriptures... ‘Passions for God’s house will consume me.’” – John 2:17

Enthusiasm – “En” and “Theos” (Greek) – In God.

“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ ‘My food,’ Jesus said, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.’” – John 4:31-34

“Food” is synonymous with “energy.” How do you stay energized? Stay in the will of God.

Entropy – the second law of thermodynamics: “if left to its own devices, everything in the universe moves toward disorder and decay.”

“Where there is no vision the people perish.” – Proverbs 28:19

“Perish” = “Decay”
