

GROWING FAITH IN OTHERS: Seeing Good Deeds (Part 1)

Every once in a while I see a statement come across social media. It usually goes something like this:

“If being hurt by the church causes you to lose faith in God, then your faith was in people, not God.”

I disagree with this statement. Over the next few bulletin articles I want to explain why.

There is another saying out there. It says, “You are the only Bible people will ever read.” While I don’t fully believe this to be true, I think there is a point to be made. People will view Jesus through how they view those who claim to know Him. For people who don’t know Jesus, they have to learn about Him through those humans who do know Him.

The same is true in a physical sense. A few years ago my name was used as a reference for a job. The manager called me and asked how I knew the applicant. I told him I did not know the applicant, but I knew his father. I knew his father to be a good man. Children are usually molded after their father. I could not say definitively, but it is likely that if his father was a good man, so would the applicant also be a good man.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

For those who are in a dark world, the way the church will be the light will not be through prayer, Bible study, or fasting, which are inward practices, but through good works which are outward practices. Jesus wants us to do good works and practice our faith outwardly. He taught that prayer was not evangelistic in that it is private between a man and God.

People will see our good works and glorify God! They will know who God is by the good things they see in His Children. Will people because also curse God because of the sinful things they see in His children?

--Alex Swango