

“IT’S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS” LIE

It’s not the thought that counts, it’s doing that counts.

How many times have you heard the expression: *“it’s the thought that counts”*? This expression has been misused for as long as the cliché has been around. In simple terms, the thought is really of no value unless it is accompanied by action/works. Many people take advantage of this cliché. Many people receive a lot of undeserved credit for things they proclaim to do in front of others, that never actually get done.

James 5:12 *But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.”*

If Noah would have just thought of building the ark, the animals and mankind would not have been saved. If Joshua would have just talked about defeating Jericho, the walls would have never crumbled. If Messiah Yeshua would have thought about giving Himself up on the stake, none would have been saved. It’s not the thought that counts! It’s: obedience, works, doing, action, that gets things done! Promises are of no value if they are not kept, and kept on time. In today’s society the word of people is practically useless. Most people do not honor their word. They don’t seem to think it is necessary to keep their word unless it is advantageous to them. The sincere motives that made society honest in years gone by, have been corrupted and diluted to mean nothing anymore. When was the last time you saw or heard of a valiant act of honesty? It used to be that a man’s word could be stood on regardless of all the things that took place to hinder that from happening. It’s sad to say, but even the word of mafia members probably has more value than that of most Christians! The mafia may be a terrible organization, but at least the word of most of their members is sincere.

I remember, on the farm, how the neighbors would share everything imaginable all year long without ever having problems having to repair the items borrowed. When equipment was borrowed, it always came back in better shape than it left. It was the common custom to make the object being lent out, of more value upon its return, by means of paint, cleaning, rebuilding, etc.,. People seem to appreciate items lent out a lot more. People respected things in general a lot more than in today’s society. No one needed to write down on a calendar, who borrowed what, when, because everyone respected each other’s equipment and most were very honest. Bloodsuckers, you might say, are those who take from others, but never return or repay the lender. There were the bloodsuckers back then too, but they were usually few and far between. They take what they can get and in many cases never return favors that honorable men relate to. Some equipment is run to the ground and other equipment is simply neglected, uncared for, while it is being used. When replacement or repairs are required, it seems like pulling teeth to get it done. This is not what Yahveh intended when He said: “say yeh or ney”.

Let me give you an example of how many people receive credit they don’t deserve. Let’s imagine ourselves at a fellowship or bible study. During the course of the evening it is made public that a lady (lets call her Linda), in the group, is in dire straits. Someone mentions that she is in serious financial trouble and asks if anyone present could find it in their heart to help her with her situation. A man says (let’s call him Jim), that he will give Linda \$1,000.00 to assist her. Everyone in the room is delighted to hear that Jim has

found it in his heart to help Linda with this huge amount of money. People in the room whisper back and forth saying how wonderful Jim is for helping Linda out. Jim immediately receives a lot of credit from his colleagues for his promise. After the evening is over, those attending in turn phone and tell their friends how wonderful Jim is to help this lady out in such a manner. The people at his church all praise him for being so kind and the pastor even mentions it at the following service. Jim has received a lot of recognition for his thought of helping the woman out. One week later at the next meeting it is noted that the lady never did receive the money from Jim. Jim says he will look after it and no more is said, except how nice a man he is to do such a thing. A while later, again it is noted that Jim never did give Linda the \$1,000.00 he promised her. The conclusion..Jim got a lot of undeserved credit for something he didn't do. Jim took advantage of the nice though, but never followed it up with action. Jim accepted the praise for his good deed long before he showed his true color. If Jim does various things like this in various circles, he will be known as a nice gentlemen who helps the downtrodden, even though he never comes through with his good intentions. Jim has manipulated a good idea and has ruined it for others. Many people do this type of thing in many various forms on a regular basis. Those around when the promise is being made are seldom around when the fraud is revealed. These people take the credit without ever doing anything except talking about doing.

James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."*

How many people do you know that do this type of thing?

How many people do you know that stand behind their word?

How many people do you know that are somewhere at the appointed time?

How many times have you heard these people say; "something came up"?

It seems these people always have an excuse. Society as a whole has made adjustments for just these kind of people. A meeting that is supposed to start at 7:00PM is started at 7:30PM because many are late. If you said be there at 7:30PM they would come at 8:00PM. How many do you know like this? If one gives their word that they will be somewhere at 7:00PM, they should in fact be there 15 minutes early to be sure they are not late. When people are late it shows you how anxious they are to meet with you. This applies to many things in our life. Our word must be honored. **James 1:22** *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."* Our spoken word should be similar to Yahveh's written word in the sense that it can be held up and trusted. Faith in ones word (your promise to be there at 7:00PM) is of no value unless your works get you there at 7:00 PM.

You can see examples of what Yahveh thinks of people who don't keep their word according to the scriptures. **Matt. 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Yahveh, Yahveh,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Yahveh, Yahveh, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**' Lawlessness is referring to the Torah. Torah, in Hebrew, means; "to hit the mark". To hit the mark means to be accurate. 7:00PM is 7:00PM. 7:00pm is the mark. You also see emphasis on the word "says to me", in this verse. Our spoken word is to be honored. Don't say it if you can't back it up. To miss is symbolic of*

sin. **James 4:17** *Therefore, to one who knows {the} right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*” We can see the same concept in Luke. **Luke 6:46** *“And why do you call Me, ‘Yahveh, Yahveh,’ and do not do what I say? We are to do what we say in the same fashion we are to do what Dad says to do.*

James 3:8 *But no one can tame the tongue; {it is} a restless evil {and} full of deadly poison.*” Our tongue must be tamed. What comes out of our lips must be honored. We are not to lie. If we say we will do something and don’t do it on time, or if we say we will be somewhere and are not there on time, we are simply lying. Liars will not be accepted into Yah’s kingdom of Heaven. Who is the greatest liar of them all. Do you want to do what Lucifer does? Do you want to lie? Let’s look at what it says in the book of Revelation about liars. It puts liars in the same category as murderers, witches and idolaters. **Rev. 21:8** *“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and **all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**”* I think it should be clear that our word must always be honorable, no-matter what excuse we have. There are few excuses for lying. Again in 1Tim. 1:10 we see liars in the same category as murderers, homo-sexuals and kidnappers. **1Tim. 1:10** *and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and **liars** and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*

In the parable of the vineyard Yeshua presents two sons, one who said he would do what his father told him to do but did not, and one who said he would not do what his father said but later changed his mind and did it (Matt. 21:28-31). Actions (obedience) is what counts to the Almighty, not thoughts.

Again in the scroll of James we see more verses that make it very clear that deeds contribute to righteousness, not thoughts.



James 2:17 *Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead.*

James 2:22-23 *22 Wasn’t Avraham avinu declared righteous because of actions when he offered up his son Yitz’chak on the altar? You see that **his faith worked with his actions; by the actions the faith was made complete;** 23 and the passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled which says, “Avraham had faith in God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness.” He was even called God’s friend.*

James 2:25-26 *Likewise, wasn’t Rachav the prostitute also declared righteous*

because of actions when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another route? 26 Indeed, just as the body without a spirit is dead, so too ***faith without actions is dead.***"

It wasn't the thought of Joshua that made the walls of Jericho come down, it was following Dad's instructions, marching and blowing shofars that made that happen.

Yeshua didn't think about giving Himself at Calvary, He did it.

When Elijah called fire down from Heaven, it was because of his spoken word, not his thought. **2Kgs. 2:14** Elisha struck the waters and the river divided. It wasn't his thoughts of the river that divided it.

When Jehus had the Baal priests killed, it wasn't the thought that Dad appreciated, it was the deed. 2Kgs. 10:21-28.

Many prayer warriors in churches get noticed by being so. Most act and think sincere but don't DO what Dad says to do. They expect Yah to do everything, so they never put a finger forward other than prayer.

It's not the thought or sincerity that counts, it's the doing.

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