

Lesson 26

1 John 3:18: Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Devotion by Royce Hutain

We probably live on another planet if we have not heard the statement "Actions speak louder than words." Hebrews 11:3 asks us to remember that by faith we understand the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. God's very words created the world. There is the ultimate connection between words and deeds.

Words can burden our spirit, stir up hatred and violence and exacerbate wounds. Proverbs 12:6 tells us words have the power to build up and the power to destroy.

There can be a disconnect between words and actions. Can't that be the case? For example, I'll pray for you! But *do* we? Mark Twain is credited with this quote: "Action speak louder than words but not nearly as often."

Do we realize that the Lord did not just speak the word of forgiveness to humanity? Jesus Christ was forgiveness. The cross and the empty tomb speak volumes of His action.

How about our relationships? Just saying I love you is not enough. How do I demonstrate that to Joni? I must admit at times I can say that, but not show it. Words alone will not foster an ongoing relationship. The same applies to my relationship with Christ.

CS Lewis encapsulates in *Screwtape Letters*, information imparted to junior tempter, "Wormwood": "It remains to consider how we can retrieve this disaster." The great thing is to prevent his doing anything. As long as he does not convert it into action it does not matter how much he thinks about it. The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able to act, and in the long run, the less he will be able to feel.

May our words and our deeds come from a sincere heart.