

TRYING THINGS THAT DON'T WORK

People are trying a lot of different things right now during COVID-19 thinking it will work but discovering afterward it did not.

- Inmates at a Los Angeles County jail thought that if they drank from the same water bottle and breathed from the same facial mask, they could become infected with COVID-19 and if so, be released from prison. Thirty of these prisoners did come down with COVID-19 but none of them were released from prison. Their plan did not work.
- A former US Congressman tried to convince people that the COVID-19 virus was just a hoax and accused the Democrats of using the virus to try and gain power. His claim that all this was a hoax did not work out as his own son who is a U. S Senator in Washington DC came down with the virus.
- A young woman walked into a Walmart wearing a snorkel and mask thinking it would prevent her from getting COVID-19. Health officials made it clear it wouldn't work. These same health officials cautioned against people wearing cheap plastic Santa masks and mosquito masks thinking it would protect them.

As these examples show us, people are trying lots of different things during this COVID-19 pandemic hoping that what they are doing will work for them as intended. The things these individuals were looking for covered a vast spectrum of desires:

- Freedom or release in the case of the prisoners.
- Avoidance or ignorance of reality on the part of the retired congressman.
- Safety and well-being on the part of those shoppers wearing inappropriate masks.

It is natural for people to want these things and assurances in life, but their stories remind us you cannot get them through means that do not work.

A common comment some people make for why they do not have a relationship with God is they think faith does not work. Sadly, so many people have this incorrect mindset. Something we have come to learn and understand as believers is that faith works and matters. Story after story in scripture, and example after example in our own lives and the lives of

others, shows how much our faith in our Lord works and achieves what we are hoping for:

- Take for instance the inmates desire to seek freedom. By choosing faith in Christ we have achieved our freedom from the pain of sin and death over our lives.
- Or take the former congressman's desire to live in peace from COVID-19 by denying its existence. We can live in peace despite the threat and existence of COVID-19 knowing that God is in control and is with us.
- Or take examples of people using inappropriate face masks for protection. While we know as Christians that we are not exempt from trials and challenges in this world, we have God's commandments and teachings that safely guide us from making harmful decisions for us and others.

But these are not the only ways that our faith in Jesus works on our behalf.

- We know that our prayers to Jesus hold power as He works to answer them according to His will and timing.
- We know that His promises work in our lives and are always faithfully kept.
- We know that His guidance as our Shepherd works so well in our lives
- We know His presence works well in keeping us calm and at peace through these difficult times.

So many people today are trying things through COVID-19 and discovering what they tried did not work. One thing we know with certainty is faith in our Lord works. This does not mean life is always easy for us, but faith makes things a whole lot easier than if we do not have it. Faith works in these tough times and it works in good times as well. You are probably thinking right now "Why does Dean not just say FAITH works all the time"? You just read my mind. Hold onto your faith closely right now and let's show others what we clearly know:

FAITH WORKS BEST!

God Bless,

Rev. Dean