

Faith Without Conviction

Below is an excerpt from a sermon preached by Benjamin Franklin in 1868. It addresses a much-needed topic: the shallowness of faith.

[Many of the fashionable and educated, in the highest circles of life, who go to and belong to church, could not tell what they believe if it were to save them from perdition. They do not believe anything. They are simply non-believers. A large number go into a church, commit themselves to the church, without ever reading, or hearing read, the creed, and utterly without knowing what is in the creed. It is useless for these to talk about faith, their creed, or any other creed. They know what church they have joined, but know not what is in the creed, or what is the belief of their church. Faith has nothing to do with the action of such people. All creeds are the same to them. They know nothing of what is in any of them. They have started out with the popular idea that ‘there is good and bad in all churches; that all ought to belong to some church, but it is no difference what church, “if the heart is right”. They simply know that they belong to a different church from some of their neighbors, but do not know what the difference is. They are deceived, thinking that they are believers, when they not only believe nothing themselves, but do not know what a man should believe to become a Christian.]

A spiritual inventory is always in season. Spiritual growth doesn't occur without diligence (**2 Peter 1:5-10**).

Do the words of Benjamin Franklin describe you?

If so, what are your intentions?