

Beliefs Lead to Behavior

My mother was always busy around the house – taking care of her family, handling the daily chores.

I remember one day, in particular, when I was at home on a school day because of an illness.

“I believe some chicken soup will help you get over this cold,” she said as she put a chicken in the pot, peeled some vegetables, and prepared the tonic.

Later that afternoon, she said, “I believe those flowers in the front yard need some water.” She filled her watering can and gave them a good dousing.

A short time after dinner, she came to my bedside, kissed me, and whispered, “I believe I need a good night’s sleep,” and she headed toward bed.

My mother’s “I believes” were all followed by activities, illustrating a vital point: We behave according to our beliefs.

As James wrote in the Bible, “I will show you my faith by my works” (2:18). Faith leads to action, and faith in God leads to obedience. He hasn’t asked us to put our trust in warm, fuzzy feelings about Him. He tells us to put our trust in the revelation He already has given – His Word.

When we obey, we are exercising faith. If you want an accurate measurement of your faith, see if you’re obeying God’s commands.

So let our obedience be at once, and in the very next thing that lies at the door of our conscience.

In Life Care’s *Mission and Values* statement, there are 13 “we believes” describing our commitment to residents, community, associates, principles of management, good stewardship of our resources, and obedience to God. If you haven’t reviewed them lately, please do so.

Believing is one thing; acting on them is another.

Faith without works is dead (James 2:20).

– Beecher Hunter