

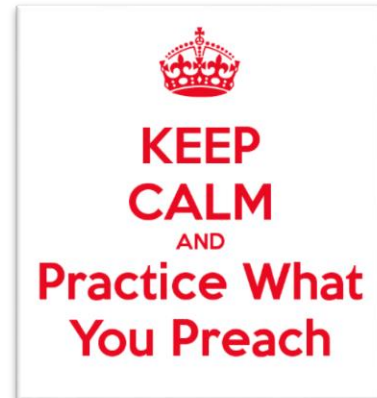
Practice What You Preach

Credibility is an important foundational stone for a meaningful relationship, be it professional or personal, because it speaks to the integrity and the believability of the source.

Put in colloquial speech, people should say what they mean and mean what they say. Character perceptions of an individual are formed based on observations of how well the two phrases match.

Other various alternatives to this idiom include ...

1. If you're going to talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk.
2. Actions speak louder than words.
3. Practice what you preach.



The context for the use of any of these expressions is in response to what is seen as empty boasting. Recently, I discovered a poem that appropriately addresses such a practice. Its author is unknown, but its message is true:

*I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed, "O Lord bless everyone.
Lift from every saddened heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."*

*And then I woke another day,
And carelessly went upon my way.
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye.*

*I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on the road.
I did not even go to see,
The sick man just next door to me.*

*Yet once again when day was done,
I prayed "O Lord bless everyone."
But as I prayed, unto my ear
There came a voice that whispered clear,*

(more)

*“Pause, hypocrite, before you pray,
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God’s sweetest blessings always go,
By hands which serve Him below.”*

*And then I hid my face and cried,
“Forgive me, God, for I have lied.
Let me but live another day,
And I will live the way I pray.”*

That poem is a slap in the face for me, and a challenge to put legs on my prayers.

As an old Tennessee farmer once said, “It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk.”

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:20 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter