

What Are You Doing?

Shortly after the 9-11 attacks, someone coined the phrase “If you see something, say something,” which meant if you see any suspicious activity of any kind, report it to the proper authorities, which is still applicable today. There are statistics showing that many terrorist attacks, numerous school shootings, and other potential tragedies have been avoided because people were brave enough to get involved and say or do something!

I am not coining a new phrase here, but I believe God is saying to us “If you see a need, DO SOMETHING!” I can’t remember the number of times I’ve heard people say “that’s not my job” when they didn’t want to do something. As an example, I live in a condo complex community that fronts on a very busy local road, which is always strewn with litter people throw out. I HATE litter and it is NOT my job to pick it up, but if I don’t, who will? So once a week or so, I take a bag and some gloves and do litter control because I care for my community!

James 1:22 says: *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* In James 2:14-17 he says: *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Using my experiences as another example, there are a number of widows, widowers and older couples who live in our complex who need help with various repairs or projects, need a ride, or something from a store; if I’m available and can do what needs done, I’ll do it. Is it my job? No! But I’m like my good friend George out in Payson, AZ, when I see a need, I can’t NOT do it!

In Galatians 6:2a say we are told to *“...bear one another’s burdens...”* The Enduring Word commentary says this: *“This is a simple command to obey. Look for a brother or a sister with a burden, and help them with it. It isn’t complicated, and it doesn’t take a huge program or infrastructure to do it. Just look for a burden to bear and bear it.”* So this begs the question - are you being a bearer of other’s burdens?

For the past 20+ years I have interacted with a lot of older people who need help in one way or another, and I would say 90% of them don’t want to bother their kids (or let their kids know they need help) and really hate asking anyone to help them, even though they desperately need it! One of the best ways we can “let our light shine” is to be alert to the needs of those around us, and do something about it! Amen!

