

May 28, 2017

B.E.L.L.S.

Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung once said, “You are what you do, not what you say you’ll do.” Whereas we often see our faith being exhibited in action, there’s also a strong case to be made for suggesting it can flow in the other direction, too. That is, our actions can shape our faith.

Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” Transfer that idea to faith. Faith, then, is not an act, a single choice, or even just a belief system; it is a habit (Michael Frost, p.18, 2016).

Peter, like Paul, saw God brought non-Jews into this family, to share Israel’s destiny with those Jews who, like Peter and the other apostles, believed in Jesus despite the enormous shock of having a crucified Messiah. They were the ‘holy priesthood’ offering ‘spiritual sacrifices’. They were the ‘chosen race, the royal priesthood’ spoken of in Exodus 19:3-6. They were to show the world what the true God had done. To stress the point, Peter picks up in vs. 10—a famous passage from Hosea 2:23. The people who before were ‘not a people’ are now ‘God’s people’. The people who had not received mercy now have received mercy.

All these things were spoken before of ethnic Israel. Peter believed all God’s promises to Israel had been fulfilled in the Messiah, Jesus Himself, and therefore all who belonged to Jesus had now been brought into that ‘people of God’, that true Temple. The one true God was now living in them! The ‘Temple’ had been rebuilt - not in Jerusalem but all around the world (N.T. Wright, p.63, 2011)!

Next week: *Surprise the World, Blessing!*

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Reflect on habits you've developed that are related to your Christian faith. To what extent have these practices become familiarized to the point of being rote or routine?

In what ways might these habits more consistently propel you upward, inward, or outward as expressions of the reign and rule of God?

B.E.L.L.S. - Five Habits of Highly Missional People

B stands for _____

E stands for _____

L stands for _____

L stands for _____

S stands for _____

Does faith as a habit ring true for you?

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