

“To Prove The Sincerity Of Your Love”

I. Introduction: This sinful world has a bad habit of insincerity that is born out of pleasantries. I.E. “Let me know if there is anything you need...” “How are you today?” “Give me a call if you need anything. I mean ANYTHING.” How much influence has the world had on you (**I Corinthians 15:33**)?

A. This lesson is about discerning empty words (**Proverbs 25:14**).

1. Consider that such fake speech is a tool of false teachers (**II Peter 2:15-19** and **Jude 1:12**).

2. Putting confidence in empty promises and insincere words leads to disappointment (**Jeremiah 37:5-8**; cf. **Isaiah 36:6**).

B. Considering the context we are going to look at to illustrate this lesson, regarding aid for brethren, consider how actions speak louder than words (**I John 3:11-18**).

II. Body: **II Corinthians 8:1-9:13** (Emphasis on **II Corinthians 8:8**).

A. The saints in Corinth had a previous instruction from the Apostle Paul that ties to this context (**I Corinthians 16:1-4**).

1. There have been multiple times wherein saints helped their poor brethren in and around Jerusalem (**Acts 11:27-30** and **Romans 15:25-27**).

2. Saints who have an abundance should be willing to share with those brethren that have need (**I Timothy 6:17-19**).

3. It should be a sincere, pleasure to do so (**Acts 20:35**).

4. A willingness to have fellowship in this way (**Romans 12:13**).

5. Don't withhold (**Proverbs 3:27-28**).

B. Don't just say... (**James 2:14-16**).

1. Be a doer (**James 1:21-27**).

2. “So speak ye, and so do, as...” (**James 2:12**).

C. Think about those whose words appear this way while their intentions do not line up (**Proverbs 23:6-7**).

1. Do we want to be likened to those who just use flattery (**Psalms 12:1-2** and **Proverbs 26:28**)?

2. Consider who is listening to those meaningless, however pleasant, promises that may be offered and what will come of that (**Matthew 12:36-37**).

3. We can trust in God because He is faithful (**Hebrews 10:23**). Are you following your Father's example (**Ephesians 5:1**)?

III. Conclusion: Stop being pleasant **if** such is not genuine. It is often better to just say nothing at all (**Proverbs 13:3** and **Proverbs 21:23**).