



WORDS STOP WHERE ACTIONS BEGIN

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The ability to take action and not waste effort on mere grandstanding and oratorical prowess is something we need today. In fact, that is something the whole world needs now. People who are willing to walk the talk seem to be few and far between, simply because we have become too ensconced in our personal comfort zones to even lift a finger and spring into action. Actions speak louder than words, and no amount of rhetoric can ever match the power of solid action. In my line of work, it is tempting and easy to come out with words that persuade and those that inspire. However, unless I myself am willing to invest more into making those words stick, all that I have ever done will ultimately amount to nothing at all. Believe me when I say that the path I have chosen is never a smooth one. In fact, I have often found out that saying something is very different from actually doing it.

In our day-to-day existence, we are all faced with tests on how sincere we are to the words we issue or the things we declare that we adhere to. We can control our words. But our actions are more controlled by the conviction to act on those words. Unless we put conviction behind the words that we utter, there can never be genuineness, sincerity and honesty in them. We need to say what we feel at certain times, but we must place a guard over our own mouths that we do not say things we are not quite ready to stand for. Some things are also easier said than done, so to make a pledge or a promise in a halfhearted manner does not make one a better person. In fact, such people do not deserve the time of day to be listened to, much less heard.

We all need to face the consequences of our words, much like we need to face the consequences of our actions. Words and actions must work together to make us what we are. Our personalities are perceived by the very words we say, and our personalities get clearer definition by the very actions we take. We can never testify to being perfect, but we can do our utmost to make our actions speak for our own selves. The journey to achieving self-perfection is never an easy one to take, but we can all strive to make that journey wonderful, enriching and eventually fulfilling as long as we are focused on the goal and consistent in even the tiniest actions. The journey is not the goal, but that does not mean that we shouldn't enjoy that trip and make it exclusively ours.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Actions speak louder than words. Explain this saying.
2. Why is it a problem for many people to mean what they say?
3. How good are you at acting on what you say? Cite specific examples, as needed.
4. How do you simplify complex actions? Is there a formula, perhaps?
5. Why do people with a lot of hot air and no substance at all turn others off? In what way?