

Asking for a Friend

“What are some ways we can live our faith authentically—both in private and in public?”

Scripture:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” – Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

After tackling the tough question about Christian hypocrisy, it's only natural to ask, *“So what does authentic faith really look like?”* Because living it out isn't about being perfect—it's about being **consistent, honest, and surrendered to Jesus.**

I've crossed paths with people whose faith made me pause—people who say they follow Christ but live in a way that makes you wonder if they really mean it. You may have met someone like that too. Maybe their language is anything but kind, yet in the next breath, they claim to be deeply religious. It creates confusion and sends mixed messages about what Christian faith really looks like.

The truth is, that kind of example doesn't reflect the heart of Christ. Faith isn't just about the words we say—it's about how we live, love, and represent Jesus daily. When our actions don't align with His teachings, we're not living out the faith we claim to believe.

Authentic faith isn't just about what you say with your mouth—it's about what you do when no one's watching, how you treat people when you think it won't benefit you, and how you respond when things don't go your way.

So how do we live it out?

1. *Start in Private*

Your public life will always reflect your private one. Spend time in prayer—not just talking, but listening. Open your Bible, even if it's just one verse a day. Worship when no one else is around. When your heart is aligned with Jesus in private, your actions in public will follow naturally.

2. *Love People Well*

Faith is more than beliefs—it's about **behavior**. Do you show kindness to the cashier? Do you offer forgiveness even when it's hard? Do you lift others up instead of gossiping or tearing them down?

Jesus said the world would know we are His followers by our **love**, not our opinions (John 13:35).

3. *Be Consistent, Not Perfect*

Authenticity doesn't mean having it all together—it means being honest when you don't. Be the same person on Sunday morning that you are on Tuesday afternoon. Don't post scripture and then trash someone in the comments. Be willing to admit when you mess up. That honesty often speaks louder than any Bible verse you quote.

4. *Let Your Light Shine—Gently*

You don't have to shout your faith from the rooftops to be a light. Sometimes, the strongest witness is simply doing your job with integrity, treating people with dignity, and responding to pain with hope.

Prayer:

God, help us to live a life that reflects You—not just when people are watching, but in every moment. Shape our hearts in the quiet places so that our life speaks louder than our words. May our faith be real, not rehearsed. Let Your light shine through us—in truth, in love, and in everything we do.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

1. What does authentic faith look like in your everyday routine?
2. Where in your life do you feel tempted to "put on a face" instead of being real?
3. What private habits help you stay connected to God and reflect His character in public?