

playacting, a "let's pretend" role for the benefit of his disciples and the public.

Interestingly, how we act shows what we really believe. If we claim to believe something but do not act accordingly, our action, not our claim, shows what we really believe. The principle illustrated here is that how you live shows what you really believe.

Let me ask you: "Do you believe in God? Does your life reflect your belief? If not, are you living as a "pretend Christian"?"

The Bishop of London once asked David Garrick, perhaps the most celebrated British actor of the nineteenth century, why it was that actors in dramatizing works of fiction were able to move an audience even to tears, while ministers, in speaking of the most solemn realities and truths, could scarcely get a hearing. The philosophical Garrick replied, "It is because we represent fiction as reality, while you represent reality as a fiction."

What are some areas of your life in which you need to be a "real Christian," in which you know you need to live "Christianly," in which you know that all is not well, and in which you can and should do something about it? I'm sure you know what they are.

Let's not go on as "pretend Christians." Let's not go on feeling uneasy, unsatisfied, unfulfilled, and insincere, when we know what we ought to do. By God's grace let's say, "I'm going to live as a real, genuine, committed believer, and I'm going to begin today, even if it's only in a small way or in one area! But let's make a new beginning, and begin to enjoy the reality and freedom of real Christianity!

Hebrews 11:6 -- "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."