

Welcome to Week 5 of The 2017 Lenten Positive Acts Challenge!

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*"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear,
and the blind can see" - Mark Twain*

Dear Bill,

Welcome to the 5th week of Lent... and the 5th week of the Lenten Positive Acts Challenge!

We're so glad you decided to take this Lenten Journey with us!
These 47 days could improve the rest of your year.

If you haven't visited the website recently, please do so every now and then. You can even visit on your phone or tablet.

There are now 1,477 people performing Lenten Positive Acts in 31 Countries, and in 46 States of the U.S.!!

Such a diverse group of people and locations...all with something powerful in common: *The desire to praise God...help people...and make the world a little bit better.* All at the same time!

If you've completed your recommended number of daily Lenten Positive Acts, you have at least **68** so far. As a group, we've performed over **100,000!**

Starting Monday, March 27th, we increased the daily requirement to 5.

If you need some help with ideas for Positive Acts, please visit "[I Need Ideas](#)".

If you'd like additional help in identifying opportunities for Positive Acts, or if you have any questions, please send us an email at info@LentenPositiveActs.com - we'll be happy to help you.

Please visit the "[Track My Positive Acts](#)" page - to download a chart for tracking your Positive Acts. You can print it, or use it on your computer or phone.



Thanks for the comments you've been giving us. We appreciate your thoughts, and love to hear how The Challenge is going for you.

If you have comments, please let us know - post them on the website, or send them to info@LentenPositiveActs.com

Today we have 2 stories about Positive Acts from Challengers Matthew and Eddie.

When many people go to a gas station, their experience is similar to the following: They open the window just enough to hand their credit card to the attendant, and say "fill it...regular". The attendant fills the tank...while standing in the cold, snow, or rain. The customer then opens the window enough to get their credit card and receipt, says "thank you", and drives away - to continue their day.

When Matthew goes to a gas station, he changes the script.

He gets out of his car. Every time. Regardless of the weather. In fact, the *worse* the weather is, the *more* he enjoys getting out of the car.

You see, he views it as an opportunity for a Positive Act.

If the opportunity is there, Matthew chats with the attendant - asking about their day, the weather, or something that presents itself...and usually, the attendants will reveal something about themselves.

Not all the attendants are willing to chat. In fact, some give him strange looks for standing in the rain with them. However, many of them seem to appreciate the company and conversation - even if it's only for a few minutes.

Matthew has met many interesting people over the last year.

From the guy who looks like a biker dude: who's saving his money to move to California - and become a chef,

... to the tattooed surfer girl: who's a single mom working 2 jobs, to get enough money to attend beauty school - so that she can provide a better life for her 3 children,

... to the young man who was so surprised that Matthew remembered that he's a Mets fan, and that he's going to a game in a few weeks - that they then chatted about the Mets for about 10 minutes. And when the attendant had to go help another customer, he looked at Matthew with a big smile, shook his hand, and said "it was great to talk with you. Have a wonderful day!",

... to the reserved older man - who was an Army sniper in the Korean War.

I asked Matthew how his chat with the attendant made its way to the Korean War. He replied "*It was freezing that day, and I asked him how he was able to work outside in that weather. He replied that it's not really that cold to him, because his body was used to even colder, harsher conditions. It turns out that, in his role as an Army sniper, he used to work 18-hr shifts laying on a platform in a tower, when it was freezing outside - guarding his base.*"

As if that wasn't enough for Matthew to see this man in a different way, he was stunned by what the attendant said next. You see, when Matthew asked how he felt about that experience, he replied that he was fine with *his* situation, but he *felt bad for the enemy* - because they weren't given the warm clothes that the American soldiers had...and they must have been freezing out there.

Wow! What a testament to the wonderful character of this man!

I asked Matthew if the attendants recognize him when he goes back to their stations. *"You bet. They smile, change their demeanor, and seem to enjoy continuing our chats. The positive acts seem to help my day as much as theirs. And it helps me to remember not to judge people"*.

So, while other customers visit those gas stations - and see the biker-dude...the tattooed surfer girl...or the reserved, older man...

Matthew sees the chef...the single-mom beautician...and the war hero.

Eddie also performs positive acts at the gas station - in a different way. He stays in the car. However, when the attendant is finished, Eddie always gives him or her a few dollars as a tip. He always gets a surprised look on the face of the attendant. And then a BIG smile, and thank you! After all, who tips the gas station attendant? Not many people. In fact, I've asked around, and I haven't found anyone else. Except Eddie. And it brightens the day for both the attendants... and for Eddie.

Thank you, Matthew and Eddie - for sharing your stories with us, and inspiring us to find opportunities where we wouldn't normally look. In your cases - at the gas station.

If *you* have a story about a "positive act" experience (that you, or someone else, performed... or that was done for you) that you'd like to share with us, please let us know. **We'd love to hear them!**

Today's Question:

Q. I don't know how I'll be able to perform 7 Positive Acts per day during the week of Easter. What if I can't?

A. You can. It's not as hard as it seems. It's really a matter of shifting your mindset, and remaining open to the possibilities that present themselves. In our last mail, we mentioned "looking for opportunities" to perform Positive Acts. As you start to look for them, they'll "seem" to start appearing everywhere. Those opportunities have presented themselves before, but you may not have been open to seeing them. Therefore, in your busy, daily life...you didn't see them. By slowly increasing the number of Positive Acts you perform each day, you're also opening your mind to seeing the other opportunities that present themselves.

Besides all the opportunities to hold the door for people...let someone get in front of you in line at the store, etc... here's a Tip: Start looking more closely at (and listening to) the other people around you during the day:

- The woman walking with a limp - say a prayer for her.
- The elderly man who seems confused or lost - ask if he needs help.
- The overwhelmed man with 3 crying kids at the supermarket - say a prayer for him. And definitely let him get ahead of you on line. :)

Today's Tip:

As we get further into The Challenge, it helps to track your positive acts - either online, or on a printed chart.

On the "[Track my positive acts](#)" page, use the ***Lenten Positive Act Tracker*** spreadsheet. There are now multiple tabs included. Click on the tab for the week you started.

Today's Song:

When you get a chance, listen to the song "Save My Life" - by Sidewalk Prophets.
It contains the lyrics:

*" Maybe God is calling you tonight...
to tell me something that might save my life"*

Wow! Think about that...that's what some of you are doing now.

In looking for opportunities for Positive Acts, you're taking more time to listen to others...notice more about them...and see them as *more* than what they appear to be. In doing so, you may *do* or *say* something that could have a profoundly positive impact on their life...and you may never know.

*"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel" - Maya Angelou*

Please keep this in mind as you look for opportunities for Positive Acts this week. :)

Until next time...

Have a Blessed Week!

God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Lenten Positive Acts

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You are receiving this mail because you opted in to participate in the 2016 Lenten Positive Acts Challenge.

We're so glad you joined us!

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