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THE FAITHFULNESS OF TIMOTHY”

Qualities of Godly People #20

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2 Timothy 2:1-3 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

“Courage isn't having the strength to go on - it's going on when you don't have the strength" Author unknown

GREAT WORKS are performed not by strength but by perseverance. Samuel Johnson

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Someone asked James Corbett, the heavyweight boxing champion at the time, what it took to be a heavyweight champion, and he said, "Fight one more round?"

When asked how he had been so successful in his inventions, Thomas Edison said, "I start where other men leave off?"

Napoleon Hill, in his book Think and Grow Rich, records that he studied 500 of the wealthiest men in the world and concluded that all wealthy men are persistent.

When Winston Churchill went back to his alma mater to speak, the audience anticipated a great speech from the prime minister. He stood before them and said six words: "Never, never, never, never give up?" That was it; the speech was over. And that is probably the speech for which he is most remembered. Stand firm on your commitment. Don't be a quitter. Submitted by David Sell, Northern California Bible College.+

I believe the way we finish provides important insight into our character.

What contributed to this man's faithfulness? There are at least eight contributors to his success:

I. HE HAD GENUINE SALVATION

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

II. THE ENCOURAGEMENT HE RECEIVED

The 1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

ACTIVE SECRET OF SUCCESS The great secret of success is to go through life as a man who never gets used up. Albert Schweitzer, Leadership Quotes+

III. HE CAREFULLY ATTENDED THE GIFT OF GOD'S ENABLING FAVOR

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day.

IV. HE RELIABLY REGARDED THE SMALLEST OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Luke 16:10-12 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true [riches]? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

*Fred Craddock, in an address to ministers, caught the practical implications of consecration. "To give my life for Christ appears glorious," he said.

"To pour myself out for others ... to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom—I'll do it. I'm ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory. "We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table —'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all.'

But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the

\$1,000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.' Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home.

Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul." Source unknown

*Charles Spurgeon preached to thousands in London each Lord's Day, yet he started his ministry by passing out tracts and teaching a Sunday school class as a teenager. When he began to give short addresses to the Sunday school, God blessed his ministry of the Word. He was invited to preach in obscure places in the country side, and he used every opportunity to honor the Lord. He was faithful in the small things, and God trusted him with the greater things. "I am perfectly sure," he said, "that, if I had not been willing to preach to those small gatherings of people in obscure country places, I should never have had the privilege of preaching to thousands of men and women in large buildings all over the land. Remember our Lord's rule, "whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers, W. Wiersbe, p. 221

V. HE MAINTAINED AN UNSELFISH CONCERN FOR OTHERS

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

A fictional tale tells of Jesus when He returned to Heaven after His earthly ministry. An angel asked Him how He planned to continue the work upon Earth. Jesus told him that before He left He asked the disciples to tell others and for those to tell still others. The angel with a puzzled look on his face asked, "And if that does not work, what other plan do You have?" Jesus said, "There is no other plan." Jesus has commissioned you and me to carry out His plan and is looking for us to be faithful in our witness. Adopted from a sermon by Dr. Bill Causey, submitted by G.W. McNeese, Hattiesburg, Mississippi+

VI. HE TRUSTED THE ULTIMATE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

2 Timothy 3:10-11 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [them] all the Lord delivered me.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

2 Timothy 4:17-18 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and [that] all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve [me] unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].

VII. HE TRULY BELIEVED THE REWARD WAS GREATER IN ETERNITY THAN ALL THE WORLD HAD TO OFFER IN THE PRESENT

Luke 12:42-43 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom [his] lord shall make ruler over his household, to give [them their] portion of meat in due season? Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

VIII. HE REMEMBERED THE FAITHFUL EXAMPLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

