

Expressions Of Faithfulness

by John Isaac Edwards

We face two challenges: (1) Bringing folks to the Lord, like Andrew, who found his brother and brought him to Jesus (Jn. 1:40-42). (2) Once brought to the Lord, getting them to be faithful to Him. The necessity of faithfulness is stressed repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. John 15:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 2:10 are just a few examples. To help fire us with enthusiasm to be faithful, I'm calling to our attention some expressions of faithfulness seen in the lives of New Testament folk.

1) **Served God Night And Day.** Faithfulness in serving God is expressed in the life of Anna. Have you read her story? It won't take you very long, as her biography is recorded in three verses — Luke 2:36-38. Yet, they speak volumes about this aged widow of the first-century. Observe the fact that she "...served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (v. 37). If you had been Anna, would you have served God night and day? Some just try to serve God part-time. Anna was a full-time devotee to God Almighty!

2) **They Continued.** Many may begin, but often few

continue! Acts 2:42 reports of those converted on Pentecost, "And they continued..." It's not that they were baptized (v. 41), and then fell away. They continued! Notice how they continued — "stedfastly"! These folks were loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable disciples. There is a great need for steadfastness today! (1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 3:14; 1 Pet. 5:9). Additionally, Acts 2:46 says, "And they, continuing daily..." If you have a WEEKLY religion, no wonder you are so WEAKLY! Ours must be a daily continuing, which involves daily cross-bearing (Lk. 9:23), daily prayer (Lk. 11:3), daily evangelism (Acts 5:42), daily ministering (Acts 6:1), daily Scripture-searching (Acts 17:11) and daily exhortation (Heb. 3:13). May what is said of these first-century Christians be said of us today — "**they continued stedfastly...and they, continuing daily!**"

3) **Full Of Good Works And Almsdeeds Which She Did.** Do you know who this describes? Any names come to mind? How about Tabitha? Acts 9:36 says of her, "...this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she thought about doing." No, that was a

misprint! Let's try again. "...this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she talked about doing." No, that's not it either! "...this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds **which she did.**" Do folks think of you this way? Some are long on thought and talk, but short on doing! How about less talk and more action in the good works department! We are taught, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16). We have been "...created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." (Eph. 2:10).

4) **For The Work Of Christ Nigh Unto Death.** Do you know any who about works themselves to death? How about spiritually speaking? Remember Epaphroditus? The Philippians were exhorted, "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me" (Phil. 2:29-30). This is an expression of his faithfulness as a "companion in labour, and fellowsoldier" (v. 25). May we be "...always abounding in the work of the

Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58)!

5) Committed Unto Him.

Among Paul’s last words to Timothy is this statement: “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). The life of Paul in one word is **commitment!** If you want to know what commitment is, read and study Paul’s life. Abundant labours,

above measure stripes, frequent prison and oft deaths (2 Cor. 11:23) all exhibit commitment, and faithfulness is being committed unto Him! Are you committed, really committed?

6) Died In Faith. “For as in Adam all die...” (1 Cor. 15:22). How will you die? What will be said about you when you die? Hebrews 11:13 says of faithful folks, “These all died in faith...” To see expressions of faithfulness, just look into the lives of Hebrews 11 people! By the way, their faith was

expressed through obedience in doing what God said! “By faith Abel offered...” (Heb. 11:4). “By faith Enoch...pleased God” (Heb. 11:5). “By faith Noah... prepared an ark...” (Heb. 11:7). “By faith Abraham...obeyed...” (Heb. 11:8). Do you see a pattern? All of these were said to have faith because of what they did!

May these examples stir and stimulate us to be “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10).

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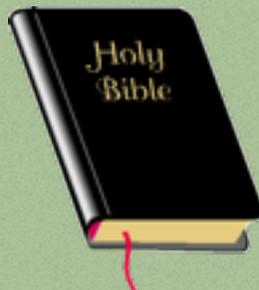
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