

Called to Faithfulness

By Bob Young

Christians want to be successful. God wants us to be faithful, even when others might not judge us as "successful." It is not easy to measure faithfulness. What does it mean to be faithful? Regardless of the answer, we know we are not 100% faithful 100% of the time.

Consider Hebrews 11-12. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—people who answered the call of God in their lives, people of faith, living lives by faith. These remind us that faithful people do not always see their ministries flourish. Faithful Christians do not always meet success by worldly standards, or by their own standards.

Thus we have to be very cautious as we encourage one another. These heroes were not perfect, but the writer says they lived their lives with trust in God, they endured. They now cheer us on, pull us up, and remind us that the task is possible, obstacles surmountable. As these cheer us on, we are reminded that it is now our time. The mantle has fallen to us.

Thus we are introduced to our assignment if we are to be faithful—casting off, getting rid of, shedding every impediment, every hindrance, every burden, every sin that clings too closely. Get rid of everything that holds you back. So easy to say, so difficult to do! We love some of those things. It is not easy to lay aside the hindrance and run with endurance. What makes world go around, what makes church work, what makes missions work, what keeps everything going is endurance.

How can we demonstrate the Hebrews kind of faithfulness to our world? Throw aside the hindrances, run the race with patience, look to Jesus constantly, and follow his example. Live faithfully, love all generously, support others compassionately, speak truthfully, pray daily, and leave everything else to God! Do not quit. Do not worry that outward success is not attainable. God has not called us to success, but to a holy life dedicated to his service. Living that holy life is what the Bible calls faithfulness. We declare this message to the world most effectively when we live it out in our daily lives.