
Words of Truth

Go All Out

By: Brian A. Yeager

There are a lot of great qualities in faithful Christians. When you are around faithful Christians you know that you are around honest people (Romans 12:17). In the company of Christians you know that you are around considerate (Hebrews 10:24), compassionate people (I Peter 3:8). Christians respect the authority of God (James 4:7) and man as well (I Peter 2:12-16). Christians are dedicated servants in our vocations (Ephesians 6:5-8, I Thessalonians 4:11-12, and II Thessalonians 3:10-12). Christians love good and hate evil (Romans 12:9). You know that, when among faithful Christians, you'll not find fornication, alcoholism, idolatry, covetousness, theft, homosexuality, uncleanness, lasciviousness, carnal hatred, strife, etc. (I Corinthians 6:9-11 and Galatians 5:19-21).

There are many good things you find in spiritually minded Christians. The list above does not even begin to describe it all. There are some things more often discussed as qualities of Christians than other things. Most people who have some Bible knowledge would tell you that Christians are loving, joyful, longsuffering, gentle, good, faithful, meek, and temperate (Galatians 5:22-23). Yet, that does not cover everything you find in Christians either. I shall not attempt to make a full list for an article such as this could not possibly do justice in such an endeavor.

One thing that is not commonly discussed when the qualities of a Christian are considered is that Christians are people who do things completely. That is, we're not half-doers. Solomon said it best when he wrote this by inspiration: *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest"* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). The first thing in which you find that we are not half-doers is in our service to God.

All Out For God

Beginning with how we found God to begin with, we see that godly people are those who go all out for the Lord. To find the Lord you have to seek Him with all your heart (Psalms 119:10 and Jeremiah 29:13). Then, once you have found Him, continued service to Him requires an all in attitude. Notice: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you... Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway... Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord... I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the*

saints,... For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end" (Matthew 6:33, I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Corinthians 15:58, I Corinthians 16:15, and Hebrews 3:14).

Of course, we realize God wants our love to be with all of our hearts, minds, and souls (Matthew 22:37). Thus, it is no mystery that we'd go all out for God in all that we do. As Christians, everything starts and ends with the Lord (Colossians 3:17). We labor knowing that our reward is still to come (Hebrews 6:10-12). What we need to also be clear on is that our mindset of doing things all out starts with the Lord, but also carries on in areas other than our spiritual work.

All Out For Whatsoever

In a context wherein the Lord was instructing hard work to be done by earthly servants, we find this instruction: *"And what soever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"* (Colossians 3:23). There is a fervency that exists in Christians, in all things. The church in Rome received this instruction: *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord"* (Romans 12:10-11). Speaking of king Hezekiah (II Chronicles 31:20), the word of God says this: *"And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered"* (II Chronicles 31:21).

In an earlier text used in this article we read how one does not run a race just to run, but to win (I Corinthians 9:24-25). Why do anything half-heartedly? Christians understand the importance of time (Ephesians 5:15-17). We know that tomorrow is not promised (James 4:13-16). Therefore, Christians do not do things by partiality (I Timothy 5:21).

If you are going to paint your living room, paint it. If you are going to run a race, run it. If you are going to learn to do something, master it. There is no point in something half done. When Jesus came into this world, He was not content with just starting the work He was assigned to do. Notice what Jesus said: *"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work"* (John 4:34). In fact, He did more than plan on it. Jesus DID finish what He came to do (John 17:4).

Conclusion

Christians are doers. We are doers of the word (James 1:21-25). That is an obvious fact. However, we're not just doers. Christians are also finishers (II Timothy 4:7). If you are going to invest your time and energy into something, go all out. We're not quitters of anything good and worthy of doing. If we become complacent in some areas of our lives we will do so in others. Eventually, that will begin to be our mindset toward spiritual things. We don't want that to occur.

Let this mind be in you... *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14).