



into the snare of thinking that when we don't feel as we should it is better not to act at all.

should, observing the Lord's Supper, sharing the gospel with others, worshiping faithfully, being constant in prayer, and serving others. While we should always strive to have a strong joy and devotion in our service to God we mustn't fall

I wonder if those times when we do what we should regardless of our personal feelings are the times when the Lord is the most pleased with us. It is at those times we are giving up ourselves, and giving over to God. True worship requires balancing both duty and devotion in our approach to God. Let's remember — **"...This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments..."** (I John 5:3).



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Faithful Sayings Issue 15.1 January 6, 2013

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

15.1

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

January 6
2013

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope



Balancing Duty and Devotion

By Kyle Pope

Question: *"Why do you worship God?"* **Answer generally considered acceptable:** *"Because I love God and want to please Him."* **Answer generally considered unacceptable:** *"Because it is my duty as a child of God."*

Sometimes we tend to view it that things done out of duty and obligation are less sincere, but deeds done from devotion and affection are genuine. On the surface this sounds valid but when it comes down to the application of this thinking it may not hold true.

Who is truly the devoted father? Is it the man who lavishes attention upon his children when he feels tender kindness towards them, but then refuses to provide

for their needs when he feels tired or frustrated? The loving father is the man who struggles to give them what is needed both in times of tenderness and times of frustration.

Who is the faithful employee? The one who is productive and responsible when he



Olsen Park church of Christ

find joy and satisfaction in his work, but lazy and negligent when he feels (what we sometimes call) “burnout?” Obviously, the best employee is one whose commitment to his job is consistent during the “up” times as well as when he grows tired of his job.

The Bible teaches both duty and devotion as valid motivations for our service to God. The greatest commandment is to —“**...love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...**” (Mark 12:30, NKJV). This is devotion! Yet, notice how the wise man ends the book of Ecclesiastes — “**...hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man**” (12:13). Certainly, we could not say that this reverent obedience is only acceptable when it comes from the stirrings of tender love within our heart. Our heavenly Father is pleased when we choose to do His will at times when we feel emotionally moved to obedience but also at those times when we do it even though we don’t have the same emotional stirrings we might at other times.

In all things Jesus is set forth as our example of how life is to be lived. What do we learn from His service to God? Certainly He is the perfect example of devotion to God, however, there were clearly times when He acted out of a sense of duty rather than a joyful delight in the activity that obedience demanded. For example, John 12:27 relates Jesus’ dread of the cross. The text reads — “**Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.**” No devotion is seen here, unless we realize the fact that it was devotion to God that led Him to deny His own feelings in order to fulfill the Father’s. Remember, no one enjoys abuse and persecution, but He submitted to what the Father demanded nonetheless (Matthew 26:39).

This tendency to devalue good deeds done out of duty is a sign of our times. The ungodly rationalize ending their marriages by claiming they don’t “feel” what they once



did. Mothers collaborate with doctors to execute their unborn children appealing to the defense that they are not “ready” to take care a child.

When it comes to our service to God we must avoid justifying our simple failure to obey the Lord’s instructions by our lack of the proper devotion. Brethren over the years have allowed this kind of thinking to keep them from giving as they