

Quotations about Faithfulness

“God does not require a man to have one talent, three talents, or five talents. He only requires that a man be faithful with whatever he has been given.” - Anonymous -

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” - Hebrews 11:6 -

Reminder

Barnabas Group: Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Special Business Meeting: Friday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m.

November Birthdays

1 Maria Morales	16 Alessandro Lomeli
6 Ashley Tanner	17 Maureen Nichols
10 Daniel Brown	18 Carlos Pena
10 Felix Perezchica	30 Karen Nichols

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher
Carlos Peña

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Faithfulness...Listening to God

“Is That Baptism?”

In the unpublished autobiography of B. F. Hall, I found the following story that occurred in your city in 1826 (John Waddey).

A favorite story that Brother B. F. Hall loved to tell happened among the Cherokee Indians of North Alabama. A Methodist circuit rider visited the Indian community in the Spring of 1825 to distribute Testaments among them. A young Indian received a Bible and proceeded to read it with diligence.

In the fall, the Methodists held a camp meeting in nearby Jacksonville, Alabama. The Indian went, requesting baptism. When he spied the preacher who had given the Bible, he informed him that he wished to go to the river for baptism. The preacher insisted that he could baptize him without going to the river.

He proceeded to take a glass of water and offered to pour it on the young man’s head. The Indian looked at the preacher and seriously asked, “Is that baptism?”

The preacher responded affirmatively.

At that, the Indian said, “Colonel, if that is baptism, you gave me the wrong book” (page 25).

”And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”

- John 3:23 -

Is there such a thing as fate or destiny?

Todd Clippard

This is a serious matter today as so many people reject the idea of God and Divine guidance, especially among our young people. Using the popular definitions of the words destiny and fate, I can say with all confidence that no such thing exists. We are not simply creatures of chance. Such denies the free moral agency of man and his ability to know and choose between right and wrong.

Ultimately, we are the sum of all the choices we make. Since God has given us the power to choose (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Joshua 24:15), who we are or what we become largely rests within each individual. If man has no power to choose, God would be foolish to give him commands to follow. Yet, this is exactly what God has always done (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Proverbs 4:23 says *"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."* Note the responsibility of each to keep his own heart as God intended. Jesus showed concern for the keeping of our hearts when He said, *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34), and *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"* (Matthew 15:19).

Also, just because God knows the future does not mean He interferes with it, or at any time suspends our power to choose. Such would be against His character. God could force everyone to obey Him, but where is the joy in that? God loves us and desires our loving obedience in return.

Moving Mountains

Shared by Wendy Cortes

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might...So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might!

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Since the man was showing discouragement, the adversary (satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: (He will do it every time)! "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved". Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough". That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord", he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your service, putting all my strength to do that which You have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed.

But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves the mountains.