

Are You Faithful?

by Jeff May

It was a sunny morning when James stepped outside to get his morning paper. Only a moment later James returned with a disgusted look on his face. No paper! James said, "I'm gonna have to get me a new paper boy. He's just not faithful." The problem was that James' paperboy would deliver about one out of every three days.

Fred was in a hurry to get to work, but it happened again. His car wouldn't start. He had hoped this used second vehicle would be just what he needed, but about one out of every three turns of the ignition, the car wouldn't start. Fred told his wife, "I'm gonna have to trade that car in. I just need one that's more faithful."

Are James and Fred right to call the paperboy and the car unfaithful? Would you be pleased with a paperboy who delivered one day out of three? Would you be pleased with a car that only started two out of three times? Certainly not.

The apostle Paul was chosen by God to carry the gospel because God counted him faithful. *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry"* (1 Tim. 1:12). Paul was trustworthy. God could count on him when He needed him. Paul would never fail in his duty to God.

What about me and my attendance to the assemblies of God's people? My brethren are counting on me to be there. I need to consider the impact of my absence upon them. My presence helps to stir up my brothers and sisters to love and good works. Furthermore, I am drawing near to God and holding fast to my faith (Heb. 10:23-25). Am I faithful if I hit one out of every three services? Am I faithful if I hit two out of three? Does God consider me reliable and trustworthy? Is He pleased with such performance?

It's something to think about, isn't it? If I wouldn't call the paperboy faithful and the used car faithful, then why do I consider myself faithful in my service to God if my performance is no better? All of us need to realize our obligations to God and to our brethren regarding our attendance. We grow weaker through our absence. Someone once compared this to an automobile: "Brethren are often like cars. They 'sputter' before they 'miss' and they 'miss' before they 'quit.'"

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