

Philippians 4:13



Words to Find:
"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Yes, I can!

An Encouraging Example

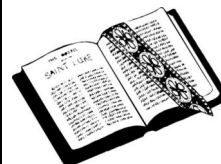
Bates, 1625-1699

Precepts instruct us what our duties are, but examples assure us they are possible. Examples resemble a clear stream wherein we may not only discover our spots and sins, but also be encouraged to wash and clean them.

When we see men like ourselves, who are united to frail flesh and in the same condition as us, but they overcome the most glorious and glittering temptations, we are encouraged in our spiritual warfare. We are encouraged that we too can get the victory over such temptations and sin.

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The Bible View



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Vol.: 1065

Be A Worthy Example

Bill Brinkworth

"Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us."

II Thess. 3:8-9

One very important task every Christian is responsible for is to be a good, Christian example ("ensample") to others. Many do not read the Word of God for themselves, have not learned what God has for them to do, and rely more on a godly example than they should. It is dangerous to their spirituality to totally follow someone else, but it does happen.



For this reason, Paul the Apostle was very aware of eyes attuned to his behavior and actions. He wrote some important points to be "... an ensample unto you to follow ...". In II Thes-

salonians 3, he pointed some of them out:

1. That obedience and understanding of God's Word would be seen in his life, and that God would get the glory. If we are a godly example for someone, God and His work should always get the glory, not us!

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" II Thes. 3:1

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A Christian Home

D. L. Moody

A godly house should be the best proof of true Christianity. It is not my church; it is my house that knows me best. It is not my pastor; it is my home-companion who can best judge me. It is the servant, the child, the wife, and the friend that can discern most of my real character.

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Be A Worthy Example

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2. Keep your distance from others who are not doing right (“disorderly”), even if they are Christians (“brethren”). He defines “disorderly” in verse 11 as those who are lazy, not working, and those who are meddling in other people’s business (“busybodies”). Associating with those types of people may give others the impression that you are like the crowd you are with. *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” II Thes. 3:6*
3. Do not stop living and doing right. Others around you, even Christians, may act worldly, disobey God, or not be involved in reaching others for Christ, but that is no reason for you to abandon your post! Keep on keepin’ on, no matter what others are doing. Do not get tired of doing it alone. *“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.” II Thes. 3:13*

It would be better for all if

each Christian would faithfully read God’s Word and obey all that he is shown in its preserved pages, but not many do that. They often follow the actions and behavior of those they associate with. With this reality in mind, our responsibility to be a proper, godly “ensample” is thrust on us. Lead those who are watching or following your example down the right paths. There are eyes on your testimony — constantly!

A Christian Home

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A good man will improve his household. Rowland Hill once said he would not believe a man to be a true Christian if his wife, his children, the servants, and even the dog and cat, were not the better for it. That is being a good Christian.

If your household is not the better for your Christianity; if men cannot say, “This is a better house than others”, then be not deceived, ye have nothing of the grace of God. Let not your servant on leaving your employ, say, “Well, this is an odd sort of a Christian family. There was no prayer in the morning, and I saw there was no prayer at night. I was kept at their home all Sunday working. Once a fortnight,

perhaps, I was allowed to go out in the afternoon, when there was nowhere for them to go so that I could hear a Gospel sermon. My master and mistress went to a place where, of course, they heard the blessed Gospel of God; as for me, I had to work.”

Surely, Christians should not act that way. Carry out your godliness in the heart of your own family.

An Encouraging, Cleaned Example

Talmage

A child, coming from a filthy home, was taught at school to wash his face. He went home so much improved in appearance, that his mother washed her face. When the father of the household came home, and saw the improvement in domestic appearances, he washed his face also.

Visiting neighbors also saw the change, and tried the same experiment, until all that street was purified; and the next street copied their example. Soon, the whole city felt the result of one school-boy washing his face.

This tale illustrates what may happen if the world stopped its sin and pollution. It can start by having our own heart and life cleansed and purified. A man with grace on his happy face, Christian cheerfulness in his heart, and consistency in his behavior, is a sermon that many will see and will impact so many lives. Your godly Christian be-

havior and attitude will make a difference.

Showing Hope and Love

Deb McCoy

Recognizing hope in unexpected places,

Displaying courage and character that shines forth on our faces.

Joy unrestrained in heartfelt authenticity,

Facing challenges without sinking to fleshly complicity.

Persevering by faith against all odds,

Battling exhaustion through the lenses of facades.

'Tis grace that is unleashed from Heaven above,

Telling the story of our Father's great love.

Beyond the most painful chapters in each of our lives,

We are met by the mercies of God as our hearts He revives.

This pathway of hope strengthens our testimony in the Lord.

Growth and vitality permeate our hearts and minds as we lift up

His Sword.

Our commitment to God will reveal our willingness to obey,

May we always be mindful that salvation was costly as on

Calvary's cross He did pay.

Whatever your circumstances Christ is your truest and most

loving friend,

Hope is assured as you receive God's favor and victoriously run

the race to the end.

“A godly, virtuous man shines the purity of his righteous life. He is a lighthouse set by the sea-side, whereby both the mariners sail safely and avoid danger. But, he that lives in noted sins is a false lantern, which shipwrecks those that trust him and follow his example.” — Felltham, 1668