

ALWAYS

INTRODUCTION

Let us consider those things a Christian must always be doing.

I. “ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD”

A. **1st Corinthians 15:58**

- a. Although we are called to steadfast and immovable, we must not become stagnant, for in the same verse, we are taught to abound in the work of the Lord. Once in Christ, we must stay there, but not stay still, for there is work to do!
- b. Our work in the Lord is not in vain! Those who teach that salvation is by grace, apart from works, don't seem to understand this. Working for the Lord is not useless, but profitable.

B. **Galatians 4:18**

For many, their zeal for good work is limited to those times when some brother, perhaps a preacher, is “on their case” so to speak. Faithful Christians, however, are self-motivators, zealously doing the Lord's work whether or not anyone is watching.

II. “ALWAYS CARRYING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF THE LORD JESUS”

A. **2nd Corinthians 4:8-12**

Paul spoke not of death as a completed event – the state of being deceased, but of the entire process of dying from weakness to death to decomposition.

1. The death process was something Paul constantly had with him.
 - a. **Romans 8:36**
He was killed all day long.
 - b. **1st Corinthians 15:31**
He died on a daily basis.

2. This was evident by the persecution he endured.

a. **2nd Corinthians 1:5-6**

By suffering in this way, he was well-suited to sympathize with others.

b. **Galatians 6:17**

His suffering gave witness to the fact that he was a committed disciple.

c. **Philippians 3:8-11**

The fellowship of Christ's sufferings and conformation to His death lead to the resurrection from the dead.

B. Romans 6:3-6

Although it is evident that Paul spoke of always dying with Christ, that daily lifestyle begins with the act of dying with Christ in baptism.

III. "ALWAYS CONFIDENT"

A. **2nd Corinthians 5:1-6**

The Christian's constant confidence is that a home awaits us in heaven.

B. **Hebrews 11:13-14**

People of faith do not feel at home on earth, but openly desire a better place.

C. **John 14:1-3**

The Lord has prepared our home for us.

D. **Proverbs 14:26**

1. Our strong confidence, what removes our fear, is fear itself, in God.

2. He promises us a place of refuge.

IV. "PRAYING ALWAYS"

A. **Ephesians 6:13-18**

Prayer is the final element in the armor for a soldier of Christ.

Communication with headquarters is essential.

B. Luke 18:1-8

Men ought always to pray because persistence usually pays off even among those who don't care, but God cares immensely, so imagine how effective our prayers can be!

C. James 5:13-18

1. Prayer on behalf of one man should be offered up by that man, the elders of the church, and the brethren at large.
2. Prayer is effective!

V. "REJOICE ALWAYS"

A. 1st Thessalonians 5:16

The gospel is a religion that should cause happiness.

1. Matthew 5:11-12

This joy is not shallow, though, for it exists even in grave tribulation.

2. Luke 10:20

The joy we should feel must be centered on the thought that heaven awaits us.

3. Luke 15:6, 9

We must rejoice in the salvation of others.

B. Philippians 4:4

1. Paul is emphatic. Our life in Christ should be characterized by joy.
2. This joy is in the Lord.

VI. "ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE A DEFENSE"

A. 1st Peter 3:15

Defending our hope in Christ is not the duty of the few, assigned only to preachers and elders. Preparation for such defense is a command issued to every Christian.

B. Psalm 107:2

The news of our salvation in Christ should be irrepressible.

CONCLUSION

The faithful Christian is one who always:

- A.** Abounds in the work of the Lord.
- B.** Dies with Christ.
- C.** Is confident in heaven.
- D.** Prays.
- E.** Rejoices.
- F.** Is ready to defend his hope.