

(Exploring the Mind & Heart of the Prince of Preachers: Five-thousand illustrations under one-thousand topical headings from the works of C. H. Spurgeon by C. H. Spurgeon) Oswego, IL: Fox River Press. Copyright– Fox River Press, 2005.

You and I must be willing to do what God tells us, as God tells us, when God tells us, because God tells us, but only strong faith will be equal to such complete obedience. 1367.442
p. 327

Do what the Lord bids you, where he bids you, as he bids you, as long as he bids you, and do it at once. 1823.94
p. 328

(Take My Heart, O God: Riches from the Greatest Christian Women Writers of All Times by Sarah Young) Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Copyright– Worthy Media, Inc., 2010.

Obedience is easy when you know you are being guided by a God who never makes mistakes.

—CORRIE TEN BOOM

p. 5/29

(American Soldier by General Tommy Franks with Malcolm McConnell) New York, NY: Regan Books. Copyright – Tommy Franks, 2004.

I believe that better listening, more intellectual flexibility, and more willingness to learn and compromise would have better served their superiors, the Commander-in-Chief, and our country.
p. 376

(Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success by John Wooden & Jay Carty) Ventura, CA: Regal Books / Gospel Light. Copyright – John R. Wooden & Jay Carty, 2005.

I have always wanted to be the best I can be. I still do, so I work at it. My knees and hips make it difficult to walk very far or stand very long, but I keep up with a busy speaking and traveling schedule. I continue to meet with individuals during the week. And I still answer every letter I receive.

I used to read more than I do now. My eyes are failing some. I don't remember quite as well as I once did; my memory is going, too. But I will continue to do the best I can with what I have. Although I don't know any other 94-year-olds who work as hard as I do, that is not the point. The only competition I have is with myself. Even at 94, I want to be the best I can be, and hard work is the only way to make this happen.

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty (Proverbs 21:5).

p. 31

(Voices from the Past: Puritan Devotional Readings edited by Richard Rushing) Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust. Copyright– Richard Rushing, 2009.

The Spirit of the Lord is with you if you do not sin and grieve him away. Follow his leading. Be prompt and ready to follow his promptings. Marching under this banner you shall become invincible. Believers following the Almighty go forward conquering and to conquer. 'My soul clings to you', said David; 'your right hand upholds me' (*Psa. 63:8*). As if he had said: 'Go, lead on, my God. I will follow as close as I can. I will not allow any distance between us, but I will pursue your footsteps, step by step, leaning upon your everlasting arms that are underneath me, as you lead me by the hand.' Lot almost perished in Sodom for lingering before God hastened him away (*Gen. 19:16*). If you resist the Holy Spirit, you grieve him, and thus are alone in the battle. Open all your sails to every breath and gale of God's good Spirit. Welcome every suggestion. Reverence every command. Cherish every gentle persuasion of this blessed exhorter. Let every inspiration find you as the seal does the wax, or as the spark does the tinder. Step into the pool when the angel stirs the water. Keep in touch with the moving of the Spirit, and all will be well.

p. 81

(Life on the Highest Plane: A Study of the Spiritual Nature and Needs of Man by Ruth Paxson) Chicago, IL: Moody Press. Copyright—The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1928.

The thought of living such a Christ-life could well make us tremble and fear did God not make it so clear that He does not expect us to live it in our own strength and power but that in the gift of the Holy Spirit He has made ample provision for our growing conformity into the image of His Son and for a continuous renewal of Christ's life within us. It is the Holy Spirit who brings the fullness of Christ's life in the heavenlies into our life on earth.
p. 222

The twofold act of surrender and faith to be of any permanent value must become an attitude. The decisive act must be crystallized into continuous action. Surrender and faith must be merged into obedience. Obedience is just surrender and faith stretched over a lifetime; the step is lengthened into a walk.
p. 359

Frances Ridley Havergal says truly, "We may be quite sure of three things. First, that whatever our Lord commands us, He really means us to do. Secondly, that whatever He commands is 'for our good always.' And thirdly, that whatever He commands He is able and willing to enable us to do, "for all God's biddings are enablings."

If "God's bidding is His enabling," then our part is to discover His provision for a walk in obedience to His will, His ways and His Word.
p. 371

(A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty by Joni Eareckson Tada) Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook. Copyright– Joni Eareckson Tada, 2010.

Jack Reimer, a syndicated columnist, wrote a story about the great violinist Yitzhak Perlman. Perlman had polio as a child and walks with crutches and braces on both legs. Instead of arranging to be seated on stage at the beginning of his performance, he chooses to walk across the stage methodically and slowly until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, bends down, picks up the violin, nods to the conductor, and proceeds to play. As Reimer describes it, there is a certain majesty in this ritual.

During a 1995 concert, a string on Perlman's violin suddenly snapped, and everyone in the audience could hear it. The great virtuoso stopped and gazed at the broken string as those in attendance that night wondered what he would do. Perlman closed his eyes, and after a moment of reflection, signaled the conductor to begin again.

Though anyone who knows music understands that it's impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings, Perlman was undaunted. Apparently you could see this superb artist actually recomposing the piece in his head as he went along, inventing new fingering positions to coax never-before-heard sounds from his three-string violin.

The sophisticated New York audience watched and listened in awe, knowing they were witnessing a truly groundbreaking performance. When the piece was over, they exploded into appreciative applause. Mr. Perlman smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, and said in a soft, reverent tone, "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

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