

# What Wears out First

Our faith life can be described as a pair of jeans, and how those jeans wear can tell us a great deal about how effective it is. Consider the story about the two women below.

Two wives were doing their laundry in a laundry mat. They were both mending their husband's pants.

One wife said, "My husband is so miserable. Nothing goes right at work, and he can't find anything good on television. Our home is a place of despair. When we go to church, the song leader is terrible and the pastor is an idiot.

The other wife said "My husband is so excited." He can't wait to go to church. He loves the sermons. We laugh all the time and enjoy our family.

It got very quiet in the laundry room as the women continued sewing the pants. One was patching the seat of the pants, and the other was patching the knees.

One question which arises for the average church member out of this story which is quite telling. Which one of these women describes the pants we wear?

Are the knees worn out from praying and working for the Lord? Or is the seat worn out because all we do is sit and watch?

God wants his people to take this wonderful gospel he has given us and share it with others. He wants us to be excited about going to church, to look forward to all of worship, and look for the good things which God has in mind. If we worship and serve this way, we will find joy and laughter, and the atmosphere at home will improve.

Sometime we run toward what God wants us to do. Sometimes we run away from it. When the announcement comes that volunteers are needed, do we step back or forward. Do we warm a pew now and then, or do we use the church pew as a springboard toward action which serves God and helps others? God requires dedication and a willingness to go the second mile. Some don't even want to go the first mile!

The laziest man in the village was actually running. His hat was off, and his coat was flying in the wind. On and on he sped, till, crash, he collided with the portly vicar, and picked himself out of the roadway. "Why, what on earth has made you run— and so fast, Sam?" asked the vicar. "Can't wait," gasped Sam, "I heard of some work." The vicar caught him by the arm, "And did you get the job?" he asked. "I don't know," replied the man, struggling. "I only just heard of it. I'm going to find out." "Well, good success to you, Sam," said the vicar, releasing his grasp. "What kind of work is it?" "Some washing for me wife." Many people are like Sam; they say, "Here am I, Lord; send somebody else."—Gospel Herald.

The best place to run to is a place of prayer. The best prescription for Christian action is to kneel in prayer for God's will to be done. When we rise, we go to do it. If we do not, who will?

God never goes to the lazy or the idle when He needs men and women for His service. When God wants a worker He calls a worker. When He has work to be done, He goes to those already at work. When God wants a good servant, He calls a busy person. Scripture and history bear this out.

Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb.  
Gideon was busy threshing wheat by the wine press.  
Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts.  
Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.  
David was busy caring for his father's sheep.  
Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's wine-cup.  
Amos was busy following the flock.  
Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea.  
James and John were busy mending their nets.  
Matthew was busy collecting customs.  
Mary was busy being a teenager.

We may think we are too busy for God's service. The real truth is that we cannot afford to be that busy. God's work is more important than everything else we do. More than work, family, recreation, school and the other things we find to fill our days. In fact, we do those things because God has given us the abilities and gifts to make them possible.

The bible says that faith without works is dead. We must heed that warning, but also see it as a call to do better. God's word spurs us toward deeper faith, more meaningful worship, and fruitful action which bless people everywhere we go.

"If faith produce no works, I see  
That faith is not a living tree.  
Thus faith and works together grow;  
No separate life they e'er can know;  
They're soul and body, hand and heart;  
What God hath joined, let no man part."—Hannah More.