

“It has been a wonderful almost five years with this congregation. My family and I have grown to love all of you very much. We cherish the memories that we have made and the bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime. We have formed many unforgettable moments that we will cherish. But lately, many things have just not been going the way I wanted them to go and I am frustrated. I am frustrated to the point that I just don’t know what to do. So, the best thing for me to do is just quit.”

This first paragraph was written to get your attention. I am not frustrated and do not wish to ever stop preaching God’s Word. However, that attitude of just giving up seems to be a prevalent attitude among Christians today. Instead of enduring, it seems most would rather just quit. That ideology seems to be status quo among many members of the church. Why? The answer is many have become lackadaisical with their faith and trust in God. When things get the least bit tough—when circumstances do not go their way on a consistent basis—when their “expectations” of the way things ought to be happen--they are content to fold up shop and quit. We are then forced to find an answer to the question...What happened to our courage? What has happened to our trust and faith in God? **Hebrews 10:38-39**, “*Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*”³⁹ **But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**

Are we “scared” of the big bad wolf of responsibility that comes with being a Christian? Do we not trust that any task God has set before us; He gives us the abilities to accomplish that task? The church needs leaders who will step up and out to be shepherds, to be deacons, to be song leaders, and to be preachers, to be leaders of prayers, to be on a visitation team, and the list goes on. Yet, it also very much needs those “Andrews”—the behind the scenes workers.

The church of the 21st Century needs us to work together in the unity that bonds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3) That is the very same bond of unity that makes us family. Matthew 12:46-50, “While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”⁴⁸ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”⁴⁹ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

Courage is essential as a Christian. **II Timothy 4:7-8**, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” We need to know and realize our courage to be teachers, preachers, song leaders, leaders in prayer—and “Andrews” is not within our own means, but it through the power and majesty of God.

It is my hope that all you will have within you a great desire to serve God, to glorify God, to make His name known in your community, your place work and all who you meet in this life. Hebrews 10:19-25, “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”