

WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

A Woman of Devotion

Women's Discipleship Group

Terri McFaddin Series #5-13

By Cheryl Sweeney

Scripture Focus: *And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. (1 Chronicles. 28:9, NIV)*

Key Word: DEVOTION- The fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal (as to an idea or person).

OPENING STATEMENT: What does it mean to be devoted to something? The Greek word means to “adhere firmly to; to persist in.”

When we are devoted to our spouse, it means we persist with them through the good and bad times. It means we continue to work at building a relationship with them. The same would be true if we talk about being devoted to our parents or children. In other words, we don't give up on the relationship no matter how difficult it becomes.

When a person is a devoted fan of a certain sports team, it means they continue to root for that team when it wins and when it loses. The “fair weather” fans are the ones who root for the team only when it's doing well. The devoted fan hangs in there through thick and thin.

If you take this understanding and apply it to Colossians 4:2 where Paul writes, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,” Paul is simply saying keep praying. Don't give up on prayer. Stick with it! If you apply this understanding to the scripture focus above, it means you don't stop serving God when things get rough.

According to the attached article from *In Touch Ministries*, “People who knew Henrietta Mears... tell of her single-minded devotion to God — a trait that developed very early and remained until her death.”

As you read about her life, you also see her devotion to young people. Mears trained many young Christian leaders by her unique understanding of the Christian life. She often told them, “A bird is free in the air. Place a bird in water, and he has lost his liberty. A fish is free in the water, but leave him on the sand and he perishes. He is out of his realm. So young people, the Christian is free when he does the will of God and is obedient to God's command. This is as natural for God's child as the water is for the fish, or the air for the bird.”

Countless lives have been touched by Henrietta Mears' devotion...possibly even yours.

OBSERVATION:

How did Henrietta Mears' devotion to God and young people attribute to her success as a Christian educator?

INTERPRETATION:

Read Mark 15:39-16:10. In what way(s) did the women show their devotion to Jesus? How did God bless their devotion and diligence?

PERSONALIZATION:

Give an example of a situation in your life (either past or present) that you did not “acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind.”

APPLICATION:

As believers, we should take advantage of the opportunities we have and do what we can for Christ, instead of worrying about what we cannot do. How will you apply this lesson to your life today?