

Five Promises

In "The Finishing Touch," Chuck Swindoll tells of a time when a friend stopped by his study to "speak the truth in love" to him. The man said, "I don't think you'll fall morally or ethically. What does worry me is that you could be tempted to let your time with God and your time in the study of the Scriptures become less and less important to you. I want to urge you: Do not let that happen."

Swindoll took his words to heart and wrote down these five promises to himself:

- I promise to keep doing original and hard work in my study. Those to whom I am called deserve my best efforts.
- I promise to maintain a heart for God. That means I will pray frequently and fervently, and stay devoted to Him and to my calling.
- I promise to remain accountable. Living the life of a religious Lone Ranger is not only unbiblical, it's dangerous.
- I promise to stay faithful to my family. My wife deserves my time, affection and undivided attention. Our now-grown children deserve the same.
- I promise to be who I am. Just me. I plan to keep laughing, saying things a little "off the wall," being a friend, and making a few mistakes each month.

Swindoll's encounter with a friend, as you can see, proved to be very beneficial for him. It's one of the hardest things in the world to accept criticism -- and turn it to your advantage. But he did.

And you know what? His experience is instructive for us. I need to adopt and follow the principles of his promises in my own life.

--Beecher Hunter