



Faithfulness Wins

Tammy heard a crash of chords from the family room. Her daughter had given up on piano practice with a pounding of keys. Tammy girded her mental loins, said a quick prayer, and went in to talk to her daughter. Sara loved music and playing the piano, but today she wanted to go to the mall with her friends; she was tired and bored and not in the right frame of mind for practicing.

That night Tammy dreamed she stood before God, Who was seated on the couch in the family room. Tammy plopped down on the piano bench. "But Father," she whined, "the Christian life is so hard. I want to do a good job for You, but I just don't have time to read my Bible and pray. And the kids could use new clothes. Couldn't I skip my offering to You just this month? And do I have to listen to old Mrs. Peele to show her Your love? She takes up so much of my time! And what about church . . . " Tammy woke with a jolt—was she that much like her young daughter?

1. What did Sara and Tammy have in common? How are their feelings and temptations similar to those of other believers?
2. Evaluate Tammy's attitudes revealed through her dream. Do you agree with her assessment of the Christian life? Why or why not?
3. What words in 2 Timothy 2:3 convey the idea of faithfulness?
4. Evaluate your own attitudes and actions. Do you choose obedience over feelings? hardship and sacrifice over ease? Are you motivated by love or by duty?
5. Commit to giving your all to serve Christ.