



Prov 28:20 a faithful man will abound with blessings

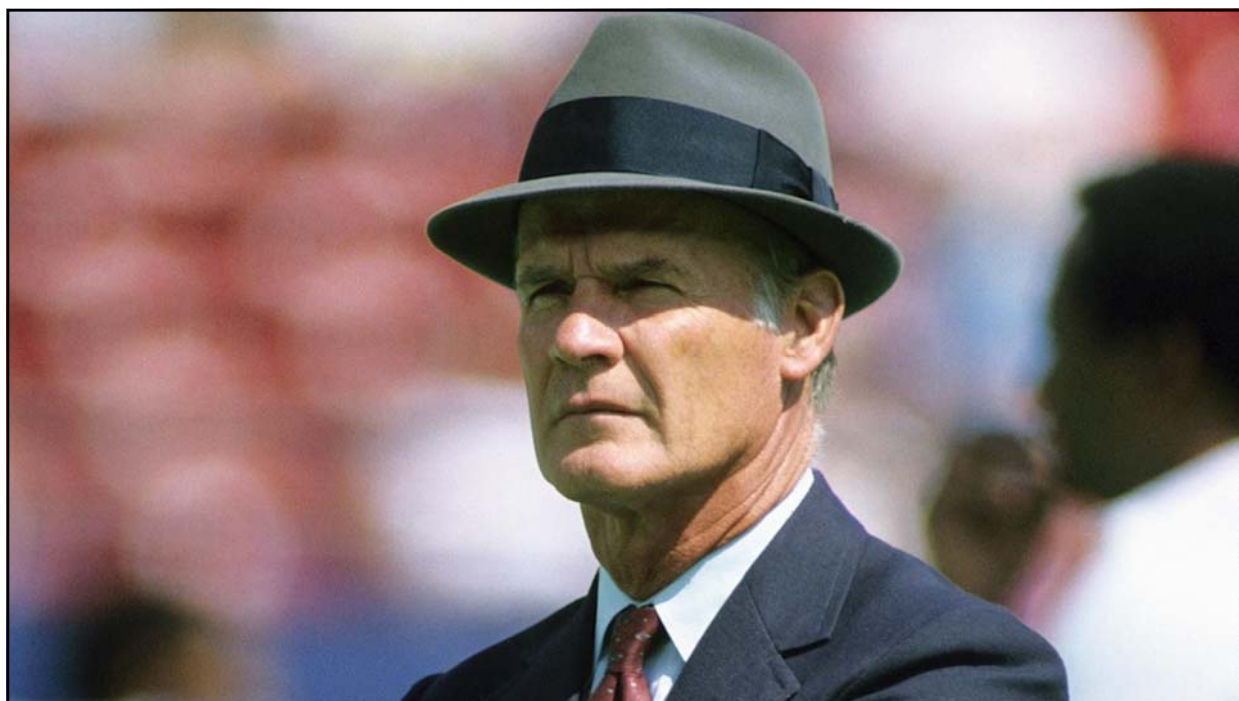
Heb 11:1-2,6 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ... ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Faith: knowing and embracing the truth

Faithful: being full of faith; acting upon what we believe

28:1-2, 7-16 Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. ² And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. ... ⁷ In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. ⁸ And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. ¹⁰ They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

¹¹ After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. ¹² And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. ¹³ From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, ¹⁴ where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. ¹⁵ And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. ¹⁶ Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.



“I have a job to do that is not very complicated, but it is often difficult: to get a group of men to do what they don't want to do so they can achieve the one thing they have wanted all their lives.”



“Persistence pays. It's a costly investment, no question about it. But the dividends are so much greater than the original outlay that you'll almost forget the price. And if the final benefits are really significant, you'll wonder why you ever hesitated to begin with.”

1. God surrounds the faithful with kindness

- Julius showed Paul kindness by allowing him to go ashore in Sidon

Acts 27:3 And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.

- The Maltese also showed him kindness after the shipwreck

28:1-2,7,10 Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. ² And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. ... ⁷ In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. ... ¹⁰ They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

Joel 2:13 ... Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

2. God supplies the faithful's needs

- Publius provided Paul with a place to stay on Malta (276 people for 3 days)

Acts 28:7 In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.

- As did the Christians at Puteoli

Acts 28:14 and the next day we came to Puteoli, ¹⁴ where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days.

Phil 1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3. God strengthens the faithful

- During the terrifying ordeal of the storm at sea, God sent an angel to hearten Paul (27:23-24)
- Paul was greatly encouraged by the Roman Christians, who eagerly met him well outside the city

Acts 28:15 And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

4. God saves the faithful from harm

He delivered Paul from a storm, a shipwreck, and a snake bite.

5. God spreads the influence of the faithful

- Paul greatly affected those who survived the storm and shipwreck.
- And through his ministry, a church was most likely begun on Malta and possibly at Syracuse.

2 Cor 9:10-11 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

6. God satisfies the desires of the faithful

Paul had yearned for many years to see Rome; now that desire had been granted.

Ps 37:4-6 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. ⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

7. God sets up special accommodations for the faithful

Acts 28:16 Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.



“God often delivers His best gifts to us in unexpected ways . . . with surprises inside the wrappings. Through apparent contradictions.”

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!