

~ HELPS IN HAVING AN ENDURING, JOYFUL MINISTRY ~

These are tips that have been gleaned over many years of ministry, most from observing the lives and ministries of Roy and Faith Thompson:

1. Make the Lord Jesus central and lifted up in *every* lesson you teach or message you preach. (This has been one of Roy Thompson's real strengths. He faithfully exalts Christ no matter what text he uses.)
2. If you preach to a broken heart, you will never be without a congregation.
3. Have a generous spirit.
4. Make special time for the elderly, widows and fatherless.
5. Have a truly hospitable spirit. This is a great relationship builder. (What a wonderful example of gracious hospitality Faith Thompson continues to be!)
6. Visit the suffering, including the sick, the dying, the caregiving, the grieving, the lonely, and the depressed. (Matthew 25:34-40)
7. When praying with anyone in an institution (hospital, veteran's home or nursing home), always include the roommate in your prayer. Some have never heard their name lifted up in prayer, and many times this will open up a great opportunity to witness.
8. Seek to have a caring, compassionate heart, and a peaceable, humble spirit when dealing with the lost or other believers. True Christianity *is* ministry. (Matthew 5:44; Mark 10:43-45)
9. Don't compromise on Biblical principal; don't lower your colors or Baptist heritage. (Proverbs 22:28 – Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.)
10. Don't take compliments or unwarranted criticism to heart.
11. Have a good sense of humor ~ make yourself the target of humor. (Proverbs 15:13, 17; Proverbs 17:22)
12. Have the attitude that your co-laborers in ministry serve *with* you, not *for* you. Pray with them and for them at every opportunity. (II Thessalonians 1:11-12)