



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“A great person leaves a legacy of commitment and not cash.”

50 Years of Commitment

Except for family farms or family owned businesses, it is very rare that someone celebrates 50 years of employment with the same employer. Company loyalty is no longer the norm nor is it recommended. Forbes states “Staying employed at the same company for over two years on average is going make you earn less over your lifetime by about 50% or more.”¹ According to The Balance Careers²: The average person in their lifetime will have 12 different employers, which is about 4.5 years per job. They state that 51% of Americans are looking to leave their job and 44% of Millennials want to change within two years. According to Fortune: “A new poll says more than 40% of America’s baby boomers stayed with their employer for more than 20 years including 18% who’ve stayed at least 30 years. But, it’s unlikely that their children or grandchildren will experience the same job tenure.”³ I guess I am in that 40% because in a few years I will be retiring from my employer of 25 years. My previous employer I was with 17.5 years.

It is very rare that people celebrate 50 years of being in the same community. According to a study conducted by the United States Census Bureau, the average person will move their household 11.7 times in their lifetime. My wife and I have been in our home for over 33 years. The house next to us has had eight different families in it doing that time. We no longer have a community band, summer park program, community picnics, or even community pride.

It is very rare that people celebrate 50 years of being married. According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, only about five percent of married couples ever achieve their 50th anniversary. On average, the typical U.S. marriage that ends in divorce lasts just seven years.⁴ As I was writing this, I opened the front page of my local paper and there were the Toomeys. They live down the street from me and are now celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. I have been married only half that time.

Last month, I had an evening of remembrance with the Lord. I was not born as a child of God. I went to church all my life. I was a well-behaved child. Nevertheless, it was not until my teen years that I confessed my sins and asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior. I remember that night alone in my bedroom; I cried and cried with tears of rejoicing. I said: “Lord here is my life use it for your for service.” I grabbed the globe and said: “Here am I send me.”

As my 50th year of being born again is approaching, I spent an evening in tears. The Lord and I reviewed what I did in my past, the paths I took, the choices I made, the people we touched, the family He allowed me to raise, and the times that I disappointed Him and others. I cannot redo those years. I am not going to get another 50 years. I prayed that my closing chapters will be pleasing to Him, and that when I get to Heaven, Jesus will say to me “Well done. My good and faithful servant.”

It is sad to say that I know a number of persons who have given up their service to the Lord. One was my closest friend for years. I have been praying for him now for over 20 years. Let us keep this verse close to our hearts, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Cor. 15:58

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God has given you an eternal commitment.
What will your record of commitment be when you
see the Lord?



¹forbes.com/sites/cameronkeng/2014/06/22/employees-that-stay-in-companies-longer-than-2-years-get-paid-50-less

²thebalancecareers.com/how-often-do-people-change-jobs-

³fortune.com/2016/05/10/baby-boomers-millennials-jobs/ ⁴creditdonkey.com/average-marriage-last.html

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