

The Test of My Sunday Covenant

Isaiah 58:13-14,

If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD,

Shortly after graduating high school I decided I would have to work a year to earn enough money for college. I got a job working at Chrysler Engine Plant in Trenton, Michigan where many of my friends and family also worked. They seemed to love working there. It was great pay and there were usually opportunities for overtime. On my first day in that huge engine plant I had to walk a half mile in a closed building to get to my assigned department, which happened to be the piston rods area. I was given my assignment of stamping a pedal that reamed out burrs on the rods as they came down the assembly line. It was a dreary, brainless, monotonous job in a noisy factory. I said to the Lord that day that if He hadn't called me to be a missionary I would never ever want to work in a factory.

I worked there in the fall and all went well. The money was great. I was able to buy my own car and pay it off. I was able to accumulate my savings for college. Then came the day we were informed that production was picking up and we would have to work on Saturdays. That was no problem and it paid time and a half. A month later they said we would be going to 12 hours a day 7 days per week. We would have to work Sundays. There was a rule at the factory that everyone was required to do overtime or be overlooked for any extra hours. When they came to me to ask me to work on Sunday I graciously refused telling them that my Sundays were the Lord's Day and by my spiritual covenant that day belonged to God. The foreman wasn't pleased. He reiterated that all employees were required to work overtime and Sunday was no exception. If they made exceptions then half the work force wouldn't want to work seven days a week. I told him that this was my commitment to God and I was fine doing all the overtime they could throw at me, but not on Sunday. I would work 12 hour shifts and even put in double shifts if necessary, but I would not work on Sunday. He said he would have to talk to his manager and the general manager. I remember the divisional foreman came to talk to me as well telling me that if I did not work Sundays then I would not be offered any overtime. I told him that was fine with me but Sundays were out, even if it meant losing my job. The next day the foreman came around giving overtime slips and said, "LaFountain, you are to work on Saturday, but you are exempt on Sunday." Wow! I was amazed and delighted.

Soon word got out that LaFountain didn't have to work on Sundays. Guys would come to me and ask what made me so special that I didn't have to work on Sunday. I told them of my commitment to God and said that I was sure if they made that commitment they wouldn't have to work on Sunday either. I remember another Christian guy looking at me for a long moment then he said, "Nah, I love the money too much to give that up." So it was that I was not required to work on Sunday though everyone else had to. God is good.