

FAITHFUL ATENDANCE AS WELL AS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Elbert was a huge friend of mine in our youth group AS I grew up. He was a nice kid and very healthy—he never missed a Sunday even once in his life; but I think a lot of us thought he was a little to. . .maybe too loud or too self conscious or too self-centered or too something. He was always at church, and reminded us more than once that he had been in church every Sunday of his life.

In those days our church gave out pins for perfect attendance. Each additional year he was awarded a little bar to attach under the pin. I knew kids who had several bars, but Elbert's string said, "16th year."

Every teacher knows that we can only teach the chairs which are full on Sunday mornings. Attendance is important. Perfect attendance is great. But it isn't everything. Every teacher's goal is to see lives changed. It seems that for Elbert the only benefit he derived from warming a chair in Sunday school was to "Sit and Soak in the Sea of Knowledge."