

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. ANDERSON

Ken Orr

One of the greatest gifts the Lord ever gave me is the friendship of Pastor Robert Anderson; so no one had to twist my arm to write something about my good friend and colleague in the Gospel ministry. Bob Anderson is a man I liked from the first time I laid eyes on him and have come to love the more I know him. He is one of the few people I have ever met who can lift your spirits with a rebuke and humble you with praise. He is one you can disagree with and still respect with great affection.

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, was once invited to speak at a banquet in New York and couldn't make it. So he sent a telegram with only one word. That word was OTHERS. This is the one word that so defines my good brother. His phone calls, his counsel, and his compassion have not only melted my heart but set me straight. No one I know has come so close to fulfilling the Savior's words in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." He is a man who loves "in word, in deed, and in truth."

Someone penned the following words and they perfectly suit my friend Bob Anderson:

"O the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thought nor measure words, but pour them out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away."

Thank you, Robert, for all your kindnesses.