

Showing Up

On September 6, 1995 – baseball fans witnessed the breaking of a major league baseball record that had stood for 46 years. Cal Ripken surpassed what many considered to be an unbreakable record set by Lou Gehrig, the record of consecutive games played in by a MLB player.

As soon as the last out was made in the top of the fifth inning [making it an official game], the fans went wild; thousands of orange and white balloons were released into the night air. Ripken, casually returned to the dugout as if nothing had happened, but the crowd continued to cheer. Finally, his teammates threw him out of the dugout and told him to take a victory lap or the crowd would never settle down.

The record of consecutive games played isn't quite as dramatic as perhaps holding the record for homeruns, or hits or strikeouts as a pitcher. But, it certainly is unique in that it encompasses many admirable traits such as longevity, perseverance, a skill level necessary to play MLB over a lengthy period - - - and last but not least a string of good health. For that reason, it is called the iron man record

Ripken kept the streak going for several more years and ended with 2,632 games – a number that will not be broken anytime soon.

In the Christian life – One of the callings of the Christian is to be a person who shows up. The pastor Charles Swindoll once said: **'That's what the faithful do. They keep showing up.'**

The faithful Christian is marked by a consistency over a period of time: of standing firm in the faith, holding to the truths of Scripture, fighting the battle against sin, asking for forgiveness in failure, walking in fellowship with God, loving God, loving others - - - and then showing up tomorrow to do it all over again.

That's certainly the idea the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Philippian Christians.

Philippians 4:1 - 'Therefore, my beloved brethren . . . stand firm in the Lord.'

I would encourage you to show up in your faith this week. Show up for worship in one of our local churches. Show up for service. Show up to seek God's grace through prayer. Show up for fellowship with the saints. Show up to forgive someone who has offended you. Show up to love God and love your neighbor. Then – just keep on doing that! God bless you as you seek Him!