

*THE ABC's
of
Becoming
A Better Christian*

COMMITMENT

Key Passages

Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

3 **Commit** your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Psalms 37:5 (NKJV)

5 **Commit** your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth **TO STRENGTHEN THOSE**
whose hearts are **FULLY COMMITTED** TO HIM.

Introduction

Commitment is defined as the *entrusting of something valuable* to another person...

Commitment is defined as the state of being *dedicated to a cause*

Commitment is defined as *an obligation* that *restricts personal freedom*

Many People Are Afraid of Commitments

1) *Lack Of Trust*

2) *Desire For Independence*

Commitment is a *foundational aspect* of the Christian faith.

The Bible teaches not just commitment but *total commitment* ~ God Requires *Total Commitment*

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NLT)

5 And you must love the Lord your God with *all your heart*, *all your soul*, and *all your strength*.

6 And you must **COMMIT YOURSELVES WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THESE COMMANDS** that I am giving you today.

7 *Repeat them again and again* to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

COMMITMENT MEANS TO LOVE GOD WITH OUR WHOLE BEING



A Continuous Call For Commitment

Deuteronomy 11:13-21 (NLT)

13 “If you **carefully obey ALL the commands** I am giving you today, and if you love the Lord your God and serve him with **ALL your heart and soul**,
14 **THEN** he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—
so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil.

15 He will give you lush pastureland for your livestock, and you yourselves will have all you want to eat.

16 “But be careful. **Don’t let your heart be deceived** so that you **turn away from the Lord** and **serve and worship other gods**.

17 If you do, the Lord’s anger will burn against you. **He will shut up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in that good land the Lord is giving you.**

18 **“SO COMMIT YOURSELVES WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THESE WORDS OF MINE.**

Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead **as reminders**. 19 Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 **so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.**

OBEDIENCE BRINGS ABOUT GREATER OPPORTUNITIES
THIS REQUIRES COMMITMENT



A Continuous Call For Commitment

Matthew 22:35-40 (NLT)

35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question:

36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

37 Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God *with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, and ALL your mind.*’

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

40 The entire law and **ALL THE DEMANDS** of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Jesus Did Not Lower The Bar of Commitment He Raised It!!!

Luke 14:25-28 (NLT)

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,

26 “If you want to be *my disciple*, you must *hate everyone else by comparison*—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—*yes, even your own life*. Otherwise, **YOU CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, **YOU CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

28 “**BUT DON’T BEGIN UNTIL YOU COUNT THE COST....**

It Is Cheaper To Be A Member Of A Church Than A Disciple For Christ

Reminder: The Commission Was Not To Make Members But Disciples

Keys To Commitment

#1 Don't Mistake Activity For Commitment

If God **Requires** You To Love and Serve Him With All Your Heart, All Your Soul, and All Your Strength
How Can You Serve On All Those Committees and Be Involved In So Many Activities
Answer: You Don't Give It Your All

Often, We Mistake Busyness For Service

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, **did we not prophesy** in your name, and in your name **drive out demons** and **perform many miracles?**'
23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Jesus Gives Us The Blueprint For Total Commitment

Luke 2:48-50 (NKJV)

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked.

"DIDN'T YOU KNOW I HAD TO BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?"

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

DON'T FILL UP YOUR CALANDER WITH APPOINTMENTS AND MISS YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Keys To Commitment

#1 Don't Mistake Activity For Commitment

Biblical Example

Acts 6:1-7 (NLT)

1 *But as the believers rapidly multiplied*, there were rumblings of discontent.

The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said,

“We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.

3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom.

We will give them this responsibility.

4 *Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”*

7 So God's message continued to spread. *The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem....*

Stay Committed To Your Calling ~ Stay Committed To Your Assignment

Luke 10:42 ~ Mary has chosen the necessary thing.....

{Commitment requires Choosing Between Activity/Assignment}

Mark 1:37 ~ Jesus Everyone Is Looking For You.... Jesus says let's go to another town.... Fulfill My Purpose

Keys To Commitment

#2 God Gives Strength To Those Who Are Committed

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

*9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth **TO STRENGTHEN THOSE**
whose hearts are **FULLY COMMITTED TO HIM.***

*When You Are **Committed To Everything**, **BUT GOD...***

HE WILL ALLOW YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR RESOURCES TO BECOME DEPLETED...

*What Was Designed To Be A Blessing... **Now Becomes A Constant Battle***

GOD WANTS A DAILY DEPENDENCE ON HIM....

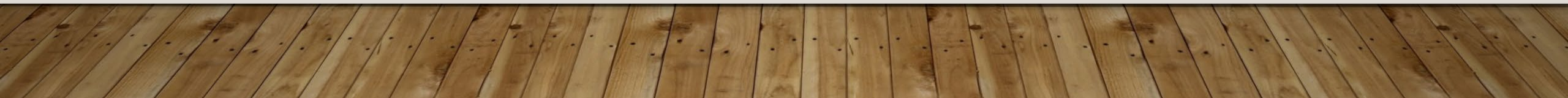
Example ~ Why don't you miss work? Response: I Need My Job

You Display A Level Of Commitment in Attendance, Because of the Determined Dependence

2 Chronicles 16:7, 9 (NIV)

*7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "**Because you relied on the king of Aram**
and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.*

*9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.
You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."*



Keys To Commitment

#3 God Grants Success When You Are Committed

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

3 **COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO**, and **YOUR PLANS WILL SUCCEED**.

Many people will tell you that if you are committed to working hard... you will be successful

Many people will tell you that if you are committed to treating people right...you will be successful

Many people will tell you that if you give the Lord some of your Time... you will be successful

Scripture Tells Us... Commit To The Lord

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Trick Of the Enemy Is To Make You Think Your Commitment Is Only To The Church and On Sunday!!!

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

31 *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do**, do all to the glory of God.*

Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

23 ***Whatever you do**, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...*

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

17 *And **whatever you do**, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God...*

Keys To Commitment

#4 Commitment Requires Total Trust In God

Psalms 37:5 (NKJV)

5 *Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.*

Many People *TRUST GOD FOR SALVATION ~ God Paid The Price For My Sins*

Now... We Must *TRUST GOD FOR SANCTIFICATION ~ God Breaks The Power Of My Sin*

We Do This By Committing Our Ways/Life To HIM

Job 23:10 (ESV)

10 But *He knows the way that I take*; when he has tried me, *I shall come out as pure gold.*

Trusting That God Knows What Is Best For Me

Trusting That God's Plans Are Best For Me

Trusting That God Cares For Me

Trusting That God Will Take Care Of Me

Trusting That God Will Work All Things Together For The Good

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

5 *TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART*, And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, *AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS.*

Keys To Commitment

#5 Partial Commitment Is No Commitment

Revelation 3:15-16 (NKJV)

15 I know your works, *that you are neither cold nor hot*. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, because you are **LUKEWARM**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Many People Desire To Experience The Best of Both Worlds

They Want The Benefits Of Christ, While Seeking The Pleasures of this World

What Does The Bible Say About This.....

1 Kings 18:21 (NKJV)

21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you *falter between two opinions?* If the Lord is God, **FOLLOW HIM**; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

Joshua 24:15(NKJV)

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, *choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve*, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.

BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY.**

How Can I Establish A Deeper Level Of Commitment

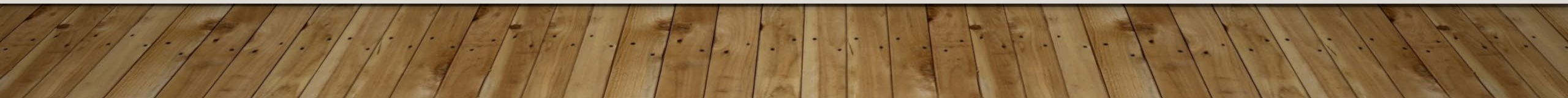
1. Start Each Day With Prayer And Meditation

2. Give Up Control Of My Life {Let God and Let God Have His Way}

3. Expect The Unexpected

4. Expect A Battle

5. Trust God For The Outcome



In Conclusion

Keys To Commitment

#1 Don't Mistake Activity For Commitment

#2 God Gives Strength To Those Who Are Committed

#3 God Grants Success When You Are Committed

#4 Commitment Requires Total Trust In God

#5 Partial Commitment Is No Commitment

ARE YOU FULLY COMMITTED?

