

A Committed Heart

Psalm 37:1-9 Ephesians 4:4-16 Nehemiah 4:19-23

The word commitment means a pledge, promise or obligation.

1. Commitment to Christ means trusting everything in your life to His control and guidance.
2. If we are not committed to the Lord, there can be a hesitancy and an opportunity to draw back.
3. A heart of commitment will find rest in God and wait patiently for Him to work out what is best for your life.
4. God wants us to grow up, to know the truth and to tell it in love.
5. A heart committed to Christ will grow in maturity, stability and integrity.
6. Trusting God as if everything depended on Him; while working as if everything depended on us is true commitment.

A Dedicated and Committed Christian:

1. Has his identity in Christ and is motivated by the love of God.
2. Is always available for Christ's service--never "off duty."
3. Is willing to go way beyond his comfort zone.
4. Refuses to quit or give up, no matter what the cost.

Everyone is committed to something or someone. Will you make a decision today to commit your life in service to Christ and discover the real purpose in living? Will you deny yourself of your own desires, take up your cross and follow Him wherever He leads you?

LIFE GROUPS — HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION

MY LIFE — Getting to know one another.

LIFE IN THE WORD — Exploring God's Word together.

LIFE AT HOME — Applying God's Word to our daily lives.

MY LIFE

1. A woman once asked her pastor, "What is your idea of commitment?" Holding out a blank sheet of paper the pastor replied, "It is to sign your name at the bottom of this blank sheet, and to allow God to fill in the rest."

How would you describe commitment?

2. Looking back over your life, what would you say has been your greatest commitment?

LIFE IN THE WORD

1. Commitment can be defined as the decision to do what needs to be done, whatever the cost. For a Christian, commitment is inspired by love. Complete this sentence for each of the following verses, "**Love inspires a commitment to....**"

John 3:16

John 14:15

John 15:12-13

John 21:15-19

Luke 9:23

2. Read Jeremiah 13:1-11. Here God illustrates that as a belt clings to a man's waist, so God created Israel and Judah to cling to Him. But their lack of love resulted in a lack of commitment that refused to cling to God and honor Him. What can we learn from verses 10-11 that will help us avoid this problem?

3. 2 Chronicles 16:9 reveals that God is constantly on the lookout for those whose heart is loyal and committed to Him. According to Romans 12:1-2, what does a life committed to God look like?

LIFE AT HOME

What does commitment look like? Here are a few illustrations to consider.

STAY COMMITTED —DON'T LOOK BACK

*“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back
[to the things behind] is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

—Jesus in Luke 9:62 (Amplified Bible)

Julius Caesar—Commit to the Cause

When Julius Caesar landed on the shores of Britain with his Roman legions, he took a bold and decisive step to ensure the success of his military venture. Ordering his men to march to the edge of the Cliffs of Dover, he commanded them to look down at the water below. To their amazement, they saw every ship in which they had crossed the channel engulfed in flames. Caesar had deliberately cut off any possibility of retreat. Now that his soldiers were unable to return to the continent, there was nothing left for them to do but to commit to the cause—advance and conquer! And that is exactly what they did.

Hernando Cortez—The Price of Commitment

When the Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez landed at Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1519 he was intent on conquest. To assure the devotion of his 700 men, Cortez set fire to his fleet of eleven ships! With no means of retreat Cortez's army had only one direction to move, into the Mexican interior. Cortez understood the price of commitment—and he paid it.

STAY FOCUSED —DON'T LOOK AWAY

Where Your Heart Is, There Your Commitment Will Be Also

An obelisk is a tall, narrow, four-sided, tapering monument which ends in a pyramid-like shape at the top, such as The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C..

Pliny the Elder was a Roman writer who lived during the same time period as Jesus. He told a story of the setting of an obelisk, which when erect would stand 99 feet tall.

Twenty thousand workers were chosen to pull on the ropes and activate the hoisting apparatus. There was great responsibility and risk in the operation. Just one error could cause the obelisk to fall, ruining years of work.

The King demanded one act which insured the complete attention and best direction of the engineer. He ordered the engineer's own son to be strapped to the apex of the obelisk, so that his heart as well as his head would be given to the task.