

Commitment

Scripture: Acts 20:22-24
2 Timothy 2:1-3, 4:5

Introduction

Being a Christian calls for commitment and self discipline. Our commitment to Jesus Christ means that we will grow, sometimes painfully, and become hardened warriors

I. Paul's example of commitment

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I [am] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty [stripes] save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 [In] journeyings often, [in] perils of waters, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils by [mine own] countrymen, [in] perils by the heathen, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

- A. His total commitment-Story of the hog, hen and the farmer's breakfast
- B. Unchanged in the face of adversity

II. Three levels of commitment

Mark 12:29-30 And Jesus answered him, {The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:}

{And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment.}

Ephesians 5:33, 6:4 NIV However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Fathers, do not exasperate your children: instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Jude 20-23 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

- A. Commit to a daily relationship with God
- B. Commit to your family
 - 1. To be available to your family
 - 2. To nurture other members
 - 3. To act in love
- C. Commit to your church

Romans 12:4-6a NIV Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us.

- 1. Perform your function in the body
- 2. Do not withhold your gifting from the body
- 3. Areas of commitment that are needed
 - a. Financial
 - b. Staffing
 - 1) Children's ministries
 - 2) Maintenance / Cleaning

- 3) Administrative - Visitor's letters
- 4) Home Care groups - Leaders, Host/Hostess
- 5) TeleCare Ministry
- 6) Worship Team

III. How to be a committed person

- A. Set your will to excel
- B. Determine where God wants to place you
 1. Short range placement
 2. Long range placement
- C. Take an inventory of where you are now and where you want to be
- D. Set goals
 1. Goal must be in writing
 2. Goal must be achievable
 3. Set a time frame for your goals and mile markers
- E. Prioritize your commitments
- F. Budget your time according to your priorities
- G. Begin now to develop the skills you need