



There are many things that we can be “committed to” as we live our lives day by day. Such things could include being committed to our spouses, our family

members, our parents, our country, our jobs, our churches or ministries. These are all very, very important and each one, as well as many others not mentioned, are probably very important to each of us. However, the most important commitment that each of us needs to have is a true “**commitment**” to our God.

It is important for us to truly understand the definition of the term, “**commitment**” or “to commit.” In general the term “**commitment**” means an agreement, a pledge or a promise to do something now or in the future for someone or some purpose. It is something that is pledged or promised to do no matter what comes up against us that may hinder us from trying to complete what we said we would do. It involves a promise and a willingness to work hard for, to support, and to be loyal to someone or something

The biblical definition is a little different. In the Hebrew, the term “**to commit**” or “**commitment**” means to “be rolled up” into something. In other words it refers to being wrapped in and to be totally engulfed in your love towards a person or some thing. It is not just to be united with someone or something, but rather it means that you are as one. The Greek definition is along the same lines.

The Greek definition describes a “**commitment**” as when someone puts aside their own self and the things of self, and now chooses to desire what someone else has need of and desires. In other words, it means to entrust yourself to the charge and desires of someone else. In our case we are to entrust ourselves to God. We are to become “one” with God.

The Bible is very clear on who our first and primary “**commitment**” needs to be towards. In Psalm 37:5, it states, “**Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**” It conveys the idea of fully surrendering to, as well as, fully desiring God’s will and intentions. To commit yourself to God implies a deep level of trust and reliance on our God. It means to yield to God’s desires. As we commit and trust in the Lord, His plans will ultimately come forth. Our own personal plans or desires become secondary.

“Commitment,” as we read of it in our Bible, reflects and emphasizes a true and real “covenant relationship” with God. It emphasizes faithfulness and loyalty on both, God’s part and ours. Yes, God is so very committed and faithful to all of us. The scriptures tell us, *“Great is thy faithfulness...”* Now, we must be faithful onto Him. That is **commitment!!!**

The covenant we now have with our God was ratified by the blood that was shed by Jesus on the cross. Our God was so committed to having a covenant relationship restored with His creation that He gave us Jesus to die on that cross for us. Yes, our God was totally committed to His creation. Even though they failed and therefore destined to be punished, God was committed to them – so much so that He spared them and gave man an opportunity to get back into relationship with Him through the death on the cross by Jesus.

However, that commitment was expressed even greater when, three days later, Jesus rose again. It was so much greater, that God gave us even a better covenant than there was prior to Jesus’ resurrection. We refer to it today as the “New Testament” or the “New Covenant.” God made a new **commitment** unto those that believed in what God did through Jesus.

We must realize that it was God who initially instituted the concept of **“commitment.”** God was so committed to His highest creation. Instead of destroying them when they disobeyed, sinned and ultimately broke their commitment to God, He chose to show His grace and mercy and ultimately provide a way for them to be renewed and restored back into relationship with Him. He even provided the way of restoration – the death and resurrection of Jesus, Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.

When someone, accepts Jesus as their Messiah and their Lord, they are now choosing to commit and to give their entire being to God and His ways. This “new creature in Christ” that has been transformed into a child of God, has now chosen to **“commit,”** to yield to and to give their entire life on to their God.

As we said, Psalm 37:5 tells us, **“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”** Committing your ways unto the Lord involves dedicating oneself to God and His purposes. Romans 12:1-2 tells us how we are to now do this once we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Romans 12:1,2 tells us, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Yes, a true **commitment** to the Lord involves the giving of our entire life as a "living sacrifice" that is holy and acceptable to the Lord. What this scripture is actually telling us is that, now as a child of God, each of God's people are to literally "die to self." The term "living sacrifice" is actually an oxymoron. In other words it is a figure of speech that declares two opposites but yet they are one entity. It is a figure of speech that combines contradictory terms.

You see, a "sacrifice" is something that is dedicated to God, such as the animals that were sacrificed unto God instead of actual people. These animals were totally burned and nothing was left. In other words they died. They represented those people that offered them up to God in place of themselves for the penalty of their sin. As we know Jesus was the final sacrifice. He actually died on our behalf, in our place. Therefore, we no longer need those animal sacrifices.

However, the "sacrifice" that is now to be presented to the Lord is - ourselves. We are alive, but we are to offer up to God our very lives to be used for His purposes. We are that "living sacrifice." That is the **commitment** that we are to give unto our God. We are to give all of our lives, our very being, in whatever way that God needs to use us, to bring forth His glory, His Kingdom here on the earth. Now, we are to bring others to come to know the living God.

We do this by the renewing, or exchanging, of our old ways of thinking to what God tells and teaches us in His Word. Why? So that now, as that "living sacrifice," we can be transformed within our minds and then go forth into this world by living our lives in the "perfect will of God." That "perfect will" is to bring others to come and know their God through Jesus, their Savior.

James 2:17 tells us that, *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."* Our belief in the one true God is great but it is truly "dead" if we are not committed to our God by doing the works of His Kingdom. One of the "works" is bringing others into the Kingdom. We have must stop thinking that the Kingdom of God is all about us, you and I.

No, once we accept Jesus, our lives, our motives, our entire being is now directed, not on our own lives but rather it is all about how we can get others to accept Jesus and be saved. This doesn't mean that we are all to now go out on the streets and become evangelists. However, it does mean that each of our lives are now "evangelistic tools" that God can and desires to use to tell this world about the Good News of salvation through Jesus simply through the lives we now lead as children of God. We must never be ashamed of who we now are in Jesus.

The Word of God teaches us that the main **commitment** of our lives must be to God, Himself. Jesus said in Matthew 22:37, 38, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.*" This involves surrendering one's own desires and plans in favor of aligning with God's direction and guidance. He does this through the power of the Holy Spirit who is now on this earth.

Such a **commitment** reflects a trust in God's wisdom and the believer's willingness to act in accordance with God's teachings. It becomes a demonstration of the believer's faith and obedience. The Word of God teaches and tells us that we are to be 100% committed to our God. Our life is no longer our own. We are to be 100% His. Are we??? Hmmmm.....

Jesus told this to His disciples back when He was with them and the same holds true for all believers, today. We must be totally committed to the Lord and His ways – totally. Being committed to the Lord means that we are to be committed to Him in the good times and...the difficult times. Most of us have not really come into those very difficult times ... yet.

Jesus warned His disciples in John 15:20 when He told them, "*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you....*" However, Jesus continued on in John 15:26, as He tells us, "*But when the Comforter is come...*" Yes, the Holy Spirit who is our "Comforter," the One who will come along side of each of us, will come. He has come. It is the Holy Spirit who dwells within each of us and it is He who will encourage us during those difficult times.

Jesus tells us that our **commitment** to Him must supersede our commitment to even our families or those who are the closest to us. This may seem like a difficult "pill to swallow." However, it is the attitude of heart that a true believer in Jesus must have. This is the difficult part of being a true child of God.

Jesus tells us in Luke 14:26,27, *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple."* Wow.... This seems very difficult and out of character for Jesus to say!!!

However, Jesus is saying that our heart, as a true child of God, should be and must be, to Him, first and foremost. It does not mean that we are not to love our family members. What it is actually saying is that if any of our family members should try to take us away or to talk us out of the things of God, we should not allow them to persuade us to leave and walk away from God. Why? Simply because our God now is our first and primary love!!!

Jesus tells us that the true believer in Him makes Him, and places Him, in first place over everybody and everything else, including themselves. If that situation arises, we must always love those that come against us and try to get them to come to Jesus. However, we cannot allow anyone to take us away from Jesus. He must be our "first love."

The bottom line that Jesus is telling us in these scriptures is that those who cannot make that kind of **commitment** may not truly be His disciple. This is the difficult part of being a child of God. I pray that none of us will experience this. But... the word is the Word. Hmmm.....

Paul followed the Lord's example of **commitment** in sacrifice and service. Paul chose to live that lifestyle. In Galatians 2:20 he writes, *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* That is true **commitment** to the Lord!!!

Paul tells us that he has been *"crucified with Christ."* That means that he has chosen to let the "old man" die along with Jesus on that cross. However, the "new man" is now alive with the resurrected Jesus. That is what has happened to each of us as true believers in Jesus. We are the new creatures in Jesus Christ.

We were once owned by and were slaves to the devil. Now, through the blood of Jesus, we are children of the most high God. Therefore, being children of God, we are to be committed to His purposes which are the purposes of bringing others to come to know Jesus and be saved. When they do, they become children of the most high God. This is now our purpose.

Matthew 6:24 tells us, “*No one can serve two masters.*” This verse emphasizes the necessity of a total dedication to that one true **commitment** unto the Lord our God. We must continually try to avoid those things that will take us away from that total commitment on to the Lord. Yes, it will be difficult... very difficult at times.

Proverbs 16:3 tells us, “*Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*” Colossians 3:23 also tells us, “*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men...*” These passages encourage us to wholeheartedly **commit** our lives unto the Lord. We are to give our lives totally to what the Lord would want us to do in every situation. Is this difficult? Yes, it is very difficult. However, my life is not my own any more.

We must realize that being a **committed** believer unto the Lord is not simply a one and done thing we say. It is not simply a word we say and then go on. No, it is a life long **commitment** that is expressed through our lifestyle. It should be the one of the highest desires of our heart.

Are we all there yet? I pray we are!!! But... are we truly there within our hearts and our lives? Building a **committed** relationship with God requires a consistent effort by each and every one of us through the spiritual practices of prayer, worship, Bible reading and Bible study, as well as other services given unto us by the Lord for His purposes.

Remember that your life, my life, our lives are no longer our own... they are His!!!

We know that He first loved us so now we can love Him.

Are you **committed** to your first love...???