

COMMITMENT

(A key to leading a victorious and overcoming Christian life)

In this teaching I will be looking at the importance of being *committed* in several key areas of our walk with the Lord.



Being a person of commitment is a great key to living a life of purpose and to being successful in life and in what God has called us to do in life.

THE CHRISTIAN WALK IS A MARATHON

God's plan for our life unfolds *progressively over time*

As we are faithful in the little God entrusts to us greater responsibilities

Continual commitment to following

God's plan for our life is a key to seeing

all that God has planned for our lives coming to pass

God has a unique plan for every believer's life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**



It is so important for us as believers to be continually committed in the following areas if we are to realise our full potential in Christ:

1) To always putting Christ first place in our life

Purpose, peace, growth in Christlike character and all true blessings in life flow from maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord.

Jesus Himself said,



“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
(John 10:10)

When we put the Lord first in our life God promises to meet our every need in life



Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

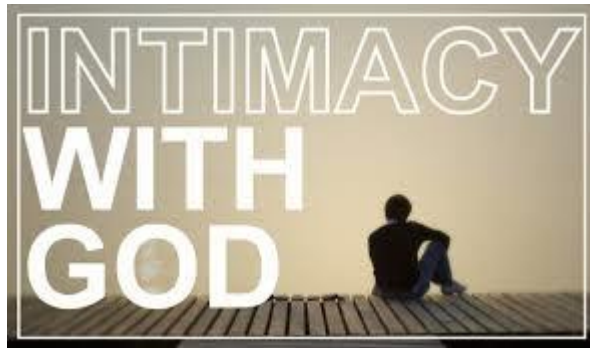
Being committed to always putting the Lord first in our life is a key to:



- Growing strong in our walk with the Lord
- **Growing in Christlike character**
- Experiencing ongoing peace and joy in our heart
- **Having God's heart for the lost**
- Maintaining a soft and offence free heart towards others and ourselves
- **Ministering the love of Christ to others, and**
- To FINISHING our Christian walk strongly

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:4)



Jesus Himself said,

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” **(John 15:4-5)**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

(Ephesians 3:17-19)

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” **(Ephesians 3:20)**



The Apostle Paul had a great love for and desire to know Christ intimately. Though he went through many trials and challenges in his life he remained strong in his faith to the end. Near the end of his time here on earth he wrote,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**



2) To loving and seeing the best in others

(Love is a choice, the feelings follow)

Jesus Himself said,



“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **(Mark 12:30-31)**

Loving and seeing the best in others is a key to:

- **Receiving favour from others**
- Making a great difference in the lives of others
- **To standing out as Christians. (The way we live our life is the greatest witness to others)**
- To having healthy relationships with others,
- **To experiencing emotional health, and**
- To helping to creating a happy and loving atmosphere in our homes, churches and workplaces



Jesus Himself said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

- People do not care how much we know, but they *do want to know how much we care for them*



- Our love for other believers is a great sign to those in the world that we are true disciples of Christ – WE NEED TO HAVE A GENUINE LOVE FOR OTHERS IF WE ARE TO MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD FOR ETERNITY

Jesus also said,

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” **(John 15:12-13)**



The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” **(1 Peter 4:7-9)**

It is always better to lose an argument and keep a friend than to win an argument and lose a friend. We need to encourage people to realise their full potential in Christ rather than continually fault finding

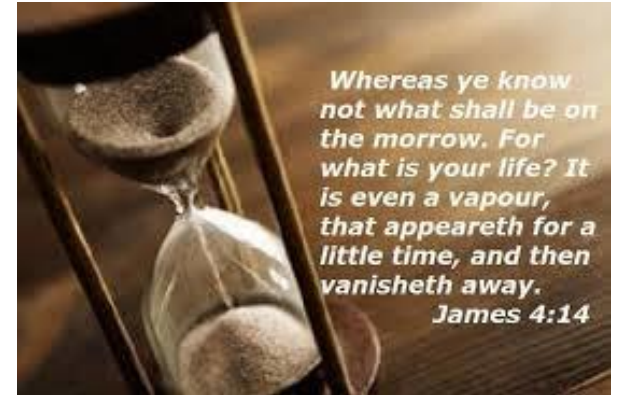


The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” **(Colossians 3:12-14)**



3) To always living with eternity in mind (This life is like a vapour)



James in his epistle wrote,

“ ... For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14)

The enemy will continually try and sidetrack us and to get us to squander our life.

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of using our time wisely and in continually living with eternity in mind – If we do we will make a great difference in this world for eternity.



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”
(Colossians 3:1-2)

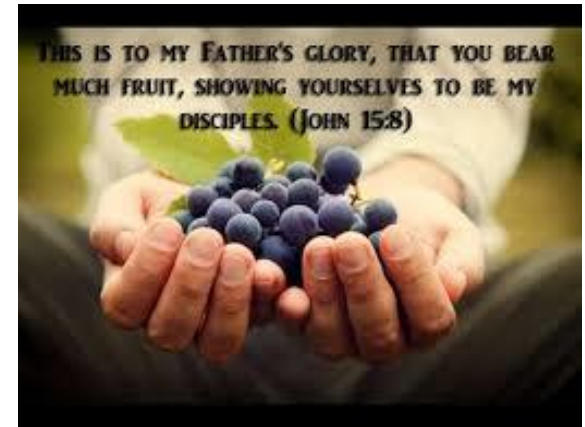


Living with eternity in mind helps us to be focused and fruitful in our walk with the Lord and not to be *continually* distracted by the things of this world

Jesus Himself in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower said,

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” (Mark 4:18-20)



Continually living with eternity in mind will:

- Cause us to use our time wisely
- **Give us a desire to be continually in the will of God for our life**
- Influence the choices that we make in life such as the friends that we choose in life and what jobs that we will do in life
- **Affect our priorities in life (How we use our talents and resources and what things are most important in our life), and**



- The way that we relate to people

Jesus made it clear that we have been chosen for a God given purpose – It is as we embrace God’s plan for our life that we begin to see His blessings and favour upon our lives

Jesus Himself said,



“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

1. Useful
2. Purposeful
3. Fruitful
4. Impactful
5. Prayerful

Living with eternity in mind keeps us focused on fulfilling God's destiny for our life – If we fulfil God's plan for our life we will help many others to realise their God given destiny in life



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, **And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

As we live with eternity in mind we are more focused on storing up treasures in heaven

Jesus Himself said,



“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

4) To serving the Lord with our gifts and talents with a good attitude and to living our lives for others



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:6-8)**

As we wholeheartedly serve the Lord with our gifts and talents we will:

- **Help others to come to Christ**



- **Help other Christians to grow strong in their walk with the Lord**

- **Fulfil our God given destiny in life**

- **Receive eternal rewards, and**

- **We will experience joy and purpose in our life on a consistent basis**



It is as we learn to die to self and to live wholeheartedly for the Lord that our life begins to make a great difference in this world for eternity

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**



5) Maintaining our spiritual disciplines

(especially during the times when God is blessing us)

- We need to be continually built up in our faith and spiritually prepared for any unexpected trial and challenge in life.

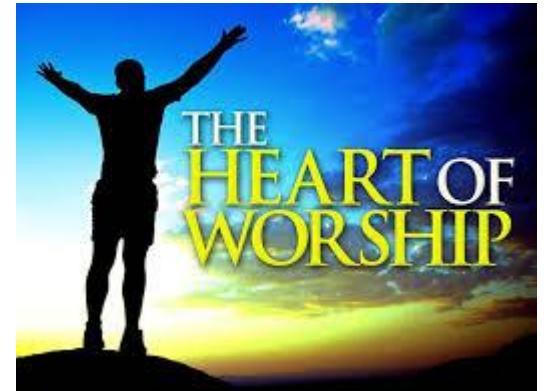


The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

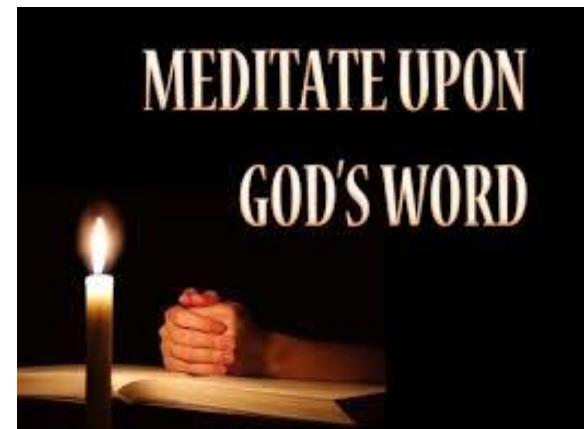
We need to continually **MAINTAIN** a lifestyle of:

- Prayer (Involving God in all that we do)
- Studying and meditating on the Word of God
- Genuine heartfelt worship to the LORD, and
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit



The LORD said to Joshua just prior to leading the Children of Israel into the Promised Land

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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.” (Joshua 1:8)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

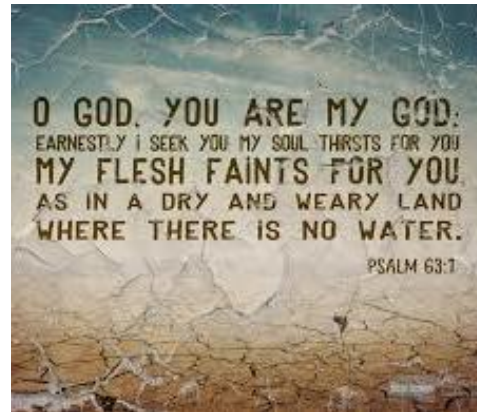
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”
(Ephesians 5:18)



- **As we give out to others we need to be continually filled ourselves with the Holy Spirit**



King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.” **(Psalm 63:1-5)**

6) To being planted in a local church fellowship and being well connected and accountable to other mature Christians



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Where there is no counsel, the people
fall; But in the multitude of counsellors
there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)**



**Being accountable to other mature believers is a
great key to remaining strong in our faith**

**When we drift out of fellowship with other
believers we can quickly loose our passion for
the things of God. We all need constant
encouragement from other believers**

7) To valuing and maintaining our significant relationships with others.



As Christians, God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,” (2 Corinthians 5:18)



- So as believers we need to be an example to those in the world of what it means to be faithful in our relationships with others.

A faithful friend is
a strong defense:
and he that hath
found such an one
hath found a
treasure.

Ecclesiasticus 6:14



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (Philippians 2:3)

- **The world is characterized by a lack of commitment in relationships.**



- Hence many people avoid the commitment of marriage.
- **Without commitment in relationships there is no real stability and ability to plan a future together with others**



- As Christians our relationships need to be characterised by our loyalty and commitment to others – We must refuse to give up easily on others

In the book of Ecclesiastes
we read,

The Value of a Friend

⁹ Two *are* better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labour.
¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls,
For *he has* no one to help
him up. **(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)**



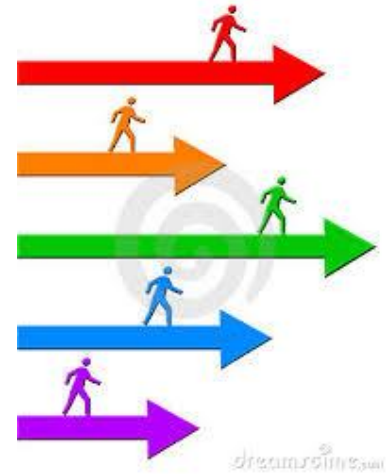
- As Christians we need to value the friends that God brings into our lives and be prepared to hang in with them during the tough times
- We must refuse to take our friendships for granted. They are a blessing from God

AND



8) Always moving on in life to embrace the future that God has planned for our life and refusing to live with regrets

We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, **ONLY** learn from them



The Apostle Paul made this clear when he wrote,
“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do**, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 3:12-14)**

SO IN CONCLUSION

AS WE CHOOSE TO REMAIN COMMITTED IN THESE EIGHT AREAS OF OUR WALK WITH THE LORD, WE WILL REMAIN STRONG IN OUR FAITH AND BE A SHINING LIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN OUR *WORLD FOR ETERNITY*



We need to be continually committed to finishing all that God has planned for our life so that our lives will be a great eternal blessing for many as we help many others to find and follow Christ in their life.

"... And he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30)

Jesus in His time here on earth *demonstrated what true commitment really was* when He remained focused on finishing the work His Father gave Him to do here on earth

At the beginning of His ministry here on earth Jesus said,

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” **(John 4:34)**



**Near the end of His time here on earth Jesus
prayed to His Father in heaven,**

**“I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the
work which You have given Me to do.” (John 17:4)**

**On the cross Jesus cried out,
“It is finished!” (John 19:30)**



**Because of His commitment the work of
redemption has been completed once and for all.**

**Because of His commitment to laying down His life
for lost sinners, whoever calls upon the Name of the
Lord is saved and has eternal life. *Hallelujah***

EVERY ONE OF US as believers has the potential to make a great difference in this world for eternity and to be a great blessing and inspiration to many. The gospel is good news.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

(1 Corinthians 15:58)



“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” **(Ephesians 6:10)**

- **God has so much in store for every believer's life**
- It is worth giving our best for the One who gave His best for us in allowing His Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the ransom for our sins, so that we can have an eternal hope. Jesus Himself said,
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **(John 3:16)**
- **Jesus is now alive in heaven forever interceding for us**
- As we commit to following God's plan for our life, we can help many others to find Christ so that they too can enter into eternal life and enjoy a life of great purpose and meaning



Today you can make a wholehearted commitment to the Lord by saying the following prayer:

“Father God today I confess that I have sinned against You. Today I choose to repent of my sins and to follow Your plan for my life. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of my sins and that He arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite You Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Today I choose to fully consecrate my life to You. Fill me to overflowing Holy Spirit I pray, in the Name of Jesus, Amen”

