

Commitment

Commitment is asked of us in numerous places throughout our lives: marriage vows, appointments, work, volunteer jobs, friendships, contracts, bill paying, promises to parents or children, getting to work or school on time, etc. Commitment takes effort. God invites us to live a satisfying life by making and honoring healthy commitments.

Be delighted with the Lord. Then he will give you all your heart's desire. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it, and he will. Your innocence will be clear to everyone. He will vindicate you with the blazing light of justice shining down as from the noonday sun. Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him to act. (Psalm 37)

We may dream of chasing the next horizon with nothing more than a backpack. Life is "always greener on the other side", or so the saying goes. We live in a world that expects us to look out for ourselves, take the best deal when we can get it, and only worry about the next guy when it doesn't get in the road of your own progress.

God asks something quite different of us. God asks us to be with each other in love and forgiveness through good times and bad. God invites us to wait patiently for things to work out and for God to show us what He is doing in a variety of situations. Sometimes that's in a marriage that has problems. Sometimes that's staying with a job even though there are some relationship difficulties. Sometimes that's sticking with a recovery program that doesn't make all that much sense. At other times that's doing what a trusted friend or sponsor suggests to us even though we don't feel like it. God wants us to give our word to one

another when it is appropriate and to keep our word. That's how we encourage, strengthen, and take care of one another.

God is concerned that our heart be open and obedient to him. We can always fake our recovery activities, just as we can fake our relationship with God. If we just go through the motions and make no real commitment, we cannot make progress for long. But if we are motivated by God's love for us and our's for Him and for other people, no obstacles to recovery are too great to overcome.

A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance and patient endurance leads to godliness. Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind, or, at least, very shortsighted. They have already forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin.

(2 Peter 1)

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What kind of commitments do I make?
2. How do I feel when I keep a commitment?
3. God only plans good things for us. Why did He structure a good life around keeping commitments? What benefits do each of us receive from making and keeping commitment with each other?
4. When is it hard for me to keep a commitment?
5. Where do I need forgiveness for commitments I have broken?