

COMMITMENT– THE MISSING INGREDIENT
ACTS 1:12-14; 2:41-47

INTRODUCTION

We know that the foundation for the very first **CHURCH** of **JESUS CHRIST**, was laid and established by the **LORD HIMSELF** with **HIS DISCIPLES** in *MATTHEW 16:15-18*.

JESUS said that **HE** would build **HIS CHURCH** on the rock of what **PETER** confessed...that *“JESUS is the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD!”* And today we still confess that as we preach the **GOSPEL!**

From the eleven genuine **DISCIPLES** that remained after the **LORD’S DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION**, the first **LOCAL CHURCH** was established with about **120 FOLLOWERS** of **CHRIST** who were assembled together in the upper room and then empowered by the **HOLY SPIRIT** on the **DAY OF PENTECOST**. (*ACTS 1:12-14*)

In these last days leading up to the coming of the **LORD**, we need to look at that first **CHURCH** and then look honestly at our **CHURCH** and see if something is missing! **Where is the evidence of those things that characterized the early CHURCH in such a way that it had such an enormous impact on society? I personally believe that it boils down to one thing:**

MANY ARE MISSING THE INGREDIENT CALLED COMMITMENT.
(*ACTS 1:4, 14; 2:1*)

Luke 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Apart from **GENUINE COMMITMENT** that arises from deep within our hearts, there is no way to be all that the **LORD** would have us to be!

When I speak of **COMMITMENT**, I am not talking about **COMMITMENT** to programs or organizations. **I am talking about a nonnegotiable surrender to the LORDSHIP of CHRIST and the authority of the SCRIPTURE!**

Our **COMMITMENT** to **CHRIST’S LORDSHIP** and **HIS WORD** must supersede and govern all other **COMMITMENTS** and involvements we have.

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The **LORD’S** desire is for us to have a deep-seated, **lifetime COMMITMENT** to **HIM** that settles, once and for all, all future decisions.

Read ACTS 2:41-47!

“Continued”– means “to be earnest towards, i.e. (to a thing); to persevere, to be constantly diligent.”

I. MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO LIVE FOR THE LORD! (*Acts 2:42a*)

A lot of folks come to the **LORD** because the prospects of going to **HELL** isn’t very appealing! (*That’s OK and that worked for me!*) But when the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** saved our **ETERNAL SOUL**, **HIS** desire was for a lot more than just saving our soul from **HELL!**

HE wants to make a difference in our daily walk! HE wants to live in us and through us! **HE IS OUR LIFE** and wants to be our life! (i.e. **HE** wants to direct our **WALK!**)

What we see of folks in that first **CHURCH** in **JERUSALEM** is people who were **LIVING FOR THE LORD!**

May the **LORD** help us with the **BIBLE EXHORTATIONS** to **SERVE THE LORD!**

Luke 6:46–“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

We’ve seen in our Sunday morning services in our journey through the **GOSPEL OF JOHN** the **EXHORTATIONS** of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** calling on those who follow him to **SERVE GOD!**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20–“19 ...ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15–“14 For the love of Christ constraineth us;

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because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

We see these same type of **EXHORTATIONS** to **LIVE UNTO THE LORD** in both these and other **EPISTLES** written to **BELIEVERS** and **OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES!**

Sadly, many in **CHURCH** today say they know the **LORD**, yet they are **living lives that are not much different than the world** and **not much different than their lives were before their PROFESSION of FAITH in the LORD!** That ought not to be!
2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are **NEW CREATURES!**

MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO LIVE FOR THE LORD!

II. **MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO STUDY THE WORD OF THE LORD! (Acts 2:42a)**

Dwight L. Moody is often quoted as saying, *"The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible."* That is true!
Which way is it in your life?

A. **The WORD OF GOD Will Increase Our FAITH!**

Romans 10:17—"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

B. **The WORD OF GOD Will Give ASSURANCE OF SALVATION!**

John 5:39—"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

John 3:21—"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

C. **The WORD OF GOD Will Help Us To Be Ready Servants Of The LORD!**

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2 Timothy 2:15—"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 3:16-17—"16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

D. **The WORD OF GOD Will Help Keep Us From Being Led Astray Into Error!**

Acts 17:11—"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

E. **The WORD OF GOD Will Help Keep Us Grounded, Fruitful, And Prosperous In The LORD!**

Psalms 1:2-3—"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. {3} And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

III. **MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE LORD! (Acts 2:41, 42b)**

A. **Believers Baptism By Immersion.**

B. **The LORD's Table.**

IV. **MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO PRAY TO THE LORD! (Acts 1:14; 2:42b)**

Colossians 4:2—"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"

Romans 12:12—"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"

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1 Timothy 2:1–4—“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

This is an area where ANY BELIEVER can make a difference!
May the **LORD** help us if we are quicker to **ASK FOLKS TO PRAY** than we are to **PRAY** ourselves when folks **ASK US TO PRAY!**

V. MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO PARTNER WITH THE LORD. (Acts 2:42b)

“Fellowship”— means “partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse”

1 Corinthians 1:9—“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the **fellowship** of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 John 1:3—“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have **fellowship** with us: and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

A. PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL. (Philippians 1:3-5)
Galatians 2:9 “And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of **fellowship**; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”

B. PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS.
Partaker – means “a co-participant.”

1. Sharing Of Material Substance.
2 Corinthians 8:4—“Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the **fellowship** of the ministering to the saints.”

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Romans 15:26—“For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.”

2. Sharing Of Spiritual Blessings.
2 Timothy 2:1-2—“1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

C. PARTNERSHIP IN THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.
Philippians 3:10—“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the **fellowship** of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

VI. MANY ARE LACKING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SAINTS. (Acts 2:42, 46)

A. In The Assembly!
Hebrews 10:24–25— “24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

B. At The LORD’s Table!

C. At Fellowship Meals! (Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 11:20ff)

CONCLUSION

JOSEPH was **COMMITTED** to the **LORD** and so each step of the way through difficult circumstances he showed through his life that the **LORD** was with him! Because of his faithfulness in his **COMMITMENT** to the **LORD**, he was exalted! He went from being tossed in a hole in the ground and then

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being sold into slavery at the hands of his brothers to being a slave in **POTIPHAR'S** house...to being a prisoner who was unjustly imprisoned, to second in command in **EGYPT!** The **LORD** was with him each step of the way!

DANIEL was also a man who was committed to the **LORD!** **DANIEL** purposed in his heart to obey the **LORD** even as a captive in a pagan land! And the **LORD** blessed him and exalted him and protected him!

SHADRACH, MESHACH, and ABEDNEGO (The three **HEBREW** children) were committed to the **LORD** and determined not to bow down to an idol even if it cost them their lives! The **LORD** was with them in the fire and brought them through the fire unscathed!

PAUL was willing to be shipwrecked, beaten, and falsely accused throughout his entire earthly ministry all because of his **COMMITMENT** to the **LORD!**

Let me leave you with three things real quickly:

1. Commitment Is A Conscious Choice.

Joshua 24:15 – "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

1 Kings 18:21– "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him."

2. Commitment Is A Complete Choice.

We cannot hold on to something else and say that we are truly **COMMITTED!**

We need to be just like **ELISHA** who burned his plows behind him!

3. Commitment Is A Continuing Choice.

Our once-and-for-all surrender to the **LORD** must be activated and appropriated daily.

But it is the initial, total **COMMITMENT** that forms the basis for subsequent obedience.

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A COMPLETE, LIFETIME SURRENDER to JESUS allows HIS FULL, ABUNDANT, SUPERNATURAL LIFE to be released in us and SETS US FREE from the POWER OF TEMPTATION, SIN, AND SELF!