

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

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INTRODUCTION

How can we understand and account for the bland, explainable brand of Christianity that seems to be the rule rather than the exception in so many churches today.

Where is the evidence of those things that so characterized the early church that it had such an enormous impact on society?

**WE ARE MISSING THE INGREDIENT CALLED *COMMITMENT*.
(ACTS 1:14; 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 escape the monotony of the religious merry-go-round or the agony of the spiritual roller coaster life.

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.**

This ***commitment*** must supersede and govern **all** other ***commitments*** and involvements. Once this surrender is made, a multitude of daily decisions and struggles may be eliminated. This deep-seated, **lifetime commitment** settles, once and for all, all future decisions.

"Continued"– means **"to be earnest towards, i.e. (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor)."**

I. WE ARE LACKING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW THE LORD. (Luke 22:31-34; Mark 14:31-40; John 21:2-19)

(Exp-A dieter who is committed and one who is not)

1 Kings 19:19-21 paints a graphic picture of commitment.

Elijah went to call Elisha to be the next prophet of God.

As a symbol of his wholehearted surrender to God's call, Elisha took the oxen with which he had been plowing his field, killed them, and boiled their flesh.

He was making a public statement that he would never (and could never) return to his old way of life.

II. WE ARE LACKING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PRAY TO THE LORD. (Acts 1:14; 2:42)

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;"

III. WE ARE LACKING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDY THE WORD OF THE LORD. (ACTS 2:42)

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

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."

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."

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."

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Psalm 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."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

IV. WE ARE LACKING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LORD. (Acts 2:42)

"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 1:3-7)

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) "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;"

V. WE ARE LACKING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SAINTS. (ACTS 2:42)

A. AT THE LORD'S TABLE.

B. AT FELLOWSHIP MEALS. (1 Corinthians 11:20ff)

CONCLUSION

Joseph refused to be seduced because of his commitment to obey God.

Daniel purposed in his heart to obey God even as a captive in a pagan land.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego determined not to bow down to an idol.

Paul was willing to be shipwrecked, beaten, and falsely accused throughout his entire earthly ministry.

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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.

I cannot hold on to something else and say that I am truly committed. We need to be just like Elisha who burned his bridges behind him.

3. Commitment Is A Continuing Choice.

Our once-and-for-all surrender to God must be activated and appropriated daily.

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

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.