

# Commitment

## Lesson Three (Part One)

**Foundation Scriptures:** *“<sup>2</sup>And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit** these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (II Timothy 2:2)*

*“<sup>4</sup>Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup>**Commit** your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:4,5)*

### I. **What is Commitment (commit to something)?**

A. (Commit) Hebrew **galal** (gä·lal') – means to roll, roll off onto, roll oneself (away, roll down, roll together); to throw oneself after.

Greek **paratithēmi** (pä-rä-tē'-thā-mē) means to place beside or near or set before; to place down (from one's self or for one's self) with any one; to entrust or commit to one's charge.

B. An obligation, pledge, or promise of oneself or one's intentions; to pledge to the keeping of (an idea, belief, or responsibility).

C. A state of being involved or engaged; the act of entrusting or **giving of oneself over to the charge of another.**

### II. **Characteristics Of A Committed Believer**

A. A committed believer is willing (and not ashamed) **to share** and **defend their faith**, as well as **disciple others**. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Romans 1:15, 16; II Timothy 2:2; I Peter 3:13-17; Jude 1:1-3)

B. A committed believer desires to fellowship and please God by **knowing and studying the Word of God**. (Psalms 1:1-3; 19:7-10; 119:9,33,34,50,71,72,97-106; II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 2:2)

C. A committed believer is **renewed in the spirit of their mind**. (Romans 12:1, 2; Ephesians 4:22-32)

D. A committed believer allows the **Holy Spirit** to lead, teach, and empower them to walk in the Spirit (the fruit of the Spirit) and not the works of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16-26)

E. A committed believer **loves God, loves people, and keeps God's commandments.** (Mark 12:28-31; Romans 13:8; I John 4:7-21)

F. A committed believer supports the work of ministry by advancing the Kingdom of God through their **time, talents, treasures, and relationships.**

### III. **Committed To The Word Of God** (addition study in Lesson Four – Word of God)

Just as we need daily nourishment for a healthy body, even so, we need a **daily intake** of the Word of God to ensure a healthy spiritual life. (I Peter 2:2)

A. **The Word of God is God.** It's Living, Powerful, Infallible, and was manifested in the flesh through **Jesus Christ!** (John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:160; Matthew 5:17, 18)

B. Holy men of God, with their unique styles and personalities, were inspired to write and record exactly what God wanted to communicate to mankind. These writings were written in scripture and text form and canonized to form the **Holy Bible.** (Jeremiah 30:2; Amos 3:7; II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21)

C. The original languages of the Bible are Hebrew and Aramaic in the Old Testament and Greek in the New Testament. There are 66 books in the Bible (39 OT & 27 NT), written by approximately 40 different authors, over a span of 1500 years. Today, the Bible is translated into over 500 languages with almost 3000 languages that have some portion of the Bible.

#### D. **Studying The Word of God** (II Timothy 2:15)

1. When studying the Word of God, one should desire more than head knowledge. It should be a **time of devotion, inspiration, impartation, and a time to hear and receive God's instructions** to know His Will and how to do His Will.

2. There are many reference resources that aid in the study of the Bible, including Bible Dictionaries, Lexicons, Encyclopedias, various Translations, Concordances, and Commentaries. Find the resources that work best for you.

3. Begin your time of study with **prayer**; read slowly, take notes, write down questions, look up the meaning of key or unknown words, **meditate** (to reflect, to ponder (by talking to yourself), to consider, to dwell in thought, contemplating a passage over and over again) on what you've read, and **always** ask the **Holy Spirit** for guidance and understanding. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:18; John 16:13-15; I Corinthians 2:6-16)

4. It is often said, *“There is only one interpretation but many applications.”* It is imperative to discover the correct interpretation, for if the interpretation is in error, so too will be the application. Consider the main subject(s) of the passage, the author and the audience being addressed, historical and cultural context and significance, prophetic implications, and symbolic messianic (Christ) messages.
5. **Obey** the Word of God **by applying** what you study **in practical ways**. Put into action what you’ve learned in order to live a holy life that is well-pleasing to God. (II Timothy 3:16; James 1:22)

#### IV. Committed To The Work Of Ministry

- A. **God has given every believer talents, skills, and resources based on their ability to handle them.** Be faithful and committed to doing the best with what God has given you. (Matthew 25:14-30; Ecclesiastes 9:10)
- B. Committed believers are **committed to worshipping together with other believers, serving in a local church, and submitting to the governance of leadership** (a Pastor, other leaders) for the purpose of being equipped for the work of the Lord. (Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-31)
- C. Committed believers are **faithful and consistent in their giving** (finances) to help support the local church, the work of ministry, and build the Kingdom of God.
  1. Tithes (10%) and Offerings (Malachi 3:8-12; Luke 6:38)
  2. To support and supply the needs of Ministers for the work of the Ministry (Exodus 35:20-29; Numbers 18:1-32; I Timothy 5:17,18; I Corinthians 9:1-14)
  3. For benevolence (poor/needy, support other charities) (II Corinthians 9:12,13)
  4. Provisions for Ministry (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 22:15-21; Romans 13:1-7; I Corinthians 16:1-3; II Corinthians 8:1-15)
  5. Giving should be cheerfully, willing, and without any grievances with anyone (Exodus 25:2, 35:5, 22, 29; II Corinthians 9:1-10; Matthew 5:23,24)
- D. Committed believers are **committed to developing, strengthening, and expanding their relationships with other believers and non-believers** (for the purpose of winning them to Christ). (Acts 2:42-47; I Corinthians 9:19-23)

#### V. Committed To Service

The Bible teaches that service to God requires a team effort as well as individual activity. We do have individual responsibilities, yet each Christian must also identify themselves as part of a faithful local church and then actively involve themselves in the work of that

church (ministry and service). There are different or various gifts, ministries, and activities, but the same God who works all in all. While we are **many members** (individually), yet we are **one body** (of Christ). (I Corinthians 12:4-27 AMP)

- A. Committed believers should **regularly attend service(s)** and assemble themselves together. (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 11:19-26; Hebrews 10:19-25)
- B. Committed believers should actively **participate in some form of ministry or service** in the local church. Every member doing their share causes growth to the body. (Ephesians 4:4-16)
- C. Committed believers are commissioned by God to **share their faith** and the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:14-46; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 10:1-20)

## Devotion

### Lesson Three (Part Two)

**Foundation Scriptures:** “<sup>2</sup> He was a **devout**, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ is household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God.” **(Acts 10:2 – NLT)**

“<sup>61</sup> Let your heart therefore be **wholly devoted** to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.” **(I Kings 8:61 – NASB)**

As Christians, we are devoted to many things and the accomplishment of many tasks. But above all, we should be devoted to God; particularly to **prayer, worship, studying and keeping the Word of God, service, and to every good work**. What is “devotion” to God?

#### I. **Devotion (to God)?**

- A. One who is “devout” or “devoted” (to God). Greek **eusebēs** (yü-se-bā's) – to be pious (having or showing profound dedication, respect, regard, or reverence); **dutiful** (towards God); godly. Hebrew **shalem** (shä-lām') – complete (of keeping covenant relation), safe, peaceful, perfect, whole, full, at peace (of covenant of peace, mind).
- B. Devotion to God implies a **dedicated and passionate affection towards Him**; a yielding of the heart to Him with reverence, fear, and faithfulness. Devotion towards God in its purist essence is **love** manifested.
- C. Every believer should desire to be more devoted to God by daily conforming to the image of Christ in our lives. **This devotional process requires progress; otherwise, there will be regress.**

#### II. **Developing A Daily Devotional Plan**

There are many ways we can do devotions and study the Bible. There is no "best" way, only that we do it! Many Christians feel all they have to do for their spiritual growth is go to church, listen to their favorite preacher on TV or CD, or imitate others. To be a mature and growing Christian, we must develop a personal relationship with Christ through daily encounters with Him. Therefore, it is a wise practice to develop a daily devotional plan.

1. **Decide On A Time.** Choose a time for your devotions when you are at your best. Usually, early morning is best, because outside distractions are at a minimum during this time. However, if you are not a morning person, **choose a time when you are most alert and focused.** There is no "right" or "wrong" time of day. David says in Psalm 63:1 *"...O God, You are my God; early will I seek You..."*; while Isaiah says in Isaiah 26:9, *"with my soul I have desired You in the night; yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early..."*. Whatever time of day you choose, let it be the best time of day for you.
2. **Decide On A Place.** Finding the right place is key to your success. **Select a quiet place where you are free from distractions** (home office, study, bedroom, bathroom, basement, even the garage). A place where you can concentrate and have quality time with God. You may choose to have some devotional "tools" nearby; pen, highlighter, journal or notebook, music, devotional book, and/or your Bible.
3. **Decide On A Time Frame.** There is no standard time frame for personal devotions. You have to decide how much time you can realistically commit to each day. Set a realistic goal that you feel you can meet to avoid discouragement if you don't meet those goals. Start with 15 minutes a day, then develop more. The key is the quality of time not the quantity. **The quality of your time in His presence will usually dictate the quantity!**
4. **Decide On A General Structure.** Develop an outline or agenda so you don't waste time and end up accomplishing nothing. Doing this will eliminate the problem of spending half of your devotion time trying to decide what you will study, meditate and focus on, or the things to pray about. You can get started by using a quality devotional book, a Bible reading chart, or a pre-written guide (devotional book). You will get much more out of your experience by having a plan or general structure. The following suggestions may offer some assistance (in no particular order):
  - a. Spending some time in **Worship.** You may want to sing a song of praise/worship or play some praise/worship music in the background (softly or to your particular desire). There is no right or wrong way.

Your **time of worship** should be a **time of intimacy with God**. Intimacy involves a close personal (love) relationship expressed through ones deep affection, sentiments, and devotion.

**Worship is an act of your will** (spirit man, desires, emotions) which involves truth (in the inward parts), honesty, exposure, humbleness, nakedness, passion, and at times brokenness. **We praise God for what He has done** (His Mighty Acts), **and worship Him for who He is** (God Almighty – EL SHADDAI)!

- b. Spend some time in **Prayer**. Prayer can be simply defined as **two-way communication between you and God** (talking to Him, praising Him, thanking Him, telling Him about your needs, struggles and cares, and then listening for His response).

**Prayer involves listening, not just requesting**. Allow God time to speak to you (in a still small voice - I Kings 19:12), through the internal witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 2:9-16), or through His Word (Psalm 119:130-133; Proverbs 3:5,6).

- c. Spend some time in the **Word of God**. Choose a Bible reading plan or type of study (Book, Character, Topical, by Author) to aid you in your time of reading and study. (This will be covered in more details in the Word of God Lesson.) There are also various daily reading devotionals that can be purchased or downloaded that address an array of needs. Then meditate on what you've read – allowing God to speak into your life (Psalm 1).

**Invest in a quality Study Bible**. Find a translation that is easily understood by you, and a journal or notebook that can be used exclusively for things you need to do in your relationship with God and with others. Take notes and write down what you learn and any questions you may have.

- 5. **Spend Some Time Writing In A Journal or Notebook**. You may find that “journaling” will help you stay on track during your devotional time. You can **journal your thoughts, prayers, scripture references, questions, and any instructions from God from your time with Him**. Journaling is not for everyone; however, those that try it will be amazed to see how God answers their recorded prayers and other items they've entered in their journal.

You can also write down what you've learned and any questions you may have to ask other **mature believers or spiritual mentors**. Journals can serve as reminders, records, and testaments of God's faithfulness!

6. **Apply What You Have Learned.** You will never be able to fully experience the complete value of your devotional time until you **discipline yourself to apply what you've learned!** Through your devotional experiences with God, trust and know that He will give you applications. Then, it's up to you to put them into action! *"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)

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