



Lesson Two

“Committed Leadership”

Objective: *To provide motivation for making and keeping firm commitments to serve; to understand the importance of living a God centered life and being a Christ-like example to other believers; overcoming temptation to sin.*

I. Evaluating our Level of Commitment to the Calling of God (Joshua 24:15)

Commitment: *an agreement or pledge to do something in the future; obligating oneself*

Over the years of serving God in various areas of ministry, I have seen so many people get involved with serving at so many levels. It's clear that God is only able to use us according to our determination to remain committed to the vision of the church. That's why I believe it is critical that we teach and learn about the value of commitment in our lives.

Servant Leader Commitment: *A deliberate and calculated choice to steadfastly set your course, with an unwavering determination to finish and accomplish predetermined goals and objectives.*

Faithfulness to commitment is the only thing that will push us past our comfort level and allow God to stretch us to new levels of anointing and fulfillment in serving and ministering to others. It requires discipline. It requires a firm resolve to make the necessary adjustments in our personal lives to live up to the commitments God would have us to make in order to be a functioning part of His body.

It becomes a family commitment – a new way of life. Joshua made a bold declaration for himself and his family concerning their commitment to serve God...

Josh 24:15 NKJV *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

Before I surrendered my life to God and His call on my life, I pretty much did what I wanted, when I wanted without ever really requiring any discipline except for doing the normal things I did in life, like going to work. After I gave my heart and life to Jesus, His kingdom agenda became my personal priority. I literally rearranged my life for Him. For many years now, it has become my way of life to serve Him. I would not want to live any other way because of the joy and sense of fulfillment it brings to my life. I'm not just existing in this life I have been given, I am fulfilling purpose and that has required a firm commitment on my part. It will require a firm commitment to the cause of Christ on your part, too.

a. Varying _____ of Commitment

1. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment that I make without any real forethought or personal conviction. No real determination of what I will actually be able to follow through on.

2. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment that I make without any real conviction in my heart for sacrifice or life change. “If it doesn’t bother me too much, I’ll do it.” It’s a commitment I make that costs me nothing.

3. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment I make to go along with the crowd without any real leadership responsibilities. I just want to enjoy coming to church without any effort to give back.

4. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment that I make when I find myself in times of trouble, then forget about the commitment when the trouble passes.

5. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment I make with a hidden agenda. I’m committing to one thing but I really am hoping to receive some benefit outside of the intended purpose of serving.

6. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment that I make because someone else does. *“I will if you will.”* The only problem with this commitment is that it is dependent upon someone else’s commitment level. When they quit, you do too.

7. C _____ Commitment – This is a commitment that I make to God’s purposes that is unconditional. I am willing to rearrange my life in order to honor God’s will and purpose for my life in His Kingdom. It’s a quality decision to honor God faithfully with my gifts and talents based on the conviction of my heart.

An effective leader at this level is a believer who has embraced the vision and purpose of the church. This individual seeks to follow the directives of set authority and live a lifestyle of holiness. They work together with others in building the kingdom of God in a manner which honors and glorifies God.

b. Committed to the cause of _____ - John 18:37

John 20:21-22 NKJV *So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”*

Every believer has the responsibility to see that the TRUTH of the Gospel is represented and presented to their generation. It’s our “cause.”

Cause: A reason for action; motive; sufficient reason

1 Sam 17:29 NKJV *“Is there not a cause?”*

Titus 1:5 KJV *For this **cause** left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*

c. Committed to leadership _____.

Titus 1:5-9 MSG *I left you in charge in Crete so you could complete what I left half-done. Appoint leaders in every town according to my instructions. 6 As you select them, ask, "Is this man well-thought-of? Are his children believers? Do they respect him and stay out of trouble?" 7 It's important that a church leader, responsible for the affairs in God's house, **be looked up to — not pushy, not short-tempered, not a drunk, not a bully, not money-hungry.** 8 He must **welcome people, be helpful, wise, fair, reverent, have a good grip on himself, 9 and have a good grip on the Message,** knowing how to use the truth to either spur people on in knowledge or stop them in their tracks if they oppose it.*

II. Commitment to Live a Holy Lifestyle (Romans 12:1-2)

A commitment to kingdom morality is of ultimate importance. This is the ethics of righteousness and integrity that distinguishes leadership at any level. The moral standards for the believer are unquestionable and validated by Scripture. The moral compass in leadership sets the stage for the moral commitment within the organization.

Loyalty is a faithfulness that remains steadfast and immovable in the face of pressure or temptation. God can only trust me to the same degree that others can trust me. I can only be trusted by others to the degree that they believe that I will resist the devil, restrain my flesh, and make righteous choices on a consistent basis.

**a. Salvation does not automatically eliminate _____.
(Eph 2:8-9)**

Salvation is by the grace of God and not by works which places us in a position of right standing with God called "righteousness." That secured position of righteousness is not a license for believers to live promiscuously, depending on the "grace factor" as their life jacket. Ministry leaders should set the stage for those they influence by having a commitment to live a holy life.

1 Peter 1:13-16 NIV *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

As leaders, we must do our best to protect our "witness" from being marred by sin and misbehavior. **I believe it is the desire of every believer to live a life that's pleasing to God.** In order to fulfill the desire to live a respectable, influential life of righteousness, we must be aware of the satanic tactics and strategies designed to get you off track.

b. _____ when you are under attack. (1 Peter 5:8)

2 Cor 2:11 NKJV *lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Temptation takes place in the “boxing ring” of your mind. He throws you a **thought, idea or a suggestion** to disobey God.

c. Live at a level of _____.

Mind renewal is really about keeping yourself saturated in His Word. It’s like armor for your spirit. The more saturated you are, the more protection you will have against satanic attack. Listen to cd’s and study His word daily – as often as you can. Spending time in prayer gives you opportunity to hear God’s voice.

d. Keep good _____.

1 Cor 15:33 NKJV *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*

One translation says it corrupts good character. If you hang out too much with ungodly people, their habits can rub off on you. I’ve seen too many people over the years get drawn off course by poor friend choices.

**e. Recognize the _____ of the temptation to sin.
(James 1:12-15)**

- 1.** _____ – exposure to a way of life that appeals to the flesh.
- 2.** _____ – a stirring of the desire to satisfy and gratify the flesh.
- 3.** _____ – perverted meditation that stimulates the imagination to sin.
- 4.** _____ – a passionate attempt to reason against the order of God.
- 5.** _____ – an attempt to test consequences.
- 6.** _____ – full indulgence born out of experimentation. The door to our life and mind is now open for satan to get a stronghold.
- 7.** _____ – unbridled, stronghold desire without regard for consequences or shame.
- 8.** _____ – corruption of thought life, incapable of making righteous decisions.
- 9.** _____ – the intentional recruitment of others to your way of living.
- 10.** _____ – deterioration of life with the consequential pain of disobedience.

Sin occurs when personal lust yields to temptation. It is not a sin to be tempted; the sin occurs when a yielding of sin takes place. Satan targets his temptation at a weakness in

your flesh through mental enticements which can be resisted. **1 Peter 5:9** says to **“resist him steadfast in the faith”** – again we come back to our determination to our commitment to live a life pleasing to God by resisting satan steadfastly! A lifestyle committed to sin opens the door for demonic encampment of the soul which causes dominating control and a compulsion to sin that is difficult to resist. I advise the believer to seek personal ministry from the pastoral staff in such cases and attend Celebrate Recovery which is designed to break the cycle of destructive behaviors caused from sin.

Luke 10:19-20 NKJV *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

James 4:7-8 NKJV *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

James 4:7-10 MSG *So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. 8 Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. 9 Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. 10 Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.*

It's important that we understand that repentance is part of the plan of God for us. Unfortunately, satan convinces us that our cover up plan is more reliable than God's proven plan for repentance and restoration.

1 John 1:9-10 NKJV *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

Here are seven things to do that will step you through God's plan for repentance and recovery from sin.

1. Be honest with yourself.
2. Repent for sinning against God.
3. choose to make restitution where possible.
4. Renounce the open door to satan.
5. Forgive others who have offended you.
6. Evict the satanic encroachment.
7. Trust the Word of God, not your feelings. **Psalm 51:9-13**