

Passion for the Future: COMMITMENT

1. God is committed to us.

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!" (Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NLT)

"He always stands by his covenant-- the commitment he made to a thousand generations." (Psalm 105:8 NLT)

2. God expects us to be committed to him.

a. Commitment involves establishing priorities.

"(Your heavenly Father) will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." (Matthew 6:33 NLT)

"If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26 NLT)

b. Commitment involves sacrifice.

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life."

(Luke 9:23-24 NLT)

"David said to Araunah, 'Let me buy this threshing floor from you at its full price. Then I will build an altar to the LORD there...' "'Take it, my lord, and use it as you wish,' Araunah said to David. '...I will give it all to you.' But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on paying what it is worth. I cannot take what is yours and give it to the LORD. I will not offer a burnt offering that has cost me nothing!'"

(1 Chronicles 21:22-24 NLT)

c. Commitment involves planning ahead.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills?" (Luke 14:28 NLT)

"So when you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you don't follow through on."

(Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 NLT)

d. Commitment involves making choices.

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it."

(Matthew 7:13-14 NLT)

"Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval." (Romans 6:16 NLT)

e. Commitment involves staying the course.

"But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62 NLT)

"This is a true saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him. If we endure hardship, we will reign with him." (2 Tim 2:11-12 NLT)

3. God expects us to be committed to each other.

"Encourage each other and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT)

"Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you" (Romans 15:7 NLT)

"... stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." (1 Corinthians 1:10 NLT)

"...make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

(Colossians 3:13 NLT)

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." (Romans 12:16 NIV)

"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."

(Romans 12:10 NLT)

4. God rewards commitment.

"Peter said, 'We have left our homes and followed you.' 'Yes,' Jesus replied, 'and I assure you, everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, as well as receiving eternal life in the world to come.'" (Luke 18:28-30 NLT)

"... even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't be afraid and don't worry." (1 Peter 3:14 NLT)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]