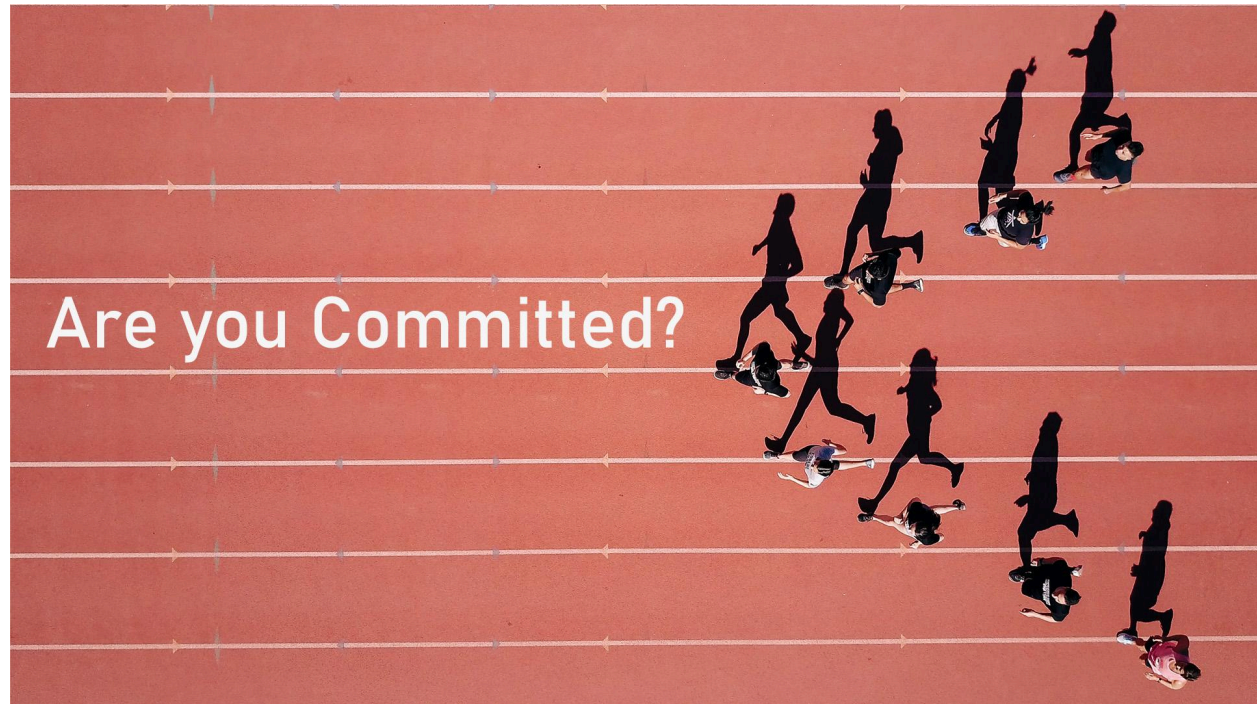




Aug. 17th, 2022

What is Commitment? The process of committing oneself, a pledge or undertaking.

- Life in our world has programmed us to expect a life of ease. We also expect to receive abundant rewards with minimal effort.
- Take for example, the professional athlete who chooses to illegally enhance his or her performance through the use of steroids. Not only has they cheated themselves, but they have also robbed their fellow athletes of a fair competition. People do this simply because they don't want to put in the time necessary to better themselves.
- This is very dangerous because, some of the best things in life demands effort. The best relationships require work. The best business has been built on the blood, sweat and tears of their leaders.

1. **What does it cost to be close to God? (Jeremiah 30:21)** God Asked, who will **DEVOTE** himself to be close to me? We don't like to hear this; following God requires sacrifice, effort, and devotion.

2. **What are you willing to Sacrifice? (Roman 12:1-2)** God wants us to **OFFER** ourselves as living sacrifices to him. It's true that we OFFER God our talents, abilities and money, the greatest sacrifices we can give him is our bodies.

3. **Do you know we serve a God who commits?** How do I know that? **(Romans 5:8)** God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were STILL sinners, Christ died for us.

(Jeremiah 29:11) For I know the plans I have for you, Declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

4. **How did God demonstrate his commitment to us? (1 John 4:9-10)** He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as a sacrifice for our sins.

5. **How many of you are committed to God? (Joshua 24:15)** But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. God Calls us to be people of commitment, first to him and then to others.

6. **Does difficult moments in your life effect your commitment?** Many of those who followed Jesus were curious. Others were convinced of the truth of what he was teaching, BUT only a few were fully COMMITTED to him. (John 6:60-69) As a disciple of Christ, we are called to remain committed to him, even when we don't understand the entire plan, he has for us.

7. **Are we Committing or Bargaining? (Habakkuk 3:17-18)** Many churches would love to have followers who are this committed to the cause. Habakkuk, promised to maintain his attitude regardless of the payback. That's really what commitment is.

- When people make the statement, I will be committed IF" Isn't commitment, that deal making. It's not commitment, it's bargaining.

8. **What's the rewards of Commitment? (Matt 16:24-26)** Jesus makes it clear that he requires total commitment of his followers, he said that unless one commits everything one loses everything. That commitment must remain until the end.

REWARD: Jesus urged his followers, take up your cross and follow me, he knew better than anyone else how precious the great prize is. But he also knew that less than a total commitment to achieving the prize would not suffice. In our Christian life, Total commitment to the cause will give us success.