

Lord of Life Ministries

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“Total Commitment”

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It is so wonderful to be with God's people. We really do need each other. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying! And not only hear, but do what the Spirit of the Lord is saying; not in your own strength, but in the strength of Christ!

The Lord has put a Word on my heart, and we are going to explain to you what it really means to be totally committed to God! “Total commitment” means: “to be in total submission” to Him. None of us are there yet! We are also going to explain to you what it means to be totally committed to each other, and to your true self in Christ!

You might be saying to yourself, “Well this is basic.” But in reality, this is something that needs to be heard again to refresh us, and (if we allow this Word to become part of us) bring us to the place where we are totally committed and submitted to God.

The Webster dictionary says that the word “commitment” means: to do; to perform; and to be unmovable. In other words, **to be committed to God we must be unmovable.** “Unmovable” also means: cannot be moved or shaken; firm; fixed. [The word

“Immovable” is more generally used.] “Immovable” means: cannot be moved from its place, purpose or resolution; as an immovable foundation. Not to be moved from a purpose; steadfast; fixed; cannot be induced to change or alter; not impressible; not susceptible of compassion or tender feelings; unfeeling; permanent in place. In other words, to be immovable is an individual that is not moved or shaken from their foundation and purpose in Christ. It is an individual that is not affected, shaken, changed, or lead by their feelings, emotions, five senses, and self-will. They remain steadfast in the Love and will of God, for they have not come to do their own will, but the will of Him that sent them, and set them in the body as it pleased Him!

The truth of the matter is: if we really want to be committed to God, the first thing we need to do is totally let go of our self-will and desires. We have to relinquish it, and settle this fact in our minds and in our hearts. God has already committed Himself to us. He has already made a covenant with us, and the reason why God wants us to come into the place of total commitment

and submission to Him is because of what we are about to come into. He is ready and waiting to perform all that He has spoken. It is on the horizon, but because of where we have been in our hearts and minds, we have not seen it. In fact, the world has never seen anything like what is about to take place.

I recently received a telephone call from a minister in Mississippi, and he said, “Would you like to know what has happened in Mississippi?” He said, “All of the big churches are gone! God took every one of them. He even took the steeples off them. And guess where the ministers from these churches are today?” He said, “Do you think they stayed to help the poor? No! They left to go other places for the money.” Do you understand what I am saying? Then he began to share with me that, “Before the hurricane, one big church had sold some land for six million dollars, then took the money and built an eleven million dollar building. Well guess what happened? When the storm hit, it completely gutted that whole place! So then what did they do? They left because they were not committed to god or the people

there. When the going got tough, they left.

God is dealing with all these things that are not of Him. The ministers there were not committed to God or the people there. When the going got tough, they were moved (and moved) because they were not committed.

We are in a time of transition right now! The body here and all of God's Sons are in a time of transition. You have to let go of where you are, and be willing to change.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The transition that is getting ready to take place is to bring you into the Fullness of the Glory of the Lord. However, there will be those that miss it because they weren't willing to commit. They weren't willing to sacrifice. They weren't ready to relinquish their will and desires to the Father, and allow Him to truly be Lord of, and over every area of their life.

With what God is getting ready to do, He is also dealing with the churches. If they are not willing to change, even some of the churches will miss it. It's not going to be the order of the church and of man anymore. God is getting ready to bring His order on the scene. It's going to be the order of the Kingdom of God, and His alone, "That at the

name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11.

God really wants you to get hold of this today. To be committed means that you cannot let your emotions and feelings control and lead you. Being committed is to be immovable, not allowing anything to pull you away from the purpose and position to which you are called. To be committed is to be committed to His Word, and to what He has told you to do.

I want to share some things with you about what True Worship really is. True Worship is being obedient. True Worship is laying your life down. True Worship is more than just singing a couple of songs; it is being obedient to the Lord, even when you don't feel like it. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

What God is looking for, is a people who are willing to be totally committed to Him no matter what the cost. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." John 4:23-24.

Look at Abraham. The thing about Abraham is that he feared God more than he feared losing his own son. You need to meditate on that one! Abraham

feared God more than he did losing his own son. I honestly don't know what I would do; or what you would do if God said, "Take your son, place him on an altar, and with a knife, kill him." However, when God gave those same instructions to Abraham, Abraham had the understanding that this was True Worship! You see, before he took Isaac to the place that God had showed him, he told the two young men he had taken with them on the journey there in Genesis 22:5, "...Abide ye here with the ass; and I AND THE LAD WILL GO YONDER and WORSHIP, AND COME AGAIN to you." He was telling them to wait here, because after WE (he and his son) are finished worshipping God, "WE will be back."

You have to let go of your children. You have to let go of your family. Matthew 10:37-39 says, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of Me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." You need to understand that you cannot have a fear of losing them, because if you try to hold on to them, you will lose them. If you're trying to hold on to them out of fear, then you're not trusting God and putting Him first in your life. However, if you lose them (give them to God and trust Him to take care of them), you gain them. They may be afar off in God, but God is going to bring the daughters and sons in through your obedience to Christ.

The question is: are you really committed? Look at Paul. Look at how committed he was! He was constantly beaten up, but he kept on going. He was beaten with many stripes; he was beaten with rods; he was ship wrecked several times; there were times when he was thrown into prison; there were times when he had no food; there were times when he had nothing at all, **but in everything, he remained committed!**

After asking God three times to remove the thorn in his flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet him, Paul submitted to God and wrote in **2Corinthians 12:9-10**, **"...He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak (in my own human strength), then am I strong (in the Power of God)."** Paul was strong in God because he was committed. He knew that God was in him, and that He would give him the strength through Christ to fight the good fight, finish his course, keep the faith and endure to the end. Paul knew that all he needed to do was to remain committed and obey the Spirit of God within him.

Luke 9:23 is a familiar scripture, but the Amplified Bible really brings it out clearly. **"And He said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself [disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests,...]"** It says that you have to lose sight of your own

interests! **"...refuse and give up himself] and take up his cross daily and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also]..."**

In living and, if need be, in dying also! Oh Lord, have Mercy! Please hear what the Spirit is saying. I am not the one saying this, Jesus said it. In order for you to be His Disciple and qualify to be a True Son of God, **you must do** what He is saying here in **Luke 9:23-26!** **"For many are called, but few are chosen."** **Matthew 22:14.**

I know that some of this may be old hat and you may have heard it before, but please do not take this lightly. Jesus said, **"If any person wills to come after Me** (if any man will be a Son of God; as Jesus is the First born amongst many brethren (Sons), then they must) **deny himself** (lose sight of their own interests, and) **conform wholly to My** (Jesus') **example in living and, if need be, in dying also** (even unto death)."

If you're going to be committed to God, then you first have to develop such a deeply rooted relationship and Love affair with Him, that you Love Him more than yourself, anyone, or anything else in the world. As you develop your relationship and Love affair with Him you will find that everything outside of Him is empty and has no Life in it. The more deeply rooted your Love for Him is, the more immovable you will be. No one and nothing can move you, because you know that your Life is His; you are one with Him; and He is the Lord of your Life.

God tells us to do many things that our flesh doesn't want to do, but I know that **if we don't** do what He says, we grieve Him, and miss out on what He wants to accomplish in and through us. You see, God needs a body. Jesus understood this and was in total submission to His Father. Jesus said in **John 8:29**, **"...He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him"**, and in **John 6:38**, **"...I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me."** It is for this same purpose that you and I have been sent into this world. In total commitment to the Father, Jesus humbled Himself, and so must we.

Jesus understood this! He knew that He was "Emmanuel" which means: "God with us". **John 1:14** says, **"... the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."**, now He's making our flesh to become the Word. **Jesus was God in the flesh, and understood that the Father wanted to manifest Himself through His body. He knew that every member of His body had to submit themselves to God, so He relinquished His will to do the will of the Father. Philippians 2:7-8 says that He, "...made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."**

In **John 4:34** Jesus said, **"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."** He understood that the reason He was here was solely to do the will of His Father. He settled it in His

mind and committed Himself to the purpose for which He was sent. He understood that God needed a vehicle in which He could physically manifest and communicate Himself (His Glory/Nature, Love, Power, Authority, Anointing, Grace, Mercy, etc.) through examples to mankind.

Jesus finished what He was sent to do, and in doing so showed us what the Father requires of each one of us. God still needs a body He can function and speak through to creation. He needs a body that He can express His Glory, His Power, and His Anointing through. *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ...But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.”* (1 Corinthians 12:12 and 18).

Let me tell you, we are getting ready to come into a greater authority and anointing. We are getting ready to come into all of His Glory, which is nothing but the Love of God. The world is going to see the Love of God like it has never seen it before. It's going to be through a people that are totally sold out to God, to His purpose, and that know that they are called to the Glory of the Lord. They are a people who know that they are here not for their own will, but for the will of the Father who has sent them. They fear God more than they fear man, and have no fear of losing their life for Christ sake or the gospel's. They are a people that have no fear of death at all.

If you have fear of death, or something else in your life, how can God use you? There are times when God may say, “Go here and do this,” or “Go there and say that”, but if we have fear, it can cause us to stop and question God's instructions, rather than just go forward and obey Him. Fear causes us to worry and reason things out, to enter into doubt and unbelief, and if we yield to the thoughts of fear still in us, we disobey God and sin.

Fears are thoughts and images in the mind that lie to us and cause us to question the Word of God. They are thoughts that exalt themselves above those things God has spoken to us. Like giants in the land (as long as we focus on them rather than what God has said), they hold us captive and rob us of the Life that God has set before us. Fear is what causes an individual to save self.

This is the reason why Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 that, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.**”* Just as Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. We are to take every thought that is not of God (fear, lust, etc.) captive, and with the Word and the Spirit cast them down from our minds and obey the will of the Father. In order to

be committed and submitted to God we must bring every thought to the obedience of Christ. We have to walk in the same mind as Christ, and in true humility (as actions speak louder than words) our lives must say, “Father not as I will, but as you will.”

All of us have had fears, and from time to time God still brings situations our way to show us a fear that is still there. He does this because He Loves us and wants to set us free of everything that gets in the way of our relationship with Him; and from doing all that He has sent us to do. God will work on those fears. *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (2Timothy 1:7).

Can you understand that Jesus tasted death for you and every human being; and because of this you will live forever? Can you understand that if you obeyed God, were persecuted, and someone came up and killed you - your life would not be over? The truth is: that in order for you to be totally committed to God, you have to come to the place where you walk in the understanding that death and the grave have no victory over you! When you walk in this truth and understanding, you will have no fear of death!

If you look at those in the Book of Acts, they didn't have any fear of death - they overcame it! It says in the scriptures that *Jesus must sit* at the right hand of the Father until every enemy is put under His feet (the feet of His body/you and I), the last enemy being death. However, when Stephen was being stoned to

death, he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Jesus stood up because Stephen had come into the same place that He was, and death had been put under his feet. Stephen was so committed to the Father that even in his death he expressed the Perfect Love of God, forgiving those who were stoning him. Stephen had overcome death and was walking in the Realm of the Father, for *"He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living."* All he was doing was leaving his mortal body behind.

Those written about in the Book of Acts (Stephen, Peter, John, and others) walked in the understanding that, "My life is hid in Christ and exists throughout eternity. What I do here in Christ, will enable me to continue on the otherside. Revelations 20:4-6 says, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I SAW THE SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE BEHEADED FOR THE WITNESS OF JESUS, AND FOR THE WORD OF GOD,...and THEY LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST a thousand years...on such the second death hath no power, but THEY SHALL BE PRIESTS OF GOD AND OF CHRIST, AND SHALL REIGN WITH HIM a thousand years." Revelations 12:11 says that, "...THEY OVERCAME him BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; and THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH." Oh Lord, have Mercy!

Where is the victory in the grave? Where is the victory in death? There is none! When you have this understanding, I mean just look at what happened in the

Book of Acts when the disciples walked in this. It said in Acts chapter 4, that in one day alone, the number of men that believed (not counting women and children) was about five thousand. It says that after healing a man who had been lame since birth, teaching the people, and preaching through Jesus the resurrection from the dead, the rulers, elders, scribes, the high priest, and others with them put Peter and John in prison over night. They saw the man healed and standing, and even amongst themselves admitted that it was "indeed a notable miracle that had been done by them." They talked and tried to find a way to punish them, but knowing that the people were on the disciples' side and were now glorifying God for what had been done, they were afraid of how the people would react. To try and stop what had begun from going any further, instead of punishing them, they threatened them over and over again. They commanded Peter and John to never to speak or teach in the name of Jesus again. But did that stop them? No!

You and I don't know what real persecution is, but other countries in the world do. My concern is that if anything were to happen, how are you going to behave when persecution comes to this country? Are you going to be willing and able to stand, and having done all, stand and not be moved?

After being threatened and let out of prison, Peter and John went back to the believers who had assembled and told them about all the threats the high priest and elders had made. They

also told the people their reply to the priests and elders. *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you and obey you rather than God, you must decide (judge). But we [ourselves] cannot help telling what we have seen and heard."* In other words, "Which is right in the eyes of God? Are we to obey you, or do what God has shown us and told us to do? As for us, we're going to obey God!" After hearing what Peter and John said, it says that all the people in one accord prayed to God and asked that with all boldness they may speak His Word that He would stretch forth His hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Jesus. As soon as they had finished praying, it said that the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke the Word of God with boldness.

In spite of the threats made by the high priest and elders to stop them, Peter and John were committed to God. In Acts chapter 5 it says, *"...by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people"*. It says that many people both men and women were added to the Lord; and that people *"brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them that were vexed with unclean spirits, and they were healed every one."*

Out of anger, the high priest and those that were with him, took Peter and John and threw

them in prison again. But they didn't stay there. In the night, God sent an angel to open the doors and set them free. Then the angel told them, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the Words of this Life."

Now what gets me is that while Peter and John are out with an angel of God, the jail keeper, the high priest and all that were with him, didn't know that they were even missing. They all thought that the two of them were locked up.

Now can you imagine the thoughts that would go through most people's minds if God were to tell them, what the angel told Peter and John? "Look boys! I want you to back to the temple. The same place that you got caught and sent prison." Most people would say, "Now, Lord! Are you sure you want me to do that? Do you really mean it? God, last time when I did that they put me in prison then. They're going to kill me if I go back there again." These are the battles that would go on in most people's minds! However, do you think Peter and John did that? No! They were committed and obeyed without hesitation.

It says that, "they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught." And while they were teaching and preaching what God had told them to; the high priest and all the others were busy trying to figure out what to do with them. Then when they sent word to the prison to have them brought before the council - they couldn't find them. All were at their post; the cell door was locked; but no one was in it. They couldn't explain what happened; but now

they had a situation on their hands. They were really upset and didn't know what to do. Their own lives might be in threatened or in danger if the people were to find out that while Peter and John were in their care, they just disappeared. They had to be very careful because they didn't know how the people would react, or what they might do. They were concerned about themselves, because "self" always wants to save "self"!

However, Peter and John didn't try to preserve their lives. They didn't try to save "self". No matter what took place, they knew that "even unto death" their lives belonged to God.

You see, if you're committed to God then you don't have to worry about what the future holds. You don't have to worry about what's going to happen. You don't have to worry about the end result, because you have given your life to God!

The Webster Dictionary says? "To be committed, is to be committed to the fire." How many of us would willingly go through what we go through in the fire, if we knew a head of time what we were going to go through? The fact is we don't know, and that's why a lot of people run from it. In spite of this fact, we still have to go through the fire in order to get to the next level. When you go through the fire, you have to let go. This is the process that we all have to go through. Change! Change! Transition! Change! Letting Go! Letting Go! Letting Go! This is what happens.

When the chief priest and others finally found Peter and

John in the temple, it says that they brought them to the council without violence, because they themselves were afraid of being stoned by the people. When they got them back to the council, the high priest said, "Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this Name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN." (Acts 5:28-29). They feared God more than they feared man.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, "...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

I sincerely believe that what we all need to be totally committed to God, is more fear of the Lord. Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever." And Job 28:28 says "...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." We have to come to the place where we truly respect and fear God more than we do people. We have to respect God above ourselves, our families, our jobs, above everyone, and everything. Individuals can be more committed to their job than to God. You can be on time; never miss a day; and put in all those hours. There are so many kinds of things that you can commit and put your energy into; but my God, I wish that people would

put that kind of energy into the Kingdom.

Thirty years ago when we first started in ministry, we also had a business. We hired Christians, but regrettably could not get them to work. They were late all the time. We could not get them to do anything. I was seeking God about why this was. I said, "God, I don't know what to do. I do not understand what the problem is here. What is wrong?" Then I remember Brother Miller, bless his heart, as he is passed away now; he had come to minister here and I shared my situation with him. He said, "Joyce, don't hire Christians!" And I said, "What?" He said, "Don't hire Christians!" I said, "Are you serious?" He said, "Yes! Because they're lazy and just want everything given to them." Unfortunately, that was the truth then. Not all Christians were like that, but far too many were, and still are today. So we hired the alcoholics, the drug addicts, and several individuals that had come out of prison system. I tell you some of the best workers were the alcoholics. I mean they worked and they worked. They did what you asked them to do. Isn't God something else?

Since that time, I do believe that things have improved. The Lord has put an excitement and zeal in some of His people's hearts and they really want to be used of Him. They have come to understand that what you do and allow Him to do through you each day is very important!

Some other meanings for the word "committed" are: "commit to do, to perform; to place in trust; to commit to the flames of

fire. A person committed, is to follow orders." That means that if the Father tells you to do something, you have to do it.

Now one thing that I have learned about people, and this is true, is that individuals who have been under the control of (or controlled by) their parents or other people in their lives, don't generally have a problem submitting to God. I was like that. I was very strictly controlled by my parents growing up, and then went into a very controlling marriage. So I didn't have a problem submitting to God, because I just went to another control. I can really see how God's plan was in it. I mean, I had to have deliverance and be set free from it as time went on; but I can really see how God used the control of others to help me be submissive to Him. Only with God I was being submissive to Love, rather than to the abusive controls I had experienced through people in my life. Do you understand what I am saying?

However, I have also seen the opposite of this take place. I have seen some people that have been controlled by either their parents or a spouse, and when they finally get out their parent's home or their marriage, they have the thought in their mind that, "I will never let anyone control me again!" This kind of individual has hardened their heart toward God; making it difficult for Him to do what He desires to do in their life. The rebellion is not really toward God Himself, but towards what the negative influences that controlled them. They're using what happened to them in the

wrong way. They're trying to save "self" by not giving up control of their life. If only they could understand that by submitting to God they would come under the greater order and control of God who is Love; and that Love will produce Life and liberty in them. Romans 6:22 says, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

The Webster's Dictionary also says, "having confidence to commit and trust in assignment", meaning that when you start committing yourself to God He will give you assignments to do. Why? Because He can trust you! You see, God is looking for people that can be trustworthy, faithful, and unmovable.

Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

What is this saying here? I'm going to give you an example in shortly, but first I need to make this clear. **God brings individuals and places them in the body as He chooses; not as the individual choose.** That's where people go wrong! Far too many individuals choose this place or that place, without ever asking the Father where He has called them to be committed. That's the key!

1Corinthians 12:18 says, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him." **The Father places every member in the body as He chooses.** Why? Because both it pleases Him, and because He has a purpose and a

plan to fulfill in and through you there. When you come to the place where God has called and placed you in, you feel like you are home. God also requires that each of us be committed to the ministry that He has placed you in. The Father is the one who sets each of us in the body.

I realize that we have been made kings and priests unto God, after the order of the Melchisedec, and we are all equal in Christ; but God also has a balance, an order, a purpose, and a plan, wherein He has set some members of the body in positions of authority to watch over you. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, *“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

In God’s order, He is in charge. He is also in charge of the individual(s) that He has set to watch over your soul. A good example of this is found in Esther. In the Book of Esther, Vashti the queen would not submit to the king. As a result of this, the king made the decision to replace her. He was looking for a young virgin (soul) that would please him, and to be His queen. He appointed officers to gather all the fair young virgins and bring them into the house of the women (harem) within the King’s palace. There they were to be placed under the custody (authority) of Hegai, the King’s chamberlain (Eunuch), who was

keeper of the women. **Hegai was to bring them the things they needed for purification. He was set as a watchman over their souls, and he was to bring to them for six months the oil of myrrh; and for six months sweet spices, perfumes, and the things for the purifying of the women. The things that he brought to them really represent the sweetness of the Truth of Christ; and the Anointing of the Christ to purge the soul. This was being done because the King was looking for someone that He could trust and give His authority to.**

Esther was one of the virgins brought and placed under the custody of Hegai to watch over her during her time of purification. **Esther immediately found favor in Hegai’s site.**

Before this, and during, **God had also set Mordecai as a watchman over Esther’s soul. Mordecai was an attendant in the king’s court,** and had brought up Esther his uncle’s daughter, taking her as his own daughter after her parents died. Before she was taken into the house of the women within the King’s palace, Mordecai commanded her not to let anyone know that she was a Jew.

Esther came into submission for twelve months, and “twelve” means “Divine Government, Governmental Perfection”. Therefore, she was willing to be governed. Mordecai represents the Spirit, and Esther represents the soul. If you do a study from beginning to end, you can see the Christ and the soul becoming one. **She was willing to yield to Mordecai and Hegai who were put in place to watch over her soul.** It says in *Esther 2:11* that,

“Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women’s house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.”

Everyday Mordecai checked to see how Esther was doing. Mordecai was committed to God and to Esther as well. When Esther was still a child, God had given him the responsibility of watching over her soul; and in the Love of God, Mordecai faithfully did so each day.

I can really understand what Paul felt within his heart. He had such a deep cry within himself to see the brethren come into the unity of the Faith and knowledge of the Son of God; to see them come to maturity, and manifest as that perfect man made in the fullness of Christ. To see the body fully developed was always heavy on Paul, and it is this same way with me. This is the reason why we give everything that we have. We don’t hold anything back here.

A lot of ministers will hold back knowledge, understanding, and truths from the people, because they don’t want you to know what they know. That way they can lord over the people that they are greater in the kingdom, because they know more. However, I have learned that everything God has given us is to be given out. Freely we have received, and freely we are to give. It is not to hold onto or keep for ourselves; it is to give to others. We’ve learned to see the potential in every individual, and never to see our self as greater than anyone else. We are all coming into this together. I cannot come into it without you, and you cannot come in without me. I have the understanding of

needing the body, and you must have the understanding of needing each other, and me as well.

The truth of the matter is: to be committed to God, you must be willing to be corrected. A son that cannot be corrected, and that refuses to listen to instruction from an individual that God has set to watch over their soul, is not a true son of God. Hebrews 12:6-8 (Amplified Bible) says, "For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes. You must submit to and endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train and correct and discipline? Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all]."

God has set individuals over you to watch over your soul. Why? Because He loves you! He gives them things for your benefit; but some of God's sons have gotten too big for their britches and feel that they don't need to hear what anybody has to say. This has become a major problem with a lot of God's sons.

A lot of God's sons don't think that they need each other. They have become a bunch of lone rangers doing their own thing.

Eph 5:12 says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." But many of God's sons believe that they no longer have to submit to anyone. Some believe that they no longer need

the body; that all they need is God. These individuals have been deceived. They lack the truth and understanding of God's order (His purpose and way of doing things) and His Word. Those who continue to walk after this manner and belief system will miss out on what God is getting ready to do. "God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him...And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you..."

Somewhere there is someone that God has set in the body of Christ to watch over your soul, and you need to be committed and submitted to them. If you're not sure who that person is, or where He has set you in the body, then you need to ask the Father to show you. Even with marriages, the reason why so many marriages are failing today, is because there is no submission one to another. Where there's no commitment in a marriage, it cannot succeed. To succeed it must come under the order of God.

I can remember when God started teaching us about "reconciliation". The Lord said, "There are two reconciliations Joyce, so watch out!" He said, "One Reconciliation is in Holiness. The other is reconciliation in unrighteousness." I said, "God, what do you mean?" He said, "In hearing this, some think that they can go out and do what ever they want to do." But that's not scriptural, because God said to, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Presenting your body as a living sacrifice unto God, means to yield every member of your body, which is to be committed to righteousness, and not to unrighteousness.

A lot of people today, even Christians still think that they can do just about anything and get away with it. However, Jeremiah 2:19 says, "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that My fear (the fear of the Lord) is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts." I have learned both the fear of the Lord; and that nobody gets away with anything. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Without a commitment to God and the fear of God in our life, we walk in ignorance and sin creating one hell after another for ourselves. It is from out of these hells that we eventually cry out to God in repentance for help. The Father loves us enough to turn us over to what we want more than Him, knowing that once we have hit bottom and suffered enough in the torment of our own empty choices, we will one day arise, and like the prodigal son come back to Him much wiser and more humble than before. This is the reason He says, "Your own wickedness (sins) shall correct you."

We can always find excuses for what we want to do, but to commit yourself to God you must relinquish (lay down, surrender, never to pick up again) your desires and self-will.

You may be asking, "Well why should I do this? For what purpose should I do this?" Do you not realize that you live forever? Do you not realize that if you set your affections on the things above, that you are putting away treasures in heaven, things that are eternal, things that no man can steal from you, things that are incorruptible? Do you not realize that everything that you do in Christ goes back and affects all your generations past, present, and future? That what you do is being deposited in them? What you are doing affects not only you, but your children, grandchildren, and their grandchildren as well.

As you allow God to work through you, all the generations of all nations throughout the earth are being affected. When you commit yourself to God and walk in Righteousness, what you are saying is, "I am depositing Righteousness to go down through the generations, and what I am depositing in them is the Eternal Word."

When you look at the world today, you can see all the killing, hate, and strife. Everywhere you look there is nothing but sex, lust, drugs, killing, and everything else that is wrong in man today. God is saying, "**When are My Sons going to arise and take a stand for the Righteousness that is in Me?**"

Jesus said in *Matthew 5:28* (MKJV), "That whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." I realize that some people have a hard time with lust, but you need to cry out to God more than ever to deliver you from it. Whatever the lust

may be, you need to cry out to God with all your heart to deliver you from those thoughts. Fornication and adultery are nothing but the lust of the flesh. The church needs to hear these things. The body of Christ has got to hear the Truth. Some people don't want to hear the Truth. Some get mad when they hear the Truth. Some people feel like they are being persecuted when they hear the Truth. However, Jesus said in *John 8:31-32*, "...If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

So why do you want to be committed? Let me tell you. Are you looking for Love? Nobody could ever Love you as much as He does. You are not going to find it in a person. You are not even going to find it in a marriage. There are so many people that think, "Well, if I get married then I'll be happy." But I don't care who you are, you're going to have your ups and downs. People can come around with a smile, saying they're happy, and that their marriage is great; but let me tell you, I know that they've got some ups and downs. How do I know that? Because, a marriage is two different individuals coming together to be one; and that takes years of walking together, and with God it takes time. Jesus learned obedience through the things that He suffered. He also learned total submission and commitment through the things that He suffered.

Eph 5:21 says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." So there is a submitting to one to another that

needs to take place, in the fear of God.

In *1Peter 5:5-6* it says, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." In other words, in order to commit to the Lord we must walk in humility, and humble ourselves. Again, it is saying that there is a submission that is to take place one to another.

When the Lord comes, He is looking for those that He can make rulers over everything that He owns. That means that you would rule over all the earth completely, because it says in *Psalms 24:1-5*, "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in His Holy Place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and Righteousness from the God of his salvation."

It also says in *Luke 14:26-27* that, "If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." These were the qualifications that Jesus Himself gave to the disciples at that time. In verse 28

it goes on to say, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" When you start the course with God and begin to commit yourself to Him, He begins to test you in areas of your life to see who you really love the most, i.e., whether you love your father, your mother, your husband or wife, or children more than Him? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21). Now God is not saying that you are to literally hate your family (because God is Love), but He is saying is that no one and no thing can come before Him in your life.

To give you an example of how God will deal with an individual for a certain length of time: there was a sister here that was called to the Glory of the Lord, and God wanted to try and prove where her heart was. However, she continually put her family first/above the Lord. All she talked about was her family. You see, you can tell where people's hearts are just by listening to their conversation. Matthew 12:34 says, "...for out of the abundance (treasure) of the heart (what is most important to them) the mouth speaketh." You can tell what they love the most, because that's what they'll be talking about. The Lord dealt with this individual for ten years, and then one night He gave me a dream. In the dream I was in a basement, and as I looked into the basement I saw this woman there with her family. I then heard her tell me, "Get out! Get out of my life!" Then I woke up and said, "My God, what was all

that about?" Then the Lord said, "I have dealt with this person for ten years, and they don't want Me Joyce. She loves her family more than Me because she is insecure. Therefore I am going to turn her over to what she wants." Now her parents and family lives with her; and after all those years of hearing all these Truths, she is now gone back to a religious organization.

Who do you love the most? Do you love the Father more than your children? God has given us our children, and we have been given a great responsibility to care for them, but God must be FIRST in your life! I know you can do it, because I did it. Then after the Lord raised them up to where they could go out on their own.

It doesn't matter what the cost is, we are committed to going all the way with God. We have had ministries come here over the years, and many have laughed at us because we have done prison ministry, nursing home ministry, radio, tape and newsletter ministries, and many other things. Many thought this ministry would come to naught, but this ministry has been going for thirty years now. When something is of God and He is in it, nothing and nobody can stop it. He just needs an individual that's committed. He needs an individual that no matter what's going on in their life, they'll still be committed. I thank God that by His Grace He has brought us as far as He has in this ministry. He has said that, "More lives than you can comprehend have been touched by Him in this ministry." Romans 8:31 says, "What shall we then say to these things? If

God be for us, who can be against us?"

God wants us to Love one another, as He has Loved us; and He wants us to be a part of what is about to take place. He doesn't want us to stand back and say, "I missed it because I held onto something. I missed it because I wasn't willing, because of fear." Fear is the worst enemy you can have. Fear is torment. I hear people say that they love God; but let me tell you, actions speak louder than words. Please hear what I am saying, because it's not how you started out in God, but how you end up that's important. I see a lot of people take detours in life. I see a lot of people start out on the right track, but then they get off on the broad way that leads to destruction. Even though sometimes He brings certain things along that we don't want or like, God wants us to continue to walk on the path of Life.

Some of the things I'm going through right now are the hardest I've been through my whole walk with God. But guess what? God is in it! And guess what? We have the Victory! And guess what? We will get through it! And guess what? I'm not giving up! He doesn't want you to give up either! He wants us to stand, and having done all stand, and not be moved!

I want to share something that another individual brought out recently, and I thought it was very good. "Commitment is being Faithful to the very end. Jesus was committed to the very end. To the point that at the very end on the cross, in Luke 23:46, "Jesus said, Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit. And when He had said this, He

breathed out the Spirit." That was commitment. Jesus even committed His Spirit to the Father. He even committed Himself to the cross, because He knew that the cross, death, and the grave didn't have any hold on Him."

Those that crucified Jesus thought that when He was wrapped up in that linen burial cloth that He wasn't doing anything. But I've got news for you, He was already back in time ministering to the generations. That is the reason it says in *Matthew 27:52-53* that, "...the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Reconciliation started then - it isn't anything new! Those that crucified Jesus thought that He was in that grave all entwined in linen. That He couldn't move His arms. He couldn't move His legs. He couldn't move anything. They must have thought, "We've got Him now! He can't do anything." But Jesus wasn't inside that linen. He wasn't that body of flesh, just as you've got to understand that you are not the body flesh you walk around in. Your body is just a vehicle for carrying God. You are His vehicle. He lives in you. It is no wonder that He hears everything you say, and knows everything that you think.

Jesus was never in that linen. He was already preaching to those that had died more two thousand years before, back in the days of Noah and the flood. *1Peter 3:19-20* says that, "...He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime

were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." Jesus knew that for thousands of years these people had been waiting in the prison of their own minds, tormented with the very thoughts they had when they left their bodies. His body was wrapped in linen and put in the tomb, but He wasn't there. He went immediately to preach to those people set them free. It says in *Ephesians 4:8* that He lead captivity captive.

In *Matthew* chapter 25 it says that when Jesus comes, He is going to separate the sheep from the goats. I don't know about you, but I don't want to be a goat. Do you know where the goats are going? The goats are the disobedient ones. They disobeyed God. The goats are the ones that wouldn't allow God to use their bodies. The goats are the ones who rebelled. The goats are the ones that wouldn't allow God to express His Kingdom through them. He's going to say to them, "For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye clothed Me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me." (*Matthew 25:42-44*). It says in verse 41 that He shall say to the goats, "...Depart from Me, ye cursed,

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into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

In *Genesis 2:16-17*, "...the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat..." (That included the Tree of Life that He put in the midst of the Garden), "...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." God put the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden for us to feed upon, and become. The "Tree of Life" is really one commandment, and that one commandment is found in *Luke 10:27*, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Then in the next verse Jesus said, "Do this, and you shall live." This commandment is the Tree of Life! If you look all through the scriptures, the basic message of what God is saying is, "Love Him! Love your brother! Love your neighbor! Love yourself!" To Love yourself means to Love Christ, because that's who you really are. The Christ in you is your True-self. Who you are is not your soulish desires, it is Christ.

We have ministered on the fact that the Son of man didn't defend Himself with feelings. He defended with the Word of God. He Loved God more, and wanted to please God more than Himself. He Loved and wanted God, and the things of God, more than all the things that were in the world; and more than all the serpent offered Him in the wilderness.

We're not there yet. None of us are walking in the place where we are totally committed to God in every area. However, what happens with people when they are not committed to the Lord is that for a while you won't notice it. What really happens is that dis-commitment first takes place in the heart and mind. This is where people lose the battle.

Do you understand that there is a battle going on right now, and that the kingdom of darkness does not want you to go all the way with God? It doesn't want God's sons to take their positions in Him; and rule and reign with Christ **NOW!** You need to understand that the government of God is here; that you are part of His government, and have a position in Him **NOW!** He wants us to get beyond the feelings and emotions of our mind and body; for us to stay committed to Him, and do whatever He has called us to do in Him. In reality, He is the One doing the work through us, because He is the One who enables us to accomplish what needs to be done. He hasn't called us to do it in our own strength; He has called us to do all things through Christ which strengthens us.

I really can understand why some people when they are sick, all they talk about is their sickness. It's because their sickness is real. I have learned that I used to be in the denial zone. I just denied that I was sick, but that isn't what God wants either. No! He wants us to be truthful and honest, but He doesn't want us to focus on it. Instead, He wants us to keep our focus on His promises and what

He has said to us. It is the Word that will sustain us, and get us through our situations no matter what. You might have thoughts come in your mind saying, "Well maybe it's this; or maybe it's that. Or, maybe you're going to die. Maybe this! Or, maybe that!" You just need to say, "Shut-up soul, I know God, my Heavenly Father is always faithful and true to His Word."

Psalms 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who (and what) can be against us?" (*Romans 8:31*). Nothing and nobody! No matter what, we keep pursuing and knowing that we are coming in this transition to the next level of greater authority. We need more authority and power than what we have now.

So whatever it takes. Whatever it is that we are going to have to go through; whatever kind of fire it takes for God to get us there. I don't know what your fire is, or is going to have to be. However, I do know that we are to count it all joy. We must embrace the Truth; not the feelings and emotions. Be immovable, because that's what being committed is. It is being Submitted to God. It is being submitted one to another. It is also Loving one another, as Christ loved us, and gave Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God. God is looking for a greater commitment from each and every one of us.

Isn't God good? Don't you have an excitement and an expectation within your Spirit?

We are in the most perilous times ever, and it's going to get much worse in the natural. It's also going to get much better and greater in the Spiritual. God wants each of us to first be committed to Him, because we can't truly commit ourselves to others until we are committed to Him. Be submissive to one another, and don't be afraid when He asks you to do something. Get rid of the fear. I think fear keeps people from doing anything more than half of the time. Lord, have Mercy! Can you think of how many things you haven't done because you were afraid?

God really wants you to digest this Word and let it become part of you. Commit and submit yourself totally to God and one another in Christ; and allow Him to deal with you. Through this total submission we will see the full manifestation of Christ which the whole of creation is groaning for. Glory be to God!