

# COMMITMENT TO GOD



# INTRODUCTION

**Surprisingly, there is no NT word that corresponds to the word “commitment” that I’m going to be emphasizing in this lesson!**

**However, the thought is found in the NT, and we’ll see the thought developed as we go through the lesson.**

**Here’s the meaning of the word “commitment” as I’ll be using it in this lesson:**

***“Commitment 2. a. A pledge to do something. 3. The state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to an ideal or course of action”-Webster’s II New College Dictionary, pg. 226.***

***Examples of gymnasts who are of Olympic caliber-***

***Why are they so “ripped?”***

***Because they are committed on average to 36 hours per week of performing gymnastic exercises!***

***Many of the Olympic winners started gymnastics when they were 3 years of age!***

## **LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT!**

**A. Joshua and Caleb. Out of the 603,550 soldiers who started the 40 years of wilderness wandering, they were the only ones who finished their race! See Numbers 1:45 & 46; 32:11-13.**

**Perhaps one of the greatest stumble-blocks put before these 2 men was the loss of more than 15,000 of their “brothers” each year during that 40 years!**

**But these 2 “brothers” pledged their allegiance to God and His word!**

**1. Read of the great courage of Caleb in the record in Joshua 14:6-15. What a “spiritual giant” he was!**

**2. Joshua was the one chosen by the Lord to replace Moses as the spiritual shepherd over Israel-see Numbers 27:15-23; Joshua 1:1-9.**

**3. Take note of the extremely high accolade given to both of these men:**

***“Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed the Lord.***

***Save Caleb, the son of Jephuneh, the Kenezite, and Joshua, the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the Lord”-Numbers 32:11 & 12.***

**4. The obvious reason for their success was the fact they were totally committed to God!**

**5. Both these men refused to let trials and hardships of any kind separate them from God! See Romans 8:35-39.**

**B. John the Baptist was a man deeply committed to God!**

**1. Of his mother and father, the inspired record says: *“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”*-Luke 1:6.**

**2. *“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and he shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb”*-Luke 1:15.**

**3. Read and study the record in Mark 6:14-29; Matthew 11:1-6.**

**4. John could have “kissed up” to king Herod and probably escaped the sword; but he didn’t because he had pledged his allegiance to God Almighty and he wasn’t about to compromise!**

**5.Question: Can we have any doubt in our minds that Jesus Himself was encouraged by John's example as He faced the cross?**

**6. I've asked this question to impress upon our minds the powerful and lasting effect a truly committed-to-God-person has on others!!**

**C. The Christian's ultimate example of commitment is Jesus Christ Himself!! See Philippians 2:5-11.**

**He voluntarily exchanged all the blessings and glories of heaven for the cross, so that men would have opportunity to escape the horrors of Hell!**

**D. Consider the greatness of having Jesus as our great high priest! See Hebrews 4:14-16 & 7:25.**

**ONE OF THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES A COMMITTED CHRISTIAN HAS IS TO COMMIT HIMSELF INTO THE CARE AND KEEPING OF THE LORD!!**

***“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”-II Timothy 1:12.***

**Note: The phrase, “that which I have committed,” is literally, “the deposit of me!”**

**The thought is that because Paul recognized the great power of God, he deposited himself into the care and keeping of God!!**

**Consider also I Corinthians 1:8 & 9 & I Thessalonians 5:23 & 24.**

**CHRISTIANS WHO ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO GOD ARE ALSO TO BE COMMITTED TO ONE ANOTHER!!**

***“And having a great high priest over the house of God;***

***Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

***Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)***

***And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.***

***Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”-Hebrews 10:21-25.***

**1. Consider, v. 24 (katanoomen), is a present tense verb that has the meaning of, “Christians are to “keep on” discerning distinctly and clearly the needs of others!!”**

**2. Question: ARE WE DOING THIS, OR ARE WE IGNORING THE NEEDS OF SOME BRETHREN?**

**3. Are we aware that there are “special needs” brethren among us?**

**Some of the special needs might be temporary; but some special needs are continual!**

**My experience with Kathy as an Alzheimer's patient has helped me greatly to be more aware of the special needs of others!**

**I am thankful to God that I have 2 grand daughters that helped work their way through college by helping children with special needs!**

**I've noticed that some brethren ignore "special needs" brethren.**

**Others make fun of them or even say un-Christian things about them!**

**Shame on us, brethren, if this is our attitude!**

**Every Christian of the face of the earth should realize that he or she is a “special needs person” before God, AND GOD MINISTERS TO OUR NEEDS!**

***“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and shall carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young”-Isaiah 40:11.***

**I don't know of a text in the bible that challenges me more to recognize the special needs of my brethren and to minister to them!**

**CLOSE: DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS THIS EVENING?**