

"A Commitment-filled Heart"

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Many people don't want to feel tied down; they often say "I want to keep my options open." However, nothing great happens without commitments. It gives our life purpose and direction.

There are 4 P's in the life of someone who is filled with commitment:

1. **POWER** of Commitment. It has 3 profound effects:

1.1. **It reveals our values** (integrity, honesty, obedience to God). In our TLF Community, we have 10 core values. We live by them. In the family, parents should have values that their children will carry throughout their lives. If we say that Jesus is important to us, we should be committed to prayer time with Him; we should not fail Him despite our busy schedules. An uncommitted life means that nothing is important. The only thing important is us. It is a selfish life.

1.2. **It shapes our lives.** Our life is the sum of our commitments. We need to choose our commitments carefully. If we choose money as our commitment, our whole life will be consumed by that. We might forget that God's plans for us are beautiful and perfect. When we commit to serve Him, our character will gradually be like Him (Prov 10:22). No one else can be more generous than our God (2 Cor 9:8)

1.3. **It determines our destinies in life.** Our God already has a blueprint for each one of us, we just need to follow (Jn 14:6). The commitments we make will determine our destiny and eternal life.

2. **PRICE.** Commitment has a cost. Jesus set a standard to the young man; however, he was not willing to give up his wealth and possessions (Mt 19:16-30). We must give up our gratifications of the flesh and follow Him. *What will a man give in exchange for his soul?* Every day, we are exchanging our commitment to Jesus for something (for recreation, alcohol/drugs, fame, etc).

Wise people always plan their lives carefully; their wise commitment determines their choices.

2.1 Jesus makes it clear. we must make Him first (Lk. 14:26). Being a Christian is all or nothing. If we are holding back, the Lord cannot take over. "Lord" means master/ruler (Gen 24:14, 27; Gen 45:8; Gen 18:12).

2.2 How do we make Jesus the Master? God must hold the place of highest importance: a) Give Him the first thought each day (Ps 5:3); b) Give Him the first day of every week (Acts 20:8); Sunday should be a day to unwind, get energized and to reset; we need to hear from the Lord via the Holy mass; c) Give Him the first 10% (Prov3:9; Mal 3:10); giving Him tithes keeps our priorities straight. God promises He will open the windows of heaven.

3. **PITFALLS.** Many things can cause us to stumble in our desire to reach heaven. When commitment is not deep in our hearts, it can be plucked off by the enemy (Mk 4:19). There is nothing wrong with wealth or success, but they are not the most important things. We cannot let them bump-off God from first place.

4. **PAY-OFF** is greater. We will receive what we need to live. The heavenly Father knows. He assumes responsibility for our lives. God does not owe us anything; by His grace, He provides when we give our lives to Him.

Conclusion:

Let us not be afraid of commitment. God will celebrate with us in heaven. Many of us are making too many commitments that we are half-committed, especially to the Lord. We need fully-committed hearts.

Reflection:

- 1) How do you show your commitment to Jesus?
- 2) What are you willing to deny yourself to serve Jesus?