

Commitment and Discipleship

Following Jesus is not always easy. How many times have you said you'd do personal devotions every day, only to have your plan fizzle after week one? Or what about a time when you discovered that what God wanted of you was completely opposite of what was trending in society? Join us as we study scripture to better understand the spiritual discipline of commitment and learn how we can cultivate the lifelong discipline of following Jesus Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you define commitment? Is it a type of promise? A motto to follow?
- Do you think it is possible to practice commitment? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Commitment and Discipleship](#)

READ [Matthew 13:3-23](#), [Luke 14:25-33](#), [Hebrews 12:1-3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- How do cultural and Biblical perspectives on commitment differ? How are they similar?
- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee spoke about our need to choose to stick with Christ and keep trying to be more Christlike every day. How have you seen this process in your own spiritual life? What did you consciously choose or choose again each time you decided to stick with Christ?
- Are there any areas in your life where you need to work on commitment? Are there certain settings in which you find it harder to be committed?
- In segment three, Scott explained that hate in the Bible tends to mean “to love less.” So when Jesus said in Luke that to follow him means to hate one's own life and family, he spoke of the necessity of loving Jesus more than those around us and even ourselves. In what ways can you practice commitment in your life to love Jesus more than the people and things you love in this life?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[2 Peter 3:18](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#), [Galatians 6:7b-10](#), [Colossians 3:23-25](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#), [John 15:1-11](#), [2 Timothy 1:12](#)

CONCLUSION

Read this quote from Watchman Nee, a Chinese Church leader who worked in China during the 20th century, and reflect on how the Holy Spirit might be leading you to practice and grow in the discipline of commitment in your life:

Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, “in Christ.”

Close your time of reflection with prayer, using the following prompts to guide you:

- Pray that you may grow in your capacity to say “in Christ” and that your commitment may grow and strengthen as you continue to choose God.
- Pray for God to lead you in the pursuit of centering your life around Jesus.
- Pray that you may be more conscious of the discipline of commitment and that you may find peace as you engage in this practice.

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