

COMMITMENT

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Joshua 24:14-27

“**Commitment**” is not only a word, “**Commitment**” is an act. Commitment means: The state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to a course of action or to another person or persons. A pledge to do. An engagement by contract-American Heritage Dictionary.

Pat Riley said: “There are two options regarding commitment. You are either IN or you are OUT. There is no such thing as life in-between.”

Most commitments made today are “conditional” not kept, or are meaningless

- In marriage vows of commitment are made “For better or worst,” and yet
- In business, friendship, commitments are made but they are so conditional
- Commitments to follow Christ are made but quickly forgotten.

Billy Graham said: “Make sure your commitment to Jesus Christ, and seek to follow Him everyday. Don’t be swayed by the false values and goals of the world, but put Christ and His will first in everything you do.”

Let’s look at some commitments in the Bible:

- **Joshua:** (Joshua 24:15)

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

- **Ruth:** (Ruth 1:16)

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

- **The Disciples:** (Matthew 4:18-20)

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed Him

- Jesus said: *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*

(Luke 9:23)

It is very clear in the Bible that to make a commitment to follow Christ is a choice.

When Jesus said to the fishermen He said *“Come, follow me.”* They had a choice to make, they would either leave their boat and follow Jesus or choose to stay where they were

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The same kind of commitment must be made by all those who choose to follow Christ. Either commit to follow Him or choose to go our way

It is meaningless to say we are Christians but not walk the talk ... Commitment without action amounts to nothing.

Ruth committed her life to Naomi when she said:

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16)

Commitment limits our choices at home Church Relationships And yet commitment develops character.

Commitment in marriage, church, faith in Jesus cannot be conditional, part time or occasional. It should be a total commitment and dedication

Believers took commitment very seriously. In Acts 14:23

“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and with prayer and fasting. Committed them to the LORD, in whom they had put their trust.”

Apostle Paul took his commitment seriously till the end of his life. (2nd Timothy 4:7)

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Are we, are you taking our commitment seriously or our commitment is conditional?