

“Reluctant Commitment”

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**THE LORD'S FLOCK
GROW DIGEST**

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People fear signing contracts, memberships, leases as well as establishing relationships. Thus, there is a high divorce rate, fewer close friends, and a shrinking number of Christian servants. We have become reluctant to make commitments - unwilling to make a promise or decision that involves accountability, integrity, and discipline. On the other hand, Jesus Christ started with a few committed disciples and ended up with the largest religious community today. As Christians, we are required to make a total commitment to Christ to further His kingdom.

1. Disciples must know the difference between Involvement and Commitment. In Luke 9:57, we learn the different types of would-be followers of Jesus Christ – each has his reason and motivation. Our discipleship to Christ requires the right reason and good motivation to shift from being merely involved to total commitment.

2. Disciples should know the cost of committing to Christ. While the cost of following Christ is high, the benefit of being His disciple is higher, and this “investment” yields eternal rewards (Lk. 14:28-29). We mistakenly limit our service to God by our capacity, but He knows our full potential. Our “yes” to all His instructions results in success, for God never forsakes us.

3. Disciples must love God more than their family (Matt. 10:37-39). If understood correctly, this commandment should not surprise us since God is to be worshipped above everything else. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, reminds us that everything we have comes from God. As Christians, choosing God over family does not mean we do away with them; rather, we are mindful of our priority. We know that God blesses families, especially His faithful servants.

4. Disciples must have the will to follow God. Our service must come from our own will; it must be done wholeheartedly, without force and grumbling.

5. Disciples must deny themselves (Matt. 16:24). To deny ourselves means to say “no” to self. It means to make God the top priority when choosing between our personal life and our service. As Christians, we must let Jesus Christ reign in our lives.

6. Disciples must take up their cross daily. Jesus Christ reveals that our commitment includes self-sacrifice. We must put to death the parts that are earthly and put on a new life in Christ (Col. 3: 5-10).

7. Disciples commit without conditions (Lk 9:59). Our commitment to Christ should not come with heavy baggage nor with the wrong motives. We must surrender and lift our worries to Him, and focus on Him once we pledge our service.

8. Disciples must seek the Kingdom of God first. As Jesus Christ’s disciples, we must not put God’s work in the backseat; we must avoid procrastination. In 2 Tim. 2, we learn that we are like soldiers who focus on the one who enlisted them. We must focus all our energy on sharing the Gospel of God as people are still hungry for it.

9. Disciples follow Jesus Christ. To be a companion of Jesus means to seek unity with Him and to be like Him in the end. Disciples want to attain the spirit of Christ in their lives.

Conclusion:

Commitment to God requires a life-changing action and a lifetime of service that prioritizes Him against all our material concerns in the world.

Reflection:

1. How do you prioritize your service to God?
2. What are the most difficult factors in following God’s instructions?
3. How do you share God’s kingdom by your service to God?

Prayer: “Lord, forgive us for making excuses for not following you totally and exclusively. We pray that my commitment to you brings me closer to you; may we receive the light that we can share with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”