

**“Total Commitment...
A Serious Business”**

“A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing.”

Martin Luther

Jesus requires total commitment

Matthew 16:24-26 NLT

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you **wants** to be my follower, you **must** give up your own way, take up your cross, and **follow** me. ²⁵ If you try to **hang on to your life**, you will lose it. But if you **give up your life for my sake**, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? **Is anything worth more than your soul?**”

The cost of following Jesus

Luke 9:57-62 NLT

⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” ⁶² But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

**“To come to Christ costs
nothing; to follow Christ costs
something;
but to serve (commit to)
Christ will cost you
everything.”**

Dr. M.R. DeHaan

The C's of Commitment...

1. Choose
2. Chase
3. Check
4. Challenge
5. Change
6. Complete

Choose truly...

1. It can not be impulsive
2. It is not a 'trying out'
3. It is not enthusiasm alone

*It is the willingness to live and take action daily for and with Christ.
It is sacrificial living...it is worship.*

Joshua 24:14-15_{NLT}

14 “So fear the LORD and serve him **wholeheartedly...**
then **choose today** whom you will serve.

Chase earnestly... after God

“I will follow you wherever you go.” Luke 9:57

Remember; Ruth, Mary Magdalene, David.

‘Follow your heart’ vs

‘Follow Jesus’

Looking inward

Looking upward

Be a better you

Be Christ-like

Self consumed

Spirit filled

Chasing after God is a lifetime pursuit!

Check always...put to test

2 Cor 13:5 NIV

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you **fail the test**?

‘Fail the test’ means ‘unapproved’...

...on the scale and light of the word of God.

2 Tim 2:15

¹⁵ **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.

Challenge readily... mediocrity!

But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 NLT

1. Indecision
2. Reluctance
3. Excuses
4. Worldliness
5. Compromise

“Those who entertain above cannot reach spiritual maturity”

Change visibly...be transformed

Total commitment is seen by others.

The Fruit of the Spirit is visible.

-Good works

-Good words

-Good values

Col 3: 12-15 NKJV

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things **put on** love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Complete attention required

Spiritual gifts, Sound doctrine, Good teaching, Exemplify Faith, Encourage others, Godly training, Spiritual awareness of deceptive spirits and teachings, and Spiritual focus.

1 Timothy 4:15-16_{NLT}

¹⁵ Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.

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