

Week 2 Teaching: JUNE'08

Cultivating a Deeper Commitment to the Faith

A “commitment” is an act of committing. It is an agreement or promise to do something in the future. Now it may sound silly or redundant to define this word, but the critical truth is that we all need to be reminded every single day of what God expects from us. A huge part of His expectation is our willingness to be committed to the Christian faith.

That faith has two prongs. One is our unwavering belief in the death, resurrection, and ministry of Jesus Christ, and our acceptance of him as the Lord and savior of our lives. The other is our belief in the manifestation of that reality as we walk by his example in the earth.

Most of us came to know Jesus Christ in the pardon of our sins because we realized that we needed something more to get through our everyday lives. We needed an infusion of supernatural power, and making him “Lord” means that his power abides within us. The degree to which we demonstrate that power really comes down to one simple thing—love.

It is often amusing to hear and witness people’s varying definitions and expectations of what love does...how it behaves, and what it feels like. If you ask fifty people how they define love, I guarantee that each one will add something new. God’s love is not capricious in the way that ours is; there is no vacillation. It is as steady as a rock. It never wavers, and we can rely on it with the full assurance that it will never fail.

This unfailing love is within every Christian. It’s true that we all have done wonderful things at one time or another, and because most of us consider ourselves to be pretty good people, it is difficult for us to accept that we should do more, but we must. God’s love empowers us to do things we could never do without it, and the ultimate demonstration of that love is our commitment to bear fruit. Colossians 1:27 tells us that we are the hope of God’s glory. 2Corinthians 4:15 NLT says that as more and more people come to Christ, God will receive more and more glory. John 15:8 KJV says “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

Christians are running themselves crazy trying to figure out what their purpose is. Some are expending a great deal of money, time, and emotional energy, only to find out that they are no further along than when they started. Jesus Christ said that he is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5). The branch receives its nutrients from the vine so that it can achieve the end result that it was purposed to achieve—to bear fruit. Our purpose is to share the good news

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of Jesus Christ, and add to the body of Christ. This is what bearing fruit is all about.

A shift in the focus of our lives should occur the moment we accept Christ. It should no longer be about that house...that man, that woman, or any other thing. The focus of our existence should change from that of being chiefly concerned with the busyness of our everyday lives to being fully immersed in the task of becoming “... *mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:13 NLT)

This verse gives us a clue about the degree to which God holds us accountable for operating by the power of His love through Christ Jesus. We cannot be the same people we were ten, five, or two years ago, doing the same things. Everything in this earth is either evolving or moving out of the way to make room for something better. Through all of our tribulations, triumphs, and transformations, God has been patient. He has been waiting on us to bear fruit. He expects that our small gestures of kindness will increase to the point where we become bold witnesses of His love.

I cannot minister in the way that you do, and you cannot minister in the way that I do. Each of us has been given a gift according to the generosity of Christ, it says in Ephesians 4:7 NLT, and there is no question how that gift should be used. Whether it is sharing your testimony with someone who desperately needs the encouragement, sending a card with your favorite verse of scripture in it, or witnessing to an old acquaintance; all of us must shift our focus to accommodate a greater commitment to the faith as we give God the glory by doing what He has purposed us to do.

Week 2 Prayer:

Most Gracious and Heavenly Father, I humbly ask that You forgive me for the words I have spoken, thoughts I have thought, and deeds I have done that are contrary to Your Will. Please help me to cultivate a deeper commitment to the faith. Show me how to use my gifts, talents, and abilities to be a blessing to the body of Christ. Help me to open my eyes to the many opportunities to speak Your Word, and to show forth Your love in the earth. Help me to be a bold witness as I share the good news of Jesus Christ and to be a good steward as I help others to know Your love. Thank You for the way that You have blessed my life. And thank You for helping me to grow and mature spiritually so that I become more and more like Jesus Christ. I pray this prayer in His wonderful name, Amen.

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WEEK2 Focus:

Cultivating a deeper commitment to the faith

Scriptures:

WEEK 2

Day 1:

[Acts 1:8](#)

Day 2:

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)

Day 3:

[Matthew25:35-40](#)

Day 4:

[Hebrews 6:10](#)

Day 5:

[James 1:27](#)

Day 6:

[Luke 3:10,11](#)

Day 7:

[1 John 3:16-18](#)

Prayer FOCUS:

To recognize opportunities to be a blessing.

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