

Eight Words to Change Your Family for Life

Word # 6 Commitment

Pastor Rick Edwards

"Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the god's your forefathers worshipped beyond the river and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Choose for your selves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord"

Joshua 24:14-15

LP Commitment is the defining Characteristic of Life

THE POWER OF COMMITMENT

My commitments:

show my values (Mt. 6:24)

affect my life (Pr. 4:23)

determine my destiny (Mk. 8:36)

THE PITFALLS OF COMMITMENT

We get distracted

"The attractions of this world, the delights of wealth, the search for success and lure of nice things come in and crowd out God."

Mark 4:19

We become complacent

"Don't be lazy in showing your devotion. Use your energy to serve the Lord." Rom. 12:11

THE PRICE OF COMMITMENT

"If you want to be My follower you must love Me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters -- yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple." Lk. 14:26

I GIVE CHRIST...

* THE FIRST THOUGHTS OF EACH DAY.

"Each morning I will look to You in heaven and lay my requests before You..." Ps. 5:3

* THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY WEEK.

"On the first day of the week, the disciples came together..." 1 Cor. 16:2

* THE FIRST TEN PERCENT OF EVERY PAYCHECK.

"Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income." Pr. 3:9

* THE FIRST CONSIDERATION IN EVERY DECISION.

"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success." Pr. 3:5-6

THE PAYOFF FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT

1. **I don't have to worry anymore** Matthew 6:31-33
2. **God affirms me** God says, "Well done" Matthew 25:23
3. **God promotes me** God gives me more responsibility V23
4. **God celebrates** God shares His happiness! V23

"Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat... or drink... or wear?' ... your heavenly Father knows that you need these. But seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matt. 6:31-33

"The Master will say, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things -- I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!" Matt. 25:23

A PRAYER TO GO HIGHER Lord, give my family a fresh infusion of Your grace and Your love. God, forgive me for allowing other things to take the place of the eternal responsibility of leading and shepherding my family. Give me faith to see the power that is in **commitment**. Help me, Lord. I need Your strength to obey Your Word and apply these truths. Show me the areas that I can work on in my own life. Reveal to me how I can be better for my family. Lord, don't let me just go through the motions, but might this truth change me and grow me into all that You desire for me to be. Teach me, I pray, the power of commitment. I ask these things in the precious name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

