

The Faithful Steward

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Committed Stewards of God, Part I

“...Who am I... that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” (1 Chronicles 29:14 NIV)

“To everyone is committed some special endowment, for which he will be held responsible by the Lord. Time, reason, means, strength, mental powers, tenderness of heart--all are gifts from God, entrusted to be used in the great work of blessing humanity.” Ellen G. White, *Amazing Grace*, page 64.

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Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were committed young Christians in spite of their circumstances. King Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of Babylon, had taken Israel captive and selected some of the most promising young Hebrew men to be trained to serve in his court.

Nebuchadnezzar built a golden idol and instructed that, at the sound of the music, all were to bow down and worship the idol built in his honor. It seems everybody was cooperating except three Hebrew slaves.

Reactions to Commitment

The world reacts several ways to people who are committed. The first response can be found in **Daniel 3:12 – The world takes notice of our commitment.** These three young men really stood out. They were alone in their decision.

Daniel 3:13 – outlines the second way people respond when individuals are committed to the Lord: **The world will be annoyed by our commitment.** Nebuchadnezzar was down-

right mad and he flew into a rage. He couldn't handle somebody who didn't think the way he thought, believe the way he believed, or walk the way he walked.

Daniel 3:14 – summarizes the next reaction: **The world will question our commitment.** As the three Hebrews stood before the king, he was convinced that they possessed something the other wise men of his kingdom did not have. Nebuchadnezzar had to

double-check; he couldn't believe these three young men had such strong backbones. He could not believe that they would defy the king's orders.

Nebuchadnezzar decided to give the Hebrew young men another chance to bow down to his image as recorded in **Daniel 3:15.** The fourth reaction is this: **The world will test your commitment.**

As faithful stewards, when we come to the crossroad of our commitment, the strength of our commitment has to prove itself. The choice will NOT be easy, because it's all or nothing. Our secu-

rity, our identity, and our popularity may be at stake. It will NOT be a decision we can make lightly.



Committed Christians can make an extraordinary impact with the individuals they come in contact with.

Results of Commitment

When we make a commitment to follow the Lord fully, there will be consequences as a result of our decisions. Our commitment **will be tried and tested** as recorded in **Daniel 3:19-23**. When we stand up for God, we will be tested.

In addition, another result of our commitment is that **God will be glorified**. When we are truly committed to Him, God will receive praise, glory and honor.

Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fiery furnace and asked, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" For he saw in the furnace four men "loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth" was "like a son of the gods!" He called the young men to come out of the furnace, blessed God for His deliverance, and decreed that all should worship the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

Furthermore, as a result of our commitment **God will bless our lives**. The king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon, according to **Daniel 3:30**.

Anyone can make an ordinary impact on their world, but the secret to really making a difference in life lies in being totally committed to the cause of Jesus Christ. Committed Christians can make an extraordinary impact on the individuals they come in contact with. If you read the biographies of great men, you'll become convinced of a couple of things very quickly. First, all great men struggle; all great men have a fiery furnace in their lives. The second thing is that the degree of their commitment is what really makes them great.

They weren't more intelligent, they weren't faster, they weren't better educated – they were MORE committed.


How can we develop the same kind of commitment that these three young Hebrew men had? Whatever commitment, dedication and sacrifice we render to God, through His mercy and generosity, it is placed in our account as faithful stewards. God calls us, today, to consecrate our faculties, gifts, talents and riches we have received from Him. He wants us to say with David, "...Who am I... that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (1 Chronicles 29:14 NIV)

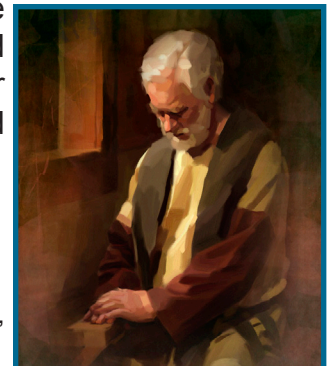


God has bestowed upon each one of us gifts and talents. In His love and mercy, God has not restricted His talent to a select few. "To everyone is committed some special endowment, for which he will be held responsible by the Lord. Time, reason, means, strength, mental powers, tenderness of heart--all are gifts from God, entrusted to be used in

the great work of blessing humanity." ¹

All of us, wherever we are and whatever circumstances we face, make commitments for Christ's sake. Once we have made a commitment, it's important that we follow through with it for the glory and purpose of God. This includes our commitment to faithfully return tithes and offerings to the Lord.

As faithful stewards, are we committing our gifts, talents, time and money to the Lord? As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, are we consecrating our lives like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego? How is our commitment to the Lord today? 



(Footnotes)

¹ Ellen White, *Amazing Grace*, page 64