



The Faithful Steward

A Texico Conference Stewardship Publication

February 2008

Committed Stewards of God, Part 2

“No power, no influence, could sway them from the principles they had learned in early life by a study of the Word and works of God” (Prophets and Kings, page 482).

Settle the issue of commitment before it arises. Don't get caught up in the emotions of the moment because then your commitment will waiver. Make your decision before the issue arises.

Editor: Lee-Roy Chacon
Assist. Editor: Sue Hinkle

Circulation: 4,305

Commitment usually begins in an atmosphere of struggle. Very seldom do we see strong commitment arise out of prosperity. Squandered time, wasted living and distorted values may come out of prosperity, but commitment usually does not.

Winston Churchill achieved real greatness during the struggle of World War II. His finest hour was during the hour of confrontation and challenge. Fifty-three years later, nine out of ten people would probably say that Britain's finest hour came in the days of Churchill's leadership during World War II. Commitment usually begins in darkest hours.

Commitment doesn't depend on abilities or gifts. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were among many good looking and intelligent youths chosen for special training according to Daniel 1:3, 4.

The three Jews were captives in another land, with new customs, new surroundings, new values and different priorities. It was for them an atmosphere of struggle. But I would like to think they weren't really chosen for those qualities. Rather, they were chosen because of their commitment.

Commitment is the result of choice; it's not a condition. People make great commitments because they choose to do right in spite of the conditions. The Bible says in Daniel 1:8, "But Daniel made up his mind." In another

version, it says, "Daniel proposed in his heart." The moment one commits to serve God, God adds His power to help us with our decision. The moment Daniel made up his mind, the moment Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego made up their minds to serve God – that was their greatest moment. That's the moment God lifted them up. That's the moment that strengthened their commitment. God blessed them because they chose to commit to Him.

The book *Prophets and Kings*, page 482, tells us the level of steadfastness these three young men had. "No power, no influence, could sway them from the principles they had learned in early life by a study of the Word and works of God."

Commitment starts with the little things in our lives. People don't make big commitments without making little commitments first. It's a lot like walking; we gain new confidence with every step. When we see that God blesses our small commitments, we begin to trust Him with bigger ones.

Don't make a commitment today to win the world for Jesus! You heard me right. That's idealistic and unreasonable. Make a commitment to win ONE person to Jesus. That is realistic. With the confidence you gain from winning that one person, you can win two or three or many more.

Settle the issue of commitment before it arises. Don't get caught up in the emotions of the moment because then your



spirit may waiver. Make your decision before the issue arises. Then the battle will be won before it's begun. This is the secret behind the three Hebrews' success. Their minds were already made up as to what they were going to do. They didn't stand there listening to the music and look at each other wondering what to do. Others probably knew about their decision and maybe tried to talk them out of it. They had already settled the issue, so they didn't have to think about it.

Trust in God. After the Hebrews had been rescued and delivered, Nebuchadnezzar made an interesting statement in Daniel 3:28: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him." The Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Savior revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord, the flames lost their power to consume. All commitments are built on trust and confidence in God.

The three young men were single-minded. In Daniel 3:28, Nebuchadnezzar made another comment about these young men that I think is worth repeating. Not only did they trust in God, but the king said they "yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any other god except their own God." That is single-mindedness. That is commitment. That is trusting in God fully and completely.

How is our steadfastness when we are under pressure? How is our commitment under fire? Do we break or fold? Or do we remain faithful and true like the three young Hebrew men?

Martin Luther King, Jr. rightly stated, "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." Does my commitment waiver when times are difficult? Is my commitment always the same despite the circumstances?

There is nothing to worry about and nothing to fear if we have 100% commitment to the Lord. I love these encouraging words from a servant


of the Lord. "As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, so in the closing period of earth's history, the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are. His abiding presence will comfort and sustain. In the midst of the time of trouble – trouble such as has not been since there was a nation – His chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a 'God of gods,' able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him" (*Prophets and Kings*, page 513).

True commitment is the willingness to allow God to change us individually. Commitment has to begin with us. Then we will have a ripple effect on others. Every process of transformation begins with you and me.

When we are truly committed it creates choices for others." I think the faithfulness of the three Hebrew young men opened the door for others to publicly worship the Lord.

How about making a total commitment to the Lord today? "The stewardship of commitment extends to every role, every responsibility and every important relationship. And for the Christian, commitment has an even deeper significance because it is the evidence of genuine loyalty to Christ...The central identifying characteristic of a Christian is commitment demonstrated through love" (*The Stewardship of Life*, page 59).

Let us demonstrate our dedication and love to God by using the talents God gave us. Let us be faithful in dedicating our time to the Lord and Savior, as well as showing our love to God through our tithes and offerings.

We receive God's blessings when we are committed to Him. 



...for the Christian, commitment has an even deeper significance because it is the evidence of genuine loyalty to Christ.

