



*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
all your mind and all your strength”*

May 2015: Reflection - (Mark 12:33)

As a Christian, one may wear a T-shirt, display a bumper sticker, or use any other kind of visible symbol to show one's faith but these might be of no real consequence, because they are often contrary to the message one gives with one's very life. More important, and infinitely more definitive than all the t-shirts and stickers, etc, are the internal, spiritual signs of a true Christian. The world we live in is becoming more individualistic, and to make a real difference one needs to be a Christian of Commitment.

Commitment: It's all or nothing.

When we think about our commitment and surrender to the Lord, the basic principle is 'it's all or nothing'. The Bible shows this to be true. Jesus says, when we Love the Lord we must love Him with ALL. It seems God is not satisfied with much; He wants our ALL. It is often strange to realize that the list of things Jesus demands of us is very little, because He demands all of it. In the Bible we see that partial commitment is no commitment at all, “you either need to be hot or cold” Rev 3:15.

If following the Lord is worth anything, it is really worth everything. Because Jesus came to give us life, when He meant life, He made it clear, "I have come that you may have life - life in all its fullness" John 10:10. It is all and complete from Christ's side too.

Certain characteristics are so inherent to Christianity that to neglect them is to become a walking contradiction. Commitment means, Jesus is our sole authority, or guiding light and our unerring compass that guides us to our destination. Being Committed to Christ means being faithful, being a servant friend. It simply is "For me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21). A Christian without commitment is a visible contradiction.

Commitment is a Discipline; it is a deliberate choice we make. One cannot have commitments contrary to one another other. In Mathew 6:24 it says, "no one can serve two masters, either you will hate one and love the other". Meaning, that two things cannot be done together. It is all or it is nothing. Jesus says, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Mathew 19:21

It is our wisdom to be committed, to make our title to eternal life sure through Jesus Christ, to look on all things here below, as not worthy to be compared with the glory of Jesus and to be content with nothing short of spending eternity with Him. This commitment changes our equation of an inheritance incorruptible. It becomes even more important when we look around us, for today people are less willing to commit to anything, be it marriage, friendship, career or faith.

For many of us, God is an important 'part' of our lives; we give Him priority over many things, but often Christ has not become our life. Commitment means, from God being a 'part' of our lives, He becomes our 'all'. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28.

He requires of us to give our all, and not just be lukewarm. Christ expects us to be completely earnest at heart, seeking with our entire mind and serving with all our strength.

Let each of us ask ourselves, "Am I a person of commitment or do I just live by convenience???"

As we celebrate our Commitment day on Pentecost, let us pray that this day becomes more meaningful and helps us to live a genuine, committed life.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray that every Jesus Youth be transformed by the power of Pentecost and sent forth to be true 'missionary disciples' of your son Jesus.