

MY COMMITMENT AS A CHRISTIAN

The following lines were penned by a young pastor in Africa and tacked to a wall in his house.

Could you have written these words?

“My commitment as a Christian. I’m part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. **I’m a disciple of Jesus Christ.** I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

“I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed vision, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

“I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

“My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

“I won’t give up, shut up, and let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Christ. **I am a disciple of Jesus.** I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will **have no problem recognizing me—my banner will be clear!**”

What a heart for the Lord this African pastor has! How his testimony must be honoring his Savior as he makes a clear statement to the world whom he serves. We would do well to seek **a like heart** in living our lives for Jesus.

To call Him Lord, Master, Guardian, Friend requires commitment on our part. We cannot take continually without giving something back. Remember the Lord, and speak forth with joy in His presence, for you have known Him, and indeed He knows you. Let us purpose in our heart to fly a banner that is clear and raised high as a witness for our Lord.

PRAYER... “Lord, forgive me when I neglect You and turn to other things. Help me to keep You fully in my mind and heart. Help me to stay on the paths that You place me on and help me to keep

my eyes upon You and not upon worldly desires and pleasures. Let Your word of truth guide me as You prepare me for Your glory. Amen.”

I was on staff at the Faith Bible Center Foursquare Church in Medford, Oregon, as Associate Pastor of Prayer and Pastoral Care for around ten years. In 1997, I felt the leading of the Lord to publish a monthly newsletter. I enlisted the help of my friends, John and Nikki Newman. It was called, *The Blessings*, The monthly newsletter for the family of Faith Bible Center.

It was one of the highlights of my life, as I saw *The Blessings* embraced by our body; new relationships were formed and old relationships grew and flourished. It blessed the church in various ways. The staff also took part in writing and sharing their ministry in *The Blessings*. Therefore, we were of one mind, one heart and of one accord, and prayer covered the church like a banner of love. Many stories were shared with me weekly, of which *My Commitment as a Christian* is one of them.

I hope you enjoyed reading the above story as much as I did and from time to time I will be sharing other stories and writings from *The Blessings* in weeks to come. Although some of the stories may seem outdated as they were written some years ago, ask yourself if they really are, OR is the Word of God still impacting the world today and changing lives?

Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*