

Commitment, Submission, Accountability

There are times that we need to look at certain things and today I want to look at three words in the life of Jesus. **Commitment, Submission, Accountability.**

Something that every one of us should also consider!! Commitment, Submission, Accountability.

- Jesus had commitment to the Father
- Jesus walked in submission to the Father
- Jesus had accountability to the Father

1. **Commitment:** Making a commitment involves dedicating yourself to something, like a person or a cause. Before you make a commitment, think carefully. A commitment obligates you to follow through to it is completed.

Jesus committed Himself to God in His speech.

John 12:49 (NKJV) For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

Jesus Committed Himself to God in Death.

With His last words and final breaths, Jesus committed Himself to God -- complete and endless commitment while suffering on the cross. Moments before giving up His spirit, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit" (**Lk. 23:46**).

Commitment to do His Will

Matthew 26:39 ³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My **Father**, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet **not** as I will, but as you **will**."

2. **Submission:** the act of giving yourself or something for a decision to be made by others

John 6:38 ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do **the** will of him who sent me.

John 5:19 ¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever **the Father** does the Son also does.

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3. **Accountability:** the quality or state of being accountable; an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for your actions.

When we look at the life of Jesus Christ, we see that He did not live an independent life. Jesus was accountable to His Father in everything – in words and deeds:

Then Jesus said to them, „When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things **(John, 8:28)**.

Jesus was **totally submitted to God's will** and the delegated authority in His life.

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Romans 14:12

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

James 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

These three things are missing in many Christians lives Commitment, Submission, Accountability.

Checking our Commitment level, Submission level, and Accountability level is so very important. It shows where we are in these areas.

The Problem with many people is that:

- Their Commitment is fine if they are comfortable.
- They submit if it does not cost them anything.
- Many people today have only accountability to themselves.

Where is your commitment level to God?

Commitment, Submission, Accountability

In all aspects of our lives, from big things to some not so big, life often presents us with the need to make commitments and keep them.

But we should understand that if you are going to do something right, “giving it a try” will not get the job done.

How would your boss feel if, in your job, you decided to just “give it a try?”

How many more marriages would end in divorce if spouses decided to just “give it a try” in making their marriage work?

Would our children stand much of a chance, either physically or spiritually, if we just “gave it a try” in raising them?

A commitment demands a determined attitude and requires that we must actually decide to do what we say we will do or is required of us.

In our spiritual lives, God requires a total commitment from us.

A total commitment puts God at the head and us as humble, obedient servants. In the example of the disciples, found in **Matt. 4:18-22**, we are told, “**...And walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brethren, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left the nets, and followed him. And going on from thence he saw two other brethren, James the [son] of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they straightway left the boat and their father and followed him.**” These men were invited by Christ to follow him and immediately they left their families, their business and they even left their equipment just for a chance to follow the Messiah.

It is very easy for mankind to put off God. Unlike bosses or spouses, we don’t have to face Him directly. We won’t see the consequences immediately that come from our rejection or disobedience. We tell ourselves that we can make it up to God later.

This is not the attitude that Christ taught us that we should have. In **Luke 9:59-62**, he gives us an example of the urgency we should have when it comes to following God. The passage reads, “**Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father. Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house. But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." There is nothing fundamentally wrong in burying a loved one; there is everything wrong with pushing Christ to the back of the line in order to do it.**”

Commitment, Submission, Accountability

Learning to submit to God means learning to trust and follow him even when you don't think his way makes sense.

Think about it: have you ever prayed for something and it didn't happen? How did you respond?

When we don't know how or don't want to submit to God, we usually respond in one of the following ways:

- We stop praying for specific things or stop praying completely.
- We doubt that God really exists or if prayer works.
- We feel like God doesn't really care about what we need.

If you relate to any of these, try these three tips and begin learning to submit to God in prayer.

Be real with God

Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?"

Matthew 26:39 (MSG)

Jesus didn't want to go. Many of us can relate to him – God called him to do something hard and he didn't want to do it; he knew it would be painful and difficult.

What I admire is how he handled it – He didn't rebel or pretend to be fine. He told God that he disagreed, and he kept praying until his attitude changed.

In which areas of your life do you disagree with what God wants you to do? Maybe it's your schedule, your future, how you treat your spouse, or how you believe how many times you should be in church. Maybe it is about giving. How do you handle these disagreements?

Prayer has the power to change our hearts. Submitting to God in any area requires our own personal, honest conversations with him where we admit our feelings and keep talking until we agree.

Decide to take some time of your own at a peaceful place, like the beach or a park, and wrestle with God ([Genesis 32:24-28](#)) about the specific area you need to submit to him. Don't be afraid to tell him how you really feel, and don't give up until you decide to trust him.

Trust that God's plan is always better than yours

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in the life He has for us.

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Hebrews 12:10-11

To submit to God, we have to fight to find the ways that his plan is better and ultimately for our good.

God may say no to our plan, because he had something better.

As the scripture teaches, God's discipline may be painful but it's always good in the end.

Look for purpose in your pain

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Any challenge or struggle in our lives has purpose – we can give others the hope and comfort they need to make it through.

Any struggle in our life, big or small, becomes so much more meaningful when I see how I can help someone else going through the same thing.

Pray to meet someone else who is going through the same battle you are. God will answer that prayer, and you will find new inspiration in having the ability to forever change someone's life.

Accountability

Accountability - A Need for Support

Accountability is essential for any society to function and Christian accountability is no different. We are all held accountable in one way or another. For example, there are laws to obey and if we fail to be obedient, we may have to suffer the consequences set by the officials who hold us accountable. Accountability is simply being responsible for one's actions.

Commitment, Submission, Accountability

The Essential Element of Trust

In order to establish Christian accountability, there needs to be trust. Developing trust is a slow process and it takes time to develop and grow.

As people meet together to share, they begin to establish a rapport with one another. How is this accomplished? Let's see what the Bible says.

- **Active listening** is essential to developing trust. [James 1:19](#) says, "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
- **A non-judgmental attitude** is another essential element. Remember, we can be accepting of an individual while being discerning of the situation. [Matthew 7:1-2](#) says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
- **Caring for each other** is also essential. [1 John 4:21](#) says, "And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."

Accountability involves a willingness to open yourself up and share sensitive or personal information. Therefore trust is so imperative. If you sense trust, you are more open to share your innermost thoughts without concern of betrayal.

Christian Accountability - The Essential Element of Relating

Relating is an important factor in Christian accountability. It is helpful when the group shares a common bond or has been through similar experiences. People who relate to one another can empathize and share with an understanding heart. People can feel comfortable in sharing their circumstances, and can be totally accepted without fear of rejection.

Christian Accountability

The Bible says that **God holds us accountable**. [Romans 14:12](#) says, "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." This is personal accountability.

Christians are also accountable to one another. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, we read that Christians are all part of the same body - the body of Christ - and each member needs or belongs to the other. This Scripture suggests the importance of strong accountability between Believers. It is important for every Believer to have at least one other person in which to confide, pray with, listen to, and encourage.

[Galatians 6:1-2](#) gives a helpful principle, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." If your accountability friend has done something contrary to the Bible, you are called to confront him gently, forgive him, and comfort him. It also admonishes you to consider yourself because no one is above temptation.

Another aspect of Christian accountability is encouraging each other to grow in their **spiritual maturity**. [Hebrews 10:24](#) says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) says to, "...encourage one another and build each other up..."

Commitment, Submission, Accountability

Examine Yourself

Do you see changes in your life?

The Bible says, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

Ask yourself these kind of questions:

- Are you walking in the light of God’s truth and righteousness? (See [1 John 1:5-7](#).)
 - Are you daily confessing sin? (See [1 John 1:8-10](#).)
 - Do you obey Christ? (See [1 John 2:3-4](#).)
 - Do you love fellow Christians? (See [1 John 2:9-11](#).)
 - Do you hate worldliness? (See [1 John 2:15-17](#).)
 - Are you persevering in doctrine? (See [1 John 2:24-25](#).)
 - Are you seeking righteousness? (See [1 John 3:10](#).)
 - Do you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life? (See [Galatians 5:16-24](#).)
 - Are you growing under God’s discipline? (See [Hebrews 12:5-8](#).)
 - Are you doing good works as a result of your salvation? (See [Ephesians 2:8-10](#).)
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