

## **POWER OF COMMITMENT: *FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHURCH***

Commitment is one of life's true barometers of a person's character. Each one of us has experienced the many times someone has said "yes" or given their word but later reneged. Not only do we feel abandoned but it raises a serious question of the trustworthiness of an individual. Commitment and follow through says much regarding a person's heart and mind.

It has been said that one is what you eat, or what you wear, or what you say, or what you do. What all these have in common is they describe activity. . . **and action speaks louder than words!** Scripture says "You will know them by their fruits." (Matt 7:16)

There is an obvious difference between a silent thought and its corresponding action. "To intend" is vastly different than "doing." Good intentions are a dime a dozen but without translation into activity. . . "the doing". . . they are comparable to a puff of wind.

Commitment is the opposite of intention. To commit or make a commitment requires follow through or corresponding action. It is similar to a vow (marriage) or a hand shake (agree to buy/sell) or an unwritten contract (promise to deliver). It motivates or obligates one to fulfill what is or was promised. Children know this better than adults; and children will remind parents of their commitments. . . "But you promised!"

Fulfillment of a commitment makes for a "good life." Not only does it feel good to fulfill ones commitment(s) but it establishes personal norms or standards for living. The premise for "Little Deeds of Kindness" is precisely that. . . "practice makes perfect". The Book of Proverbs says it best: ". . . a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." (13:12)

From many perspectives, commitment is related to stewardship. Commitments are the "managers" of life." They set parameters for a lifestyle; boundaries or fences which describe the playing area or arena of life's activities. Inside the boundaries or fences is the good life; outside is. . .!

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