

PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month



It's Your Turn: Walk In Your Financial Purpose

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(Books-A-Million, Amazon, iTunes, Barnes and Noble)

Scripture Readings:

Commitment to God

January 1-5, 2019

Psalm 37:5-6

Proverbs 16:3

January 6-12, 2019

2 Chronicles 16:9

1 Kings 8:61

January 13-19, 2019

Deuteronomy 27:10

Matthew 4:19

January 20-26, 2019

Acts 2:42

Galatians 6:9

January 27-31

Philippians 3:13-19

Philippians 4:6

Have
Faith
in
GOD

Staying Committed, Especially When It's Uncomfortable

(Many Members, One Body)

9 Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in.

Galatians 6 (AMP)

Welcome to 2019! What are your plans for embracing the potential that awaits you in the freshness of this new season? Are you set to try accomplishing a few goals *if* they can be attained conveniently, or are you determined to commit to some life enhancing goals, no matter how long or difficult the process may take? My hope for you is for the latter, and as with all matters in life - *your best commitment begins with God.*

Commitment frustrates many people because the purpose of its process is far more in depth than that of our society. In this life, the answer to difficulty is to find a quick solution. But *we were made for eternity*, and so – *in this dressing room* – the answer to difficulty is to stay steadfast in seeking direction and trusting God to work out matters while we continue to go about the daily responsibilities and activities of our lives.

Commitment is a spiritual affirmation of peaceful stillness wherein our faith overrules what our eyes, ears and heart perceive from the loud voices of the world. It is our alignment with God's will that whatever is sounding off the alarms – relationships, health, academics, employment, crimes, deaths, setups and setbacks, finances, etc. – they shall be taken care of 'on earth as it is in Heaven' (*Matthew 6:10*). *Is it always easy?* No. *Does it always feel good?* No. *Is it worth it?* Yes!

Commitment is a noble action that develops for some and demonstrates of others character strength and integrity for believers in Christ who are not deterred by the sometimes confusing and uncomfortable aspects of God working things out for our ultimate best. Just *think about God* and how He could have easily chosen to give up on mankind and its sinful nature! But He didn't. His commitment to establish a loving relationship with us and restore us to Himself led Him to save us another way – through His Son, Jesus. And *look at Jesus!* He committed His life to death on a cross in order to rise again with all power over death and to draw all mankind back to himself for God's glory! In biblical times, none of this made any sense to the people, particularly to those who were lost in sin. But for *those with an ounce of hope* – it didn't have to make sense! It was enough for them to commit their lives to *the promise of the process!* And because God the Father and God the Son stayed committed to the vision of restoring salvation to mankind – after years of family lineage and generations of people and rulers – Jesus came from Heaven to earth to save our souls, went to the cross to pay our debts, was buried in a grave, and then He rose back to the Heavenly skies...and here we are today. Sadly, there are still far too many of us who struggle with committing our faith to the Truth of our deliverance. That's why *we - the church - must stay committed* to reaching this world and helping nonbelievers learn the truth about their Risen Savior.

When we come to realize that the sometimes difficult, uncomfortable, challenging nature of commitment is some of the best motivation for sticking to our vision plan for our lives, we will be able to embrace the process with the clear perspective that '*we can do all things through Christ Who gives us strength*' (*Philippians 4:13*). Staying committed to God and to our life vision establishes discipline and focus on *Who matters first, what matters most, and all that is possible for each of us* as we *purge away unhealthy excuses, habits, activities - even people* - that only hold us back from experiencing what God has already worked out for our abundant, joyful and prosperous lives!

It is my committed prayer that all people will *commit* or *recommit* their lives, families, friends, and life situations to God, and *stay relentless in your vow to trust God, His process and His timing* until He brings to fruition our hopes for our lives...*wrapped up in the ultimate best of His vision and purpose for each of us.*

In Service to God,

Pastor Daniel Simmons