

THE JOYFUL POWER OF COMMITMENT

Our culture
has
a love-hate relationship
with commitment.

COMMITMENT: a willingness to give your time and energy to something that you believe in, a promise or firm decision to do something.

COVENANT: a formal agreement or promise between two or more people:

From a biblical perspective . . . a covenant is a relationship that is more than legal and more than personal. It is a personal relationship made more binding because it is also legal. It is a legal relationship made more binding because it is also personal.

If you are a follower of Jesus, if you believe in Jesus, if he is your Lord then you are in a covenant relationship with the God of the universe. Are you committed to living out the wonder of what it means to be in a covenant relationship with God?

- We are shaped by our commitments.
- Commitments define our lives.
- We can never grow any higher than what it is we are committed to.

Every Commitment includes:

1. A decision
2. A promise
3. A declaration
4. A new direction

So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own ... and they will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking fire pot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram

Genesis 15:9-11 & 17-18a

God was making the covenant for both of them and taking on the punishment for both of them

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:25-26

A commitment to follow Jesus is a response to all he has done for us that results in a life pursuit that always trusts his ways as the best and wisest ways to live. It is to love him above all others. It is to live open with him. It is to live seeking his smile over my comfort, over my reputation, over my advancement, over my ways.