

God Time Day 1: The Importance of Commitment



It is so easy to be pulled in many different directions and become paralyzed by competing priorities – why else would “work-life balance” be such a hot topic? This state of conflicting commitments is one the enemy’s key strategies for making us ineffective and robbing us of joy.

The way to avoid becoming a victim of this chaos is to keep first things first. We see this in the first of the Ten Commandments (no other gods) and in the greatest command (love God with all you have). The Bible calls this kind of focused commitment a “singleness of heart.”



Read Jeremiah 32:39 (NIV).
I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them.

Rate your “singleness of heart” commitment for God: (1=Low; 5=High)

1 2 3 4 5

What might you need to stop to move up one number?

God Time Day 2: A Committed Life



Read Philippians 1:19-20.
¹⁹ *because I know this will lead to my salvation through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ.* ²⁰ *My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.*

When he wrote these words, the apostle Paul had been through many difficult situations, and more were to come. Yet his hope was to *not be ashamed* in these struggles.

Underline the part of his hope that will take place “now as always, with all courage.”



How can you have this same commitment and hope?

God Time Day 3: Rooted in Confidence



Have you ever struggled to make firm plans because you were unsure of what factors outside your control might affect your decision? For example, do I RSVP for this event or keep that time open in case a potential guest is still with me?

One of the best things about following Jesus is that we don’t have to know all the potential factors to be confident in our path; we can place our full confidence in His faithfulness and power. Nothing in all creation can stand in the way of God’s eternal plans for His children.



Read Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)
¹⁴ *Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.* ¹⁵ *Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.*

From what does the Son set us free (v.15)?

When we are no longer even afraid of dying, it frees us to undertake actions which might otherwise seem too impossible or even dangerous.

This idea of confidence in God’s power at work in us has been stated this way:

What would you do today if you knew that you could not fail?

God is not calling us to vain pursuits – things only for our personal gratification and glory – but to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.



What pursuit is God calling you to pursue now?

How can you alleviate any fears that are holding you back?

God Time Day 4: Strengthened in Conviction



History is full of examples of someone taking on incredible opposition with the conviction of pursuing what is right:

- William Wilberforce fighting to outlaw slavery
- Corrie Ten Boom hiding Jews from Nazis
- Martin Luther King Jr. fighting for civil rights

The force of their conviction helped them to keep going.

The Apostle Paul describes this same kind of conviction.



Read Philippians 1:21-25.

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. ²³ I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better— ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵ Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith.

While Paul is sure that he would be better off in heaven, what persuades, or convicts, him to keep going? (Verse 24)

This conviction is more than a preference. Consider some of the things Paul endured to complete his calling:



Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-25,27

²⁴ Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. . . ²⁷ toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing.

Take some time to consider the strength of your conviction.

To what are you committed, No Matter What?

God Time Day 5 - What Are You Committed To?



Living in this world pushes and pulls us in many different directions. We are told to “look out for number one” and “pay attention to the bottom line.” In relationships we are encouraged to dump people at the least inconvenience, saying you “can’t let them hold you back.” These selfish and short-sighted ways of seeing the world leads to chaos and constant conflict. Jesus calls us instead, to a committed life.



Read Acts 20:24.

But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

In this passage, what cause overrides Paul's self-interest?

He says the same thing another way in Galatians 2:20:
I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Look back at what you wrote on Day 3 regarding what you might attempt if you were convinced you could not fail. Draw a line connecting it to your commitment from Day 4.

(If you skipped either of these prompts, or if they are not in response to God's calling on your life, stop now and take the time to examine the reason for your life.)



Ephesians 2:1-10 speaks to where we would be without all God has done for us. It also concludes with the reason for our lives:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

Remember, God means for us to find joy in commitment.

What will you do today to experience that joy?
