



The Importance of Executing on your Commitments

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There have been times as a parent that I have been frustrated with my kids due to their lack of follow through. For example, they say they will sweep the room and then they forget. Or they promise to wash the dishes and the dishes never get washed. We can probably all think of occasions in our life when we expected someone to do something and they failed to execute on their commitment.

In reality, all of us—at some time—have also failed to execute on a commitment we have made.

As growing leaders, it is essential to continue to dive deep into topics that will challenge and strengthen us as godly leaders. Our focus here is on the importance of executing and following through on the commitments we make. In Matthew 5:37, Jesus tells His followers to let their “yes be yes” and their “no, no.” Meaning, if you say you will do something, follow through and hold to your word.

Jesus as our Model

A quick survey through the gospels presents Jesus as a leader who firmly executed on the commitments He was given. He followed through on what He was sent to do with complete integrity, courage, and honor. Jesus says in John 6:38, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me” (NKJV). As He fulfilled those commitments, Jesus faced:

- Opposition (John 8:59, 10:31, Matthew 26:4)*
- Demands and expectations from others (Luke 4:38-44, Matthew 16:21-23)*
- Overwhelming needs (Luke 4:38-44)*
- Fatigue (John 4:6, Mark 4:38)*
- Betrayal and failure of others (John 13:21, 38, Mark 14:34-37)*
- Anxiety and sorrow (Matthew 26:36-39)*

Despite all of this, Jesus followed through on His commitments to love and obey the Father and to bring salvation and reconciliation to the world. Jesus is the perfect model for Christian leaders. In the Bible study we will seek to search our hearts and consider how we can model the same faithfulness to execute on our commitments.

Devotions

JULY

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Before going to the Bible, we will start with self-reflection.

Think of a time(s) when someone did not follow through on what they had committed to do. What was their reason?

- *They told me: _____.*

- *I think the reason was really: _____.*

When they didn't keep their commitment, how did it affect me?

- *What did I have to do? _____*

- *How did I feel? _____*

Now ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind a time(s) when you have not been able to keep a commitment.

- *The situation was:*

- *The reason I couldn't keep the commitment was because:*

- *Who did this affect?*

- *How do I think they might have felt?*

Now let's turn to God's word. Read:

Matthew 5:37
Colossians 3:23
Proverbs 10:4
Luke 17:7-10

Based on these verses, how do you think God feels about how we do our work and keep commitments?

Read the following verses:

1 Corinthians 10:13
Proverbs 4:25-27
John 15:5-8
James 1:22-25

What promises are offered to help us keep commitments?

Consider again the reasons why keeping a commitment was hard for you in the past. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you, and list everything that comes to mind. Are any of them similar to what Jesus experienced? (You may want to refer to the list in the Flourish article.)

Whatever challenges we face, Jesus understands and has already overcome them! It is our responsibility to bring them to God and to allow Him to help us overcome them. Take a moment and ask God, "What needs to change in my thoughts or actions?" Spend a few minutes quietly listening. Note down anything that comes to mind.

Words of Thanksgiving

We know we will never be perfect. We can rejoice that we have a Saviour and a Heavenly Father who is always faithful even when we fail. End by praising God for His perfect faithfulness! Choose one or a few of these verses to read in thanksgiving.

Psalm 33:4

Psalm 36:5

Lamentation 3:22-23

2 Corinthians 1:20