



Why is it so hard being a Christian?

In our final lesson in this series, we want to look at the concept of "COMMITMENT." Why is it so hard being a Christian? Is it too hard? Will any of us make it?

- Some believe that they will never please the Lord
- Some have stayed at a distance believing that they could never do what Christians do
- So wonder if they will be saved

These thoughts create doubt, guilt, fear and a lack of confidence
One doesn't feel good about their faith when they believe this

What Makes Christianity Hard:

1. It involves _____ that we are (mind, body, and soul)
2. It is _____ you are. You never turn it off—ever. You never stop being this way.
3. It is the _____ of all that you are (marriage, work, citizenship, neighbor, family, friend, entertainment, social, worship, vacation)
4. We are surrounded with _____ influences
5. _____ won't give you a break
6. It takes _____ thought, reflection and right choices
7. There is so much that _____ to be done (Gal 6:9)

A. Three Men Who Wanted to Follow Jesus (Luke 9:57-62)

1. The 1st and 3rd men asked to follow
 - Jesus asked the 2nd man
2. The 1st man did not understand what was involved
3. The 2nd & 3rd men wanted to follow Jesus on their time table
 - they both said let me "First"

Three Things That Commitment Will Do

1. Changes our _____ to the proper order
 - excuses are no longer _____
 - obstacles are _____
2. Changes our _____ (2 Tim 4:7)

Why should I; Do I have to; I don't want to...no longer a part of our vocabulary

 - stay with it until the job is _____
 - hang in there even when it gets _____ (2 Tim 4:16-17)
 - stick with it when others _____ (2 Tim 4:10)
3. Changes our daily _____ (Acts 20:24)

What stunts our commitment

1. Friends pulling us the wrong _____
2. Failure to _____
3. Being _____ by other things
4. _____
5. Not learning from our _____
6. Being satisfied with _____ performance
7. Allowing guilt and bitterness to _____ us
8. Trying to _____ others
9. Having an _____ that wants to do as _____ as possible



Courageous Shining

B. The assurance you need

- 2 Tim 4:8 "and not only to me, but also to _____ who have loved His appearing"
- Matthew 25:21 "Well done, good and _____ slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master."
- Philippians 4:13 "I can _____ through Him who strengthens me."
- Revelation 7:9 "After these things I looked, and behold, a _____ multitude, which no one could _____, from every _____ and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands."
- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that _____ believes in Him should not perish, but have _____."

- God is not expecting the _____ out of you
- Stop _____ yourself to others
- Surround yourself with people who are going to _____
- Be a passionate _____ of God
- Become a _____ student of God's word
- Others just like _____ are making the journey with the Lord

The Habits that Make a Difference:

Daily Prayer (Mt 6:11)
Daily Sacrifices (Lk 9:23)
Daily Meditation (Ps 1:2)
Daily Studying (Acts 17:1)
Daily Teaching (Acts 5:42)
Daily Encouraging (Heb 3:13)

Our journey with Jesus needs to be a joy, not a burden

Five Steps of Making the Best Choices:

1. What does God _____ about it?
2. Will _____ come from this?
3. Will others be _____ closer to Christ seeing me do this?
4. Will God be _____?
5. How will this impact my _____ with the Lord?

1. God help me when I'm tired, so I won't become _____ in walking with you
2. God help me when I am angry, so I won't surrender my _____ of self in the heat of the moment
3. God help me when I'm happy, so I don't _____ the source of my blessings
4. God help me when I'm sad, so I don't _____ in self pity and lose my vision of what is important
5. God help me when I'm not sure, so I don't _____ or lose my way
6. God help me when I've done wrong, so I won't _____ in the pig pen and forget my way home

You can do what God says!