

BOOK OF ACTS WK. 3

“COMPLETE COMMITMENT”

INTRO//

What's up Faith Students?? Welcome to the best night of the week! I'm so glad each and every one of you guys is here.

REVIEW LAST WEEK// We are currently in week 3 of our new series “Beyond These Walls” where we are studying the early church in the Book of Acts

Last week we talked about suffering and Trials and our main title was “That's just part of it”. We learned that pain and suffering is just a part of our journey when we walk with the Lord but our reward in Heaven will greatly outweigh our suffering here on earth.

Last week we learned that...

1. Bondage can come in obedience
2. Opportunities can be found in obstacles
3. Praise for burdens and Pray for boldness

You see, we aren't only promised trials in this life with Jesus but we are also promised Joy, Peace, Hope, Grace, Love and much more. Our walk with the Lord is a journey and a test of Faith but it is one that is possible when we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

TENSION//

This week we are going to learn all about “Complete Commitment” and what it means to be fully devoted and committed to Jesus with all that we have.

ILLUSTRATION// Have you ever given Complete Commitment to something?

Maybe it's to Sports or to art or photography or music. But you gave COMPLETE commitment to it. Like you poured your heart and soul into it.

(Talk about something you gave complete commitment too but it didn't turn out the way you thought it would here...) Im going to talk about how growing up was very committed ti basketball and wanted to go to the NBA. But that dream was sadly snatched from me in High school when I got cut from my JV team.

You see sometimes even if we give complete commitment to something it may not always turn out how we thought or there may be things that get in the way. I could have given more effort to basketball but even if I did how far would that have really taken me?

However, I do know one thing: When we give complete commitment to Jesus and His call for our life He will be faithful in leading us where we should go it's just up to us to be obedient.

CONTEXT// Who has ever given money or possessions to people in need? Maybe even through Speed the Light well...

Towards the end of Acts 4 we learned that many believers in the early church were selling their personal possessions and giving all of the money to the poor. And because the early church was so faithful at doing so there was no needy people among them. This story is all about a couple named Ananias and Sapphira. This couple sold something of great value and claimed to give all of their profits to the apostles to give to the poor. But, what they didn't mention is that they actually kept a good amount of the money for themselves. Lets see how that works out for them...

Turn your Bibles to Acts 5:1

SCRIPTURE// Acts 5:1-11

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to

the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. **4** The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"

5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. **6** Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?"

"Yes," she replied, "that was the price."

9 And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too."

10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

1// COMPLETE COMMITMENT STARTS WITH COMPLETE HONESTY

- Im not just talking about Honesty with your friends and family, Im talking about Honesty with the Holy Spirit.
- Ananias and Sapphira were not Honest with the Holy Spirit and they were put to death because of it.
- We learn from them that the Lord wants complete honesty from us. God already knows and sees everything, so why not be completely transparent and open with him?

KEY// TRANSPARENCY LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION

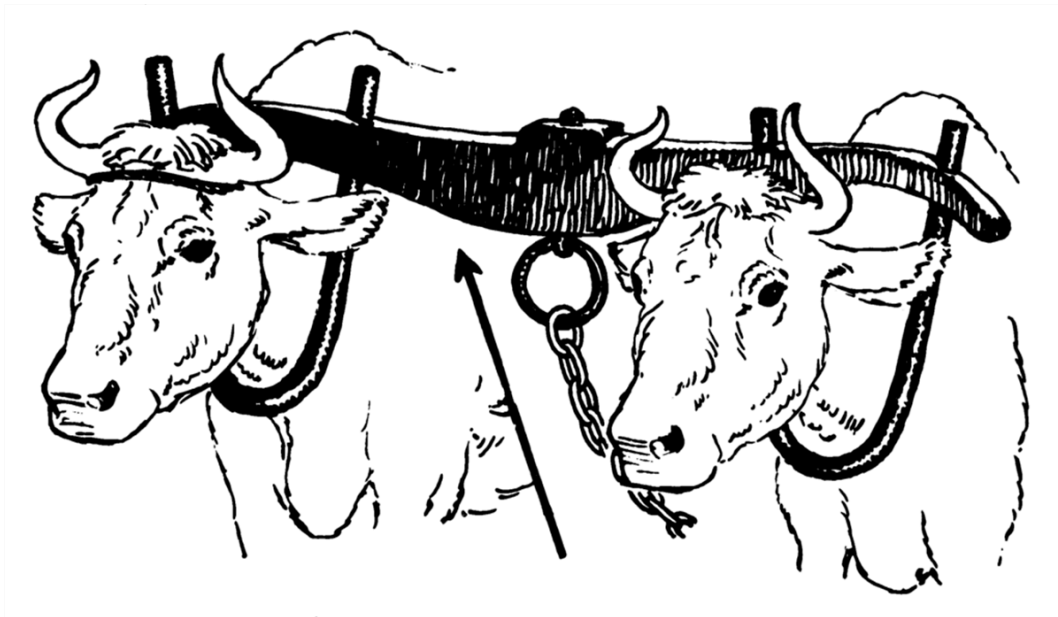
- When we are transparent with others and with the Lord it brings freedom and transformation to our lives.

Jesus says in [Matthew 11:28-30](#)

28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

CONTEXT// The Yoke of Jesus

In ancient culture, the word yoke was a term that was used to describe submission. So when someone was described as being yoked to someone or something, it was communicating the idea that he or she was in submission to that person or thing. So to be yoked to Jesus is to serve and obey Him.



-When we are submitted to Jesus and have a committed relationship with Him, He gives us rest.

-When we present our worries our fears, our doubts and even the things we have tried to keep hidden from the Lord, He simply meets us with open arms ready to give you rest for your soul.

When we are committed and Transparent with the Lord He meets us with Peace, with Love, with Grace, and with Rest. When you feel like you are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders, just give it to Jesus!

During this time in the book of Acts, the Apostles were performing many miracles and the Religious leaders were not very happy about it.... Lets continue reading in Acts 5:17-21

SCRIPTURE// Acts 5:17-21

17 The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. **18** They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19** But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, **20** “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!”

21 So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching...

2// COMPLETE COMMITMENT MEANS COMPLETE HUMILITY

- The Apostles we're always putting the needs of others above their own needs. We saw that when they chose to give what they had to the poor and we see that with their commitment to heal other people and serve

Jesus despite what the rulers and the religious leaders of the day thought about it.

- Humility also means to lay down your own wants and desires and live for God and others.

ILLUSTRATION// How many of you are in a committed relationship?? (Or so they think...)

(Talk about the importance of marriage here or a committed relationship if you're not married.)

True love and commitment starts with Humility it means putting the needs of your partner before your own. That means that I need to serve my wife. I need to always think about what she needs before I think about what I may want or need. As her husband I am called to SERVE HER. Guys, if you aren't ready to do that then you shouldn't be in a relationship and that goes the same way for you girls. Its not a one ways street here...

CHALLENGE// This week do something for your friends or family without asking.

Examples: Do the dishes, take out the trash, clean your room, make dinner. Do something to put humility into action!

3// COMPLETE COMMITMENT MEANS COMPLETE OBEDIENCE

-The apostles in the early church were completely obedient to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Because of this it made it much easier for them to hear and discern the Holy Spirits leading. Their obedience and complete surrender led to healings taking place and their obedience even led them to being let out of jail by an angel, How AMAZING!

KEY// OBEDIENCE BEGINS WITH SURRENDER

We have to be completely sold out and Surrendered to Jesus. That means that we are giving up control of what we want and we are living for whatever Jesus wants for us.

ILLUSTRATION// What does Surrender look like in a practical sense?

How many of us have seen in movies and shows that when someone has a gun or a weapon pointed at you, you surrender control by raising your hands and saying “okay buddy I don’t have anything on me and I’m surrendering to you and whatever you want.”

This is exactly what our relationship with the Lord should look like. When we worship Jesus we raise our Hands in surrender saying “not my way, but your way Lord.” I give you complete control of my life.

- What if you had that type of surrender to the Lord.... What if you were so committed and surrendered to Jesus that you simply didn't care what other people thought or said about you.
- To take it a step further... what if you were so committed and Surrendered to Gods will for your life so much so that you didn’t care where it brought you, you were going to be obedient.
- The Apostles were so committed and surrendered to Jesus that they were able to heal others but they were also so committed and surrendered to Jesus that they didn’t care what got in there way, even Jail, even death, they were going to be obedient to the Lord.

Close// How many of us can truly say that we are completely surrendered to Jesus? How many of us would say that I would love to be more committed to Jesus?

We all have room to give more to Jesus...

ALTAR// Prayer points with worship

- 1. Salvation call (explain what surrender looks like when it comes to salvation)**
- 2. Students who are struggling with humility and serving others well.**
- 3. Students who want to be more obedient to Jesus and become completely surrendered to Him in all they do and say.**