**Commitment**

**You shall be careful to perform what has passed your lips,
for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God
what you have promised with your mouth.  *(Deuteronomy 23:23)***

**Commit your works to the Lord,**

**and he will establish your thoughts.**

***(Proverbs 16:3)***

**Heart: "Hey, I know! I've got two microphones! Let's sing a duet! Listen, I've got 'Endless Love' and 'Heart Full of Love' and 'I've Got A Crush on You' or 'Summer Lovin' . . ." Little boy: "Don't you have anything less committal?" *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

**During World War II, army buddies Milburn Holt and Rolla Ward pledged that if either one died in combat, the survivor would make contact with the other man’s relatives. Ward was killed on Okinawa on June 9, 1945, but a grief-stricken Holt couldn’t bring himself to face Ward’s family. That changed this month when Holt, 82, finally visited Ward’s son and daughter in Fresno, California. In a tearful meeting, he told them how their father met his end, and how much he had loved them. “I feel like a chapter of my life has been closed out,” Holt said. *(The Week magazine, July 4-11, 2008)***

**You can be an ordinary athlete by getting away with less than your best. But if you want to be great, you have to give it all you've got -- your everything. *(Swami Sivananda)***

**There are some people whom you have in life who have the capacity for real, passionate commitment to something, and sometimes you may be passionately committed to the same thing. You have to treasure these relationships, and if at times a relationship runs into rocky shoals, you have to treat yourselves as small Eastern European countries and exchange ambassadors. You have to keep that capacity for commitment alive. *(Warren Beatty)***

**Ninety percent of bird species are monogamous. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 203)***

**“You haven't changed a bit!” an old friend exclaimed after a good, long visit. My immediate, inadvertent blurted response surprised me as much as it did him. “Oh, really?” I said. “That's very disappointing!" We both laughed. I hadn't seen the man in years. What he said had been intended as a compliment. He had wanted to affirm certain beliefs which he had observed to be intact. Then, in response to my reaction, he went on to say something I will cherish as long as I live. “The thing that hasn't changed a bit,” he said, “is your commitment to change." I really like that. The motto of my life is: “I am not what I used to be and, thank God, I'm not what I'm going to be!” (Lloyd J. Ogilvie)**

**Choosing whom to commit ourselves to is merely a case of identifying which particular variety of suffering we would most like to sacrifice ourselves for. (Alain De Botton, British philosopher)**

**How like herrings and onions our vices are in the morning after we have committed them. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)**

**One of the disconcerting facts about the spiritual life is that God takes you at your word. *(Dorothy Day, in The Long Loneliness)***

**The need for devotion to something outside ourselves is even more profound than the need for companionship. If we are not to go to pieces or wither away, we all must have some purpose in life, for no man can live for himself alone. *(Ross Parmenter)***

**There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstances permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results. *(Art Turock, in Getting Physical)***

**A disciple must be committed to the path so strongly that he is willing to do anything that is required of him in order to experience spiritual fulfillment. *(Roy Eugene Davis)***

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**Ever notice that when women hold off getting married, we call it "independence," but when men do, it's called "fear of commitment."? *(Jay Trackman, in One to One)***

**Doctor: “Your cholesterol level is border-line, Mr. Fusco.” Mr. Fusco: “I have a fear of commitment, Doctor.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Instead of bringing me a drink, this guy offered me a sip of his. Talk about fear of commitment. *(Caroline Rhea)***

**Doctor: "Your cholesterol level is borderline, Mr. Fusco." Mr. Fusco: "I have a fear of commitment, Doctor." *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

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**A new fitness center in Fort Myers, Florida, is called The Asylum. Its motto? “Get Committed.” *(Tracie D. Walker, in Reader's Digest)***

**It’s not easy to make a commitment to a fitness regimen – do you try to motivate yourself to work out at home, or do you shell out the bucks for a gym membership? If you live in Sudbury, Mass., you might want to opt for going it alone; members of the Bosse Sports and Health Club there pay up to $50,000 for an annual membership. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**One evening I found myself at a conference in Washington, D.C. And as fate would have it, inventor Bucky Fuller happened to be making a presentation that evening at another conference in the very same hotel. I got to the ballroom in time to hear the end of Bucky’s lecture. I was in awe of this little man in his eighties, with his clear mind, deep wisdom, and boundless energy. At the end of the talk, we walked together through the underground parking lot to his airport limousine. “I’ve got to go to New York City tonight for another presentation,” he said, looking at me with an anxiousness that I had rarely seen in Bucky. “You know, Annie’s not doing well. I’m very concerned about her.” We hugged. Bucky Fuller had once confided to me that he had promised his wife Annie to die before she did, so that he could be there to welcome her when it was her turn. I took the comment as a hope, not a commitment. Which shows how greatly I underestimated Buckminster Fuller. Shortly after Bucky’s presentation in New York, he was informed that Annie had lapsed into a coma in a hospital in Los Angeles. Doctors felt that there was a good chance she would not regain consciousness. Bucky took the first flight he could get. Upon arriving in Los Angeles, he went immediately to Annie’s bedside. Sitting beside her, he closed his eyes. And quietly died. *(Thomas F. Crum, in Journey to Center)***

**Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves, too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never have otherwise occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no man could have dreamt would come his way. So whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. *(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)***

**First man: “Why is it so hard for some people to commit?” Second man: “It's primal. It goes far beyond feeling trapped. It feels like you've quit living and settled into a slow, agonizing wait for your own death! Or so I've heard.” First man: “Lot to consider when picking a sandwich.” *(Darrin Bell & Theron Heir, in Rudy Park comic strip)***

**It was an axiom of the '80s that clarified the difference between “involvement” and “commitment.” It went: “Think of ham and eggs. The chicken was involved. The pig was committed.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**All life without surrender is a life without commitment. *(Jerry Rubin, in Growing Up at 37)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The quality of a man's life is in direct proportions to his commitment to excellence, regardless of his chosen field of endeavor. *(Vince Lombardi)***

**Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. *(Vince Lombardi)***

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**The important commitment of love is with your own Son of God self. *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, Unity minister)***

**In Margaret Walker’s novel Jubilee, Vyry, the mother, speaks of her commitment to love. “Keeping hatred inside makes you get mean and evil inside. We are suppose to love everybody like God loves us. And when you forgive you feel sorry for the one that hurt you, you returns love for hate, and good for evil. And that stretches your heart and makes you bigger inside with a bigger heart so you can love everybody. You can lick the world with a loving heart.” *(Pulpit Digest)***

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**A winner makes commitments; a loser makes promises. *(Fanuel Tjingaete, in Black Enterprise, South Africa)***

**Never doubt the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. That’s about the only way it has ever happened in the past. *(Margaret Mead, anthropologist) 521988***

**Commitment means that it is possible for a man to yield the nerve center of his consent to a purpose or cause, a movement or an ideal, which may be more important to him than whether he lives or dies. *(Howard Thurman, in Disciplines of the Spirit)***

**Dictionary editors report one of the most frequently misspelled words in English is “commitment.” *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 66)***

**Titi Monkeys Commitment doesn’t scare them. Unlike most of their fellow primates, nearly 99% of these South American natives establish lifelong bonds with a partner. In a show of their unyielding affection, the tiny monkeys may sleep together on a tree branch with their long tails intertwined. *(Carolyn Sayre, in Time magazine)***

**A new fitness center in Fort Myers, Florida, is called The Asylum. It's motto? "Get Committed." *(Tracie D. Walker, in Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Where there is no commitment there is no ownership. Where there is no ownership there is no success. *(Athena Bond)***

**Dolly says to Mom: “No matter if Jeffy is in or out, he always wants to be the other.” *(Jeff & Bill Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**There can be no true knowledge of ultimate things, that is to say, of God and man, of duty and destiny, that is not born in a concern and perfected in a commitment. *(John Mackay, in A Preface to Christian Theology)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Following one of Paderewski's performances, a fan said to him, “I'd give my life to play like that.” The brilliant pianist replied, “I did.” *(Sybil Stanton, in Reader's Digest)***

**Child: “I took my mouth organ to school today, Grampa, and Mrs. Chan says I hafta learn how to read music. She said it wasn't good to play by ear.” Grandpa: “Well, you're not playing by ear. You're playing by mouth!” Mom: “Maybe the teacher's right, Dad. April should learn how to read the notes.” Grandpa: “That will come! Playing an instrument is like falling in love. It's only when you're committed to the relationship that you're willing to accept the work!” *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better Or For Worse comic strip)***

**Place before your mind a great and definite purpose, a plan or course you wish your life to take. The purpose or ideal is but the heart’s desire of the sleeping prince or princess that lies within you, waiting for its dream to become a reality so it can begin to awaken. You do not need new circumstances or enhanced powers. These will come when your heart’s desire becomes the most important thing in your life. Nothing can bring so much pleasure and peace as the daily progress that occurs when the sleeping giant within begins to awaken. *(Jack Bolen, in Commitment to a Higher Self)***

**Commitment is an act, not a word. *(Jean-Paul Sartre)***

**Commit yourself to a dream. Nobody who tries to do something great but fails is a total failure. Why? Because he can always rest assured that he succeeded in life's most important battle -- he defeated the fear of trying. *(Robert H. Schuller)***

**Average woman who shops in department stores returns 13 percent of what she buys therein, according to market researchers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Simply believing in the existence of God is not exactly what I would call commitment. After all, even the devil believes that God exists! Believing has to change the way we live. *(Mother Angelica)***

**Grandma: “Earl, if one sock wears out, you either mend it or you throw them both out. Socks are meant to stay together, for better or for worse. You don’t match up the one good sock with some other strange sock. It’s just wrong!” Grandpa: “I had no idea you felt so strongly about infidelity among socks.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**You cannot be totally committed sometimes. *(A Course In Miracles)***

**Kim Linehan holds the world record in the women's 1500-meter freestyle. According to her coach, Paul Bergen, the 18-year-old is the leading amateur woman distance swimmer in the world. Kim does endless exercise and swims seven to twelve miles a day. The hardest part of her regimen? “Getting in the water,” she says. *(Texas Monthly)***

**A New York City realty company is offering employees a 15 percent raise if they tattoo the firm's logo on their bodies. At least 40 employees have taken Rapid Realty's offer by getting the double R tattoo on various body parts, including ankles, arms and necks. CEO Anthony Lolli says the tattoos show employees' "commitment," adding, "Talk about marketing -- they're walking billboards!" *(The Week magazine, May 10, 2013)***

**A chicken and a pig were talking by a church where a charity Thanksgiving celebration was taking place. Caught up in the spirit, the pig suggested to the chicken that they each make a contribution. “Great idea,” the chicken said. “Let’s offer them ham and eggs!” “Wait a minute,” replied the pig. “For you, that’s a contribution. For me, it’s total commitment.” *(Katalin Havasi, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**As manager of the New York Yankees, Joe Torre has led the team to four World Series championships. In his quest to succeed, Torre makes use of several strategies, including a positive approach to work. “Whenever I start a new job, I hang pictures,” Torre says, referring to a conversation he once had with Ken Boyer, then manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. Boyer was visiting Torre in his clubhouse office in the 1970s, soon after Torre had signed on as manager of the New York Mets. Looking around, Boyer couldn't help noticing all the personal pictures Torre had hung on the walls. “Wow,” Boyer exclaimed. “You expect to be here for a while?” Says Torre, “When I start working somewhere, I just assume I'm going to be there forever. It's the only way I can do my job.” There's no guarantee his managerial jobs will last, says Torre, or that trust in his employers will always be justified. “I'm not naive. But I believe that when you put out trust and commitment, you're more likely to get trust and commitment in return.” *(Joe Torre with Henry Dreher, in Joe Torre's Ground Rules for  Winners)***

**Did any of us really know what a total commitment becoming a mom really means before we took the leap? We make commitments all of our lives – it may be to a job, a spouse, or a pet. But this is different. This one never goes away. *(Janet Van deWalle, in Women’s Edition magazine)***

**Dedication and Covenant: We, Charles Fillmore and Myrtle Fillmore, husband and wife, hereby dedicate ourselves, our time, our money, all we have and all we expect to have, to the Spirit of Truth, and through it, to the Society of Silent Unity. It being understood and agreed that the said Spirit of Truth shall render unto us an equivalent for this dedication, in peace of mind, health of body, wisdom, understanding, love, life and an abundant supply of all things necessary to meet every want without our making any of these things the object of our existence. In the presence of the conscious mind of Christ Jesus, this 7th day of December, 1892. (Charles and Myrtle Fillmore’s Original God Partnership Agreement)**

**I am seeking, I am striving, I am in it with all my heart. *(Vincent van Gogh)***

**Commitment does not stop with contemplation. It seeks issue in work. For the God discovered thus is a God at work, reconciling the world to Himself. *(Robert L. Calhoun, in God and the Common Life)***

**Writing is like getting married. One should never commit oneself until one is amazed at one’s luck. *(Iris Murdoch)***

**You can tell where your commitment is by the results! *(Joe & Judy Sabah)***

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