

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR? Building My Character Through Commitment

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Part 4 of 5

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

CHARACTER IS BUILT THROUGH FOUR LIFE COMMITMENTS

- Commitment to a church (Finding the Right Church)
- Commitment to good habits to grow by (Being Effective)
- Commitment to a purpose to live for (Why Am I Here?)
- Commitment to fulfilling my life mission (Finding Fulfillment)

SEVEN LIFE PRINCIPLES **Matthew 25:14-30** (Parable of the Talents)

1. **OWNERSHIP: Everything I have belongs to God.**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them." (v. 14)

2. **ALLOCATION: God has given me some talents.**

"To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability." (v. 15)

Everybody gets something but no one gets the same thing and the amounts are different. The point is that there are no non-talent people.

"We each have been given different gifts, according to the grace given to us." Romans 12:6

3. **ACCOUNTABILITY: God expects me to use my talents.**

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts." (v. 19)

One day God is going to do an audit, on your life.

THE QUESTION: What did you do with what you were given?

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4. UTILIZATION: It is wrong for me to bury what God gave me.

- 1st Man (v. 16) *“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*
- 2nd man (v. 17) *“And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.”*
- 3rd man (v. 18) *“But he who had received one went and dug in the ground and hid his Lord’s money.”*

THE MASTER’S REACTION: *“His master replied, You wicked, lazy servant”* (v. 26)

I cannot please God by playing it safe in life. He wants me to take risks because that requires faith.

Doing nothing with my talent is inexcusable.

“Whatever is not of faith is sin.”

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6

God would rather have me to serve Him and fail than to do nothing.

I would rather attempt to do something great and fail than to do nothing and succeed.

5. MOTIVATION: Fear keeps me from using my talents.

“I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.” (v. 25)

SATAN’S GREATEST TACTICS:

- “I could never do that ...”
- “I’m not qualified ...”
- I have this fear of failure ...”

Never let the fear of striking out keep you from taking a swing.

(v. 24) *“The man who had received the one talent came and said, “Master, I knew you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven’t sown and gathering where you haven’t scattered. I was afraid.”*

This guy is trying to make an excuse for not doing anything with his life by blaming the Master.

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6. APPLICATION: If I don't use it, I'll lose it.

"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents." (v. 28)

The talented get more talented.

The point is that God has the right to take away anything that I don't use for Him.

The converse is true also – that if I use it, I get more.

7. COMPENSATION: If I use my talent wisely, I will be rewarded.

"His master replied, Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness." (v. 23)

LOOK AT THE REWARDS YOU HAVE:

1. AFFIRMATION: *"Well done good and faithful servant ..."*

I want to live my life for an audience of one.

2. PROMOTION: *"You've been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."*

3. CELEBRATION: *"Come and share your Master's happiness!"*

It's party time in Heaven – Celebrate!

The fact is that the happiest people in the world are those who are giving their lives for the purpose that God made them.

God made you for a ministry. God has a ministry for you that is based on who you are.

WHAT'S MY LEVEL OF COMMITMENT?

George Gallup poll – 1982:

19 million out of 250 million Americans are spiritually committed

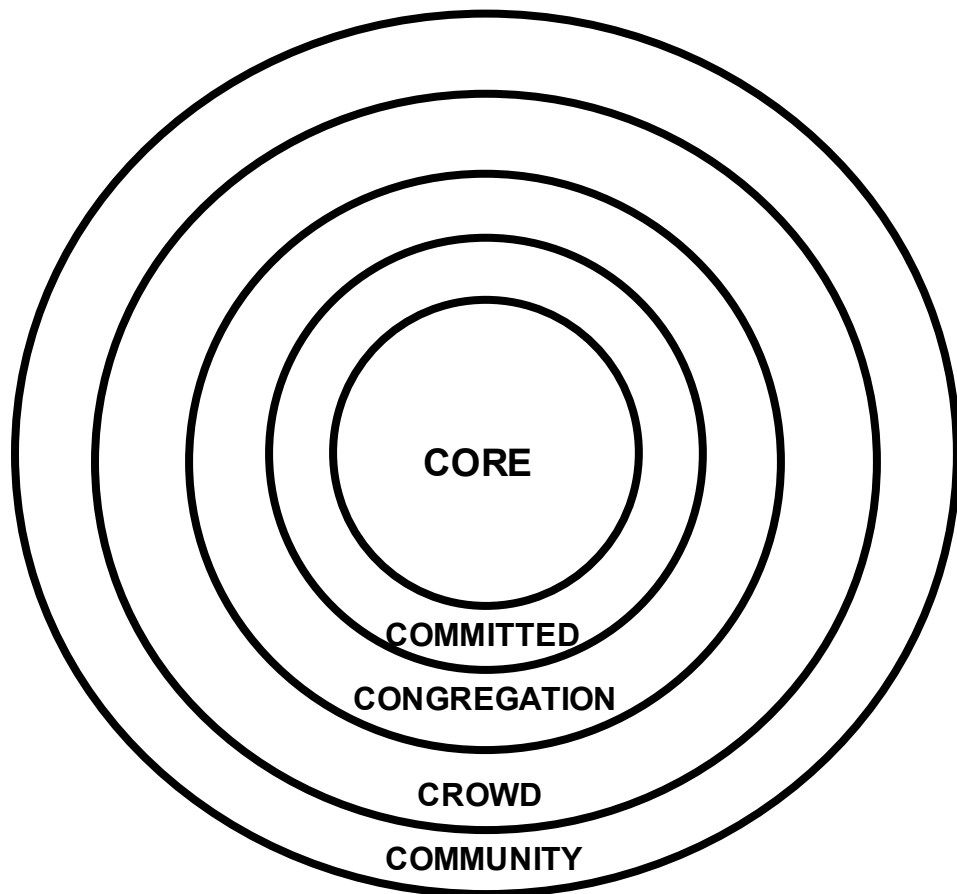
RESULTS OF THE SPIRITUALLY COMMITTED LIFESTYLE:

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1. They are far more happy and much more satisfied with their lot in life.
2. Their divorce rate is far lower and their families are far stronger than the population in general.
3. They tend to be more tolerant of persons of different races and religions than persons who are less spiritually committed.
4. They are far more involved in service activities and put a high priority on improving society.

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT:



The goal of W.C.C. is to help you grow in commitment.

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Where are you in these circles of commitment and what's the next level of commitment you need to make?

What's the next step God wants you to take?