



SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 4: “ALL IN”

COMMITMENT: A willingness to give your time and energy to something that you believe in, or a promise or firm decision to undertake and complete a task. It is being “all in”, giving 100% effort, being sold out and counting the cost. With commitment, there are no cutting corners or taking the easy route. It is a pledge to do what you say you’ll do or, on the other hand, not doing what you say you won’t do! However we look at it, commitment is an admirable character quality because it allows others to trust your word. It is your bond – you’re unchanging and unwavering dedication to follow through on a task in spite of any odds or obstacles stacked against you.

Oh how desperately we need commitment today in our world of compromise, false promises, broken contracts and half-hearted endeavors that continue only until the going gets tough. The Bible speaks very clearly on this issue, especially as it pertains to our verbal commitment. Believers in Christ are not only to know THE Word, they are to keep THEIR word! Nothing is more discouraging than a hypocritical Christian who fails to keep their promise. “I’ll be there”, they say, but never show up. “Trust me. Your secret is safe with me,” but gossip abounds. “Lean on me because I know you’re hurting,” but your absence is damaging. “I’m your friend,” but you refuse to offer grace and forgiveness. Time and time again, our words fail to match our walk, and we are deemed untrustworthy at best, deceitful at worst.



James, the brother of Jesus, wrote in his broad letter to Christians, that we are to “let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes’, and your ‘no’ mean ‘no’, so that you won’t fall under judgement” (James 5:12). In fact, Jesus Himself stated the same in Matthew 5:37, explaining that anything beyond telling the truth “comes from the evil one”. Judgement...evil one. Clearly, Jesus and His brother take commitment and follow through very seriously! And so should we as Christ’s representatives to a world too often lacking in authenticity and integrity.



HCYA HURRICANES CAPTAINS 2020/21

Amy Starnes, Sarah Grace Wisener, Isabela Villagranda, Payton Vanhorn, Emery Scott, Aiden Yost, Alan Villagranda, Wesley Starnes, William Provasi de Lemos, Sydney Lewis, Kesed Criswell, Rebecca Slaten, Hudson Najjar

Convenience should never replace commitment. If we say we’ll do it, but we no longer *feel* like doing it, do it anyway! Let’s face it, if we relied on our *feelings*, we may never get out of bed in a morning!

The remedy? Be a person whose word does not fluctuate when circumstances provide an “out”. Follow through. Don’t quit. Demonstrate the same kind of commitment shown by Jesus when He knew of His impending death. Though He could’ve called down a legion of angels to save Him from the cross, His love for mankind wouldn’t allow it. With His body writhing in agony and as those standing by mocked and ridiculed Him for six torturous hours, Jesus had you and me on His mind. His hands were shredded, but His heart remained committed to what He came to do: die in our place – the ultimate sacrifice for sin – the greatest gift ever!

100%

And so today, if you *feel* like giving in or giving up, remember the cross. Refuse to focus on what is convenient and instead, determine to reflect the power living in and through you. And if all else fails, simply repeat over and over again the famous sporting brand’s tag line: “Just Do It!”

See you on Tuesday!

Jim Spence

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“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)