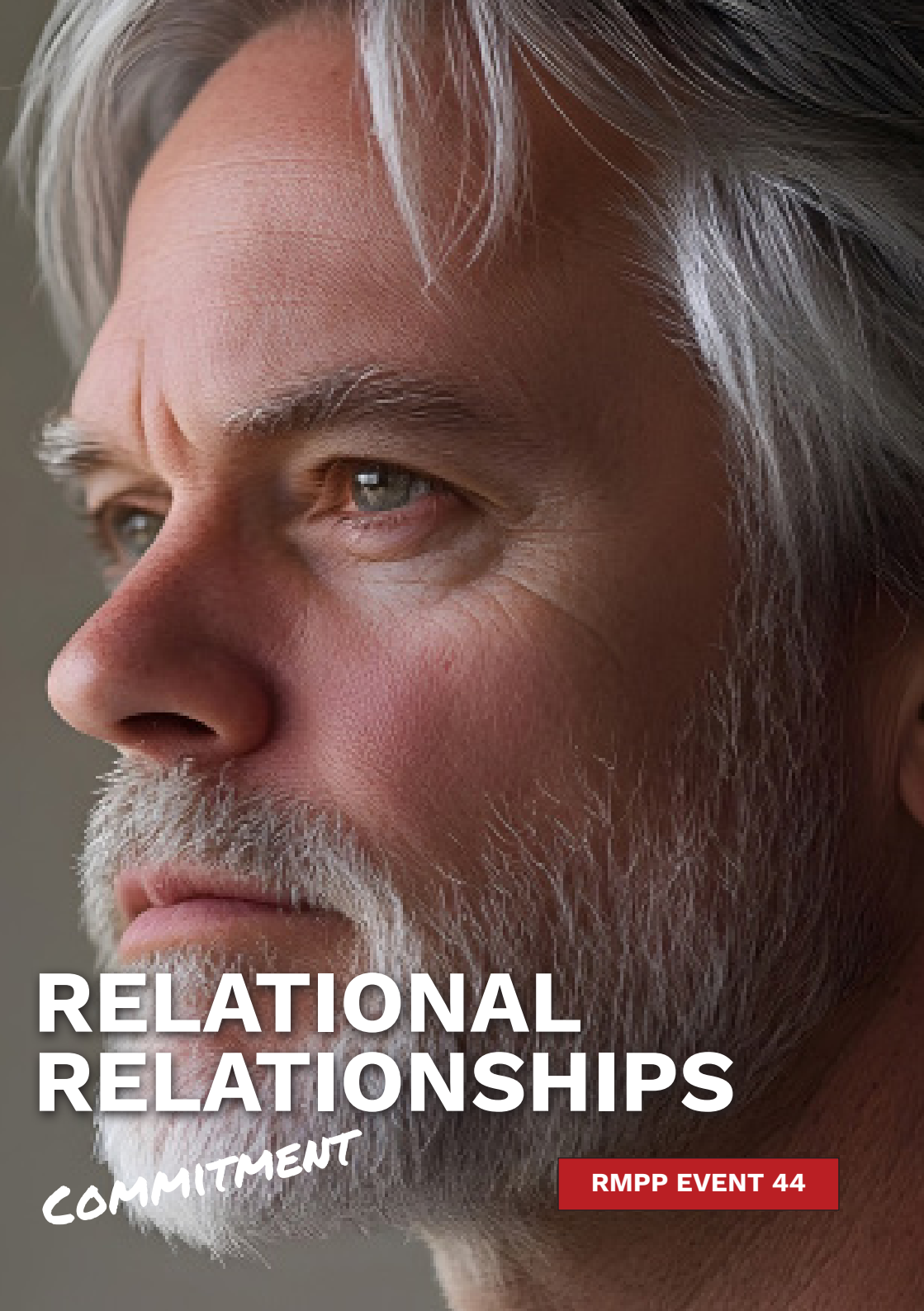
RELATIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS
COMMITMENT
RMPP EVENT 44

SCHEDULE

Welcome and Zoom Etiquette

Opening Prayer

Speaker Introduction

Message: *Relational Relationships; Commitment*

Q&A and Discussion

Breakout Rooms

Closing Prayer

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RELATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: COMMITMENT

SYNOPSIS

We were all created for relationships, both with God and with others. However, healthy relationships don't just happen; they require something fundamental: commitment. Yet, many relationships today lack commitment. What can you learn about relational commitment and, in turn, live and teach others to do the same?

| *Event Messages and Devotional Booklets*

You can find RMPP messages and devotional booklets from events past and present on our website at: https://themstproject.com/events

| *Scripture Reflection*

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. *- 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 (NIV)*

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. *- 1 Samuel 18:3 (NIV)*

EVENT 44

| *Personal Reflection*

1. In what ways can you show greater commitment in your relationships?
2. Do you see your relationships as covenant?

| *Personal Application*

1. In what ways can you express greater commitment in your relationships?
2. How can you better steward the covenant relationships God has entrusted to you?

| *Recommended Reading*

The Power of Commitment: *Jerry White*

NOTES

A WORD FROM...

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Commitment is a word many of us are familiar with, especially within the context of relationships. Relationships such as marriage, friendships, or the workplace - all of these relationships, and perhaps other examples as well, thrive when commitment is expressed and given. But why do we see commitments broken around us - marriages separate and end up in divorce, friendships fray and fall apart, and in today's workplace environment, rarely do you see a long-term commitment given to one job. Truth be told, we may enjoy the idea of relational committment, but all too often, we may look for easy routes to walk away from those relational commitments that are hard, inconvenient, and perhaps even a little uncomfortable.

So what to do...?

We must understand that God-honoring commitments that contribute to life-giving relationships require sacrifice - for relationships to thrive and committment(s) to stand the test

of time, sacrifice is needed. Is it a sacrifice of my pride? Is it a sacrifice of your selfishness? Or, a sacrifice of both of our propensities for stubbornness? Commitments won't last long when they repeatedly hit the wall of sinful motives and desires. When humility reigns, pride withers away. When compromise is an option, selfishness fades away. And when love takes over, stubbornness has no place to stand. At that moment, we may see that our relationships are rooted in more than just a commitment; they are rooted in a covenant.

A covenant is more than a commitment but a more profound promise not to walk away, withdraw, or abandon. The same covenant God has with us. And because of this truth, we follow God's example. People make commitments daily, and often, those commitments are walked away from and abandoned - sometimes after weeks, months, or even years. If you are married, your marriage is a covenant. If you have a brotherhood with other men, it is a covenant with one another.

As described by someone I know, a covenant is an agreement, and a commitment is an act of keeping the covenant. As men of God, remain committed to the covenant of relationships that God has entrusted to you, whatever kind of relationships those may be.

Christian Lenty

COMMITMENT IS HARD

DEVOTIONAL 1

What can we learn from God's Word to help us stay committed in relationships even when it's hard?

Commitment, as defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, is a promise to do something or behave in a particular way. It extends beyond relationships with people, encompassing our dedication to work and, most importantly, to God. When we are entrusted with a responsibility, it becomes our duty to fulfill it with integrity and as expected. Commitment is a choice. We can choose to embrace it for a short time or a lifetime, but the depth of our commitment depends on our decisions. True commitment demands wholehearted energy, time, and effort. As the Cambridge Dictionary emphasizes, it requires a willingness to devote ourselves to something meaningful. Moreover, the Bible is filled with God's unwavering promises to remain faithful to us, regardless of the circumstances, setting a profound example of true commitment.

Commitment is truly tested when challenges arise. It is easy to remain committed when everything runs smoothly, but when obstacles emerge, staying devoted becomes difficult. Whether single, married, or divorced, our relationships—with others and with God—demand unwavering commitment. The journey of commitment is often marked by trials, sacrifices, and moments of doubt. However, it is through God's guidance and strength that we can remain steadfast, even in the face of adversity.

The story of Ruth is a profound example of unwavering commitment. Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi, is a powerful testimony to loyalty and love. Her decision to remain with Naomi was not driven by personal gain or convenience but by selfless love and steadfast faith. True commitment, as Ruth demonstrated, often calls us to set aside our own preferences, endure hardships, and place our trust in God's plan.

Commitment demands trust, sacrifice, and consistent effort, often making it a challenging journey. Amongst its many challenges, discontentment is a significant one. When our expectations in relationships go unmet, we become dissatisfied. However, true contentment is not found in perfect circumstances but in Christ alone. As Philippians 4:11-13 (NKJV) reminds us: "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how

to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This passage teaches us that we can remain content in all situations through His strength.

When relationships—whether with others or with God—become difficult, we may feel like giving up. Yet Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) encourages us: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Trust is the foundation of commitment, and when trust is broken, it becomes easier to abandon our commitments. However, Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) urges us to hold fast to our hope: "For He who promised is faithful." Through trust in God's faithfulness, we find the strength to persevere.

The Bible constantly reminds us of God's unwavering commitment to us. In response, it is essential for us: to meditate on His promises daily to strengthen our resolve, pray for emotional and spiritual strength to remain steadfast, and surround ourselves with people who inspire and encourage our commitment.

As imperfect beings, we all face the challenges of commitment in various aspects of our lives. I have personally experienced this

in my marital journey. There were times when our differences felt insurmountable, and walking away seemed easier than working through the struggles. However, God reminded me of His unwavering commitment to us—His covenant love that never fails.

When I turned to Him, He gave me the grace to persevere, and our relationship grew stronger through the trials. Commitment is hard because it demands perseverance and selflessness, but it is through these challenges that love, faith, and character are refined. I have witnessed this growth not only in my relationship with my spouse but also in my walk with God.

Samuel lives in India and volunteers with MST as the MST India co-National Leader.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. In what areas of your life are you struggling to stay committed, and how can you surrender them to God?
2. How does remembering God's faithfulness help you remain steadfast in hard times?
3. Who in your life can encourage you to stay committed to your relationships and your faith?

| *Read*

Psalm 37:5

| *Reflect on This*

"The greater your mission, the greater your opposition." - *Rick Warren*

COMMITMENT IS A CHOICE

DEVOTIONAL 2

What can we learn from God's Word to help us choose commitment, time and time again?

Deuteronomy 7:9: "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving-kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

Commitment is a fundamental aspect of our lives that shapes our relationships, work, and faith. Commitment is often viewed as a heavy word that can feel daunting in our fast-paced, ever-changing world. But there is a transformative power within commitment. It is exemplified by God's unwavering faithfulness to His promises. When we step back and reflect upon God's nature, we find His word is filled with stories of His relentless dedication to His people. In 2 Timothy 2:13, we are reminded, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." This

scripture beautifully illustrates that God is the epitome of commitment. No matter how far we wander or how many mistakes we make, God's love never wavers. He remains steadfast, ready to embrace us when we return.

Imagine for a moment the power of such unwavering love and commitment in our lives. Think of your relationships, be it with family, or friends. Are we reflecting God's promise? Are we showing up for each other, even when times get tough? In the same way that God does not abandon us, we are called to embody that same spirit of dedication in our relationships and our commitment to the work that has been set before us. This means being present through the joys and the sorrows, the triumphs and the trials. It means choosing to stay committed and accountable to our word through our actions even when it's hard, just as God remains unconditionally committed to our life and our purpose.

In our work, commitment is equally essential. Colossians 3:23 reminds us, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather not for men." This verse calls us to a higher standard of commitment in our endeavors. Whether you're at home, in a job, or volunteering in the community, the way we approach our work reflects our character and our faith. When we commit ourselves fully to our tasks, we not

only honor God but also inspire those around us. At times I allow mitigating circumstances to deteriorate my word and actions by not honoring my commitment. Unfortunately, I find excuses for not following through with accountability for my commitments. Whether it be in a friendship or a working relationship I have failed various times to honor my commitment. Fortunately, I am convicted of my lack and diligence in my commitments. It is then I go to the Lord and ask for forgiveness, strength, and the resolve to press forward. My commitments must be honored because our dedication can create a ripple effect, encouraging others to strive for excellence and integrity in their own lives. And then, we have our faith, perhaps the most significant area where commitment shines.

Life can be a rollercoaster of ups and downs, and it is during those challenging moments that our faith is truly tested. When struggles come, it may be tempting to waver, to question God's presence, or to retreat from our spiritual practices. Yet, it is precisely in those moments that we must remember God's presence, and not retreat from our spiritual disciplines. In those moments we must remember God's faithfulness. He invites us to remain committed to Him, even when we can't see the road ahead. In Philippians 1:6, Paul assures us, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus

Christ." This is a profound reminder that our journey of faith is not a solo endeavor. God is with us every step of the way, committed to refining us, shaping us, and guiding us toward His purpose. Our faithfulness in return is a commitment to trust in His timing, to lean on His understanding, and to remain steadfast in our devotion to Him. Now, you may be wondering, how do we cultivate this spirit of commitment in our lives? First, it starts with prayer. Regularly bringing our concerns, our relationships, and our work before God helps us align our hearts with His. And finally, we should surround ourselves with a community that encourages commitment. Find those individuals who will hold you accountable, and who will challenge you to remain steadfast in your relationships and faith. Together, we can support one another in our journey, sharing both our struggles and our victories.

Rich is a researcher, investigator, and freelance writer based in Southeast Asia. He supports missionaries in spreading the message of Jesus Christ and works towards ending child trafficking and sexual exploitation. Rich is well-educated in Biblical Studies, Historical Studies, and Political Science, which equips him to comprehend the intricacies of cross-cultural missions and anti-trafficking efforts. He applies his research and investigative skills to offer effective solutions to complex issues.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Do you let circumstances and tough times prevent you from following through with commitments you have made?
2. Do you tend to abandon your commitment to God's plan for your life when you encounter an easier path?
3. Are you establishing daily disciplines in your life to enhance your accountability and commitment to your purpose and God's plan for you?

| *Read*

Proverbs 16: 3-7

| *Reflect on This*

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."
– *Corrie Ten Boom*

COMMITMENT IS EVERY DAY

DEVOTIONAL 3

What can we learn from God's Word to help us see commitment as a daily choice, not just a one-time decision?

Commitment is a word I associate with major life decisions such as marriage, parenting, friendships and my faith. However, my commitment is something that doesn't always come easy. It comes at a price. I often say, relationships are expensive. In my experience, this is the case. The reason being is that it is a true investment. Commitment to relationships takes energy, focus, intentionality, and purpose. If you look hard enough, I am sure you can relate in some way. Our sin filled desires are all about what we want or what we need. But this is not what God teaches us.

As I reflect on my sinful desires to serve myself, I was reading Luke 9:23, where Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." The key word here is daily. This is a reminder that in

order to have a true relationship in any shape or fashion we must have commitment. Commitment to say no to our inward selfish desires. It's a daily surrender, a continual choice to align with God's will.

There are seasons in my life when this truth became especially clear to me. Most recently I had just started a new job, one that I believe is a direct answer to prayer. I was excited and confident in my decision. But as the weeks went by, challenges piled up. The work was demanding, and I found myself questioning if I had made the right choice. I realized that my other commitments to my wife, kids, close friends and most importantly my relationship with Jesus were being hindered because my focus was shifting to my job. Now, I don't believe this is inherently wrong to focus on your job but there needed to be a balance. I needed to recommit daily to trusting God's plan, and to the purpose he had placed before me.

This experience echoes the spiritual walk as none of us are perfect. I truly felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to choose Christ first and the tasks he set before me prior to starting my new job. As men, I believe this is an easy pitfall and without DAILY renewal our commitments can waver. We want to provide and add value and lead, but we are easily distracted by money, power and fame. I needed to make the choice to recommit.

Here are a few lessons I've learned about making commitment a daily choice:

1. Start with Scripture: Begin each day by grounding yourself in God's Word. Lamentations 3:22-23 is a wonderful reminder that, "His mercies are new every morning." This truth can refresh our perspective and fuel our commitment.

2. Pray for Strength: Acknowledge that we can't sustain our commitments on our own. Philippians 4:13 assures us, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." Leaning on God's strength daily makes all the difference.

3. Embrace the Challenge: Commitment doesn't have to be some great act of service or show. The commitment is often built through the small, consistent choices. For example, choosing kindness, showing up for kids' activities or offering a friend a dedicated time to discuss successes or failures.

I have found that each day I chose to recommit to Jesus, I grew stronger in ALL my other relationships. My perspective shifted, and I leaned in to see the challenges as opportunities for growth. God's faithfulness and love showed me how to honor those commitments in my life. I encourage anyone reading this to take heart and know that we, as men, are not meant to carry all the commitments in life alone. There is a God willing

and able who will guide you through all of the challenges set before you. Each day is a new chance to say "yes" to God and His plans for you.

Joel is a husband and father of 3. He has lived in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area for the past 13 years.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What relationships have been struggling with your lack of commitment?
2. What steps can you take each day to better improve the relationships most important in your life?
3. What relationship in your life do you want to improve the most?

| *Read*

Deuteronomy 7:8

| *Reflect on This*

"Your commitment to obeying and fulfilling the will of God sets you apart. The will of the Lord made David a king. Always go for the will of God." - *Wale Olasoji*

COMMITMENT IS LOVING

DEVOTIONAL 4

What can we learn from God's Word to help us see committment as a loving act, thereby strengthening our relationships?

Commitment is key to relationships of any kind; whether in friendships, marriage, family, or your relationship with God. If one or both of the participants are not committed, the relationship will not last. Commitment is about dedication, seeing it through to the end, and pledging yourself to something. A lack of commitment is why so many people get burned by relationships. They find that the other person is not committed to the relationship and it falls apart. It makes it difficult to trust. But a true relationship is committed, a true relationship is loving, and commitment is loving. As it says in Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times…" A real friend is committed over the long term; not just for a short time or during certain situations. Commitment is so important in this and it is loving.

In order to further explore the link between commitment and

love, let's look at how the Bible describes love. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Paul says this about love: "4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails." We can look at this passage and see that many of the traits of love involve commitment. Patient and persevering, love is committed. It always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Love is steadfastness and abiding. It is there for the long haul. Love is committed and being committed in a relationship shows love.

Now let's talk about how commitment demonstrates love to God or to a person in a relationship. Committing helps to define the relationship. When we commit, we are setting expectations for the other person. It is loving to give them this security. If we put ourselves on the receiving end, I think we would agree that we want this in a relationship as well. We want to know that a person is in it for the long term and we feel loved when we see that they are. In our relationship with God, we can rest assured that He is committed to us. So, the only question is, "Will we commit to God?" It is written in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." God has loved us and been committed to us

since before we took our first breath. From this example, we can also display love through commitment to others.

We see examples of commitment in relationships throughout the Bible. We see the example of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to leave her after her sons (who were their husbands) died. One daughter-in-law, Orpah, leaves, but Ruth says "no." Ruth makes a firm commitment to their relationship and stays with Naomi. Ruth says, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. (Ruth 1:16)" We see a committed friendship between David and Jonathan. Despite Jonathan's father, King Saul, wanting to kill David, Jonathan honors his friendship with David and stays committed to David by warning him and helping him to escape danger. In the end, David stays committed to their friendship as well, even after Jonathan's death, by helping Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, as he had promised to do (2 Samuel 9).

We see Jesus stay committed to his relationship with Peter when he forgives him in John 21, even after Peter denied him three times. In all of these situations, commitment to a relationship is on display as a loving act. Furthermore, I propose that none of these commitments would be possible without love. It takes love to live out a committed relationship. As it says in 1 Corinthians 13, all other things will fall away, but love remains. The only thing that can truly sustain commitment through

anything is love and because of this the act of being committed is a loving act. Commitment demonstrates our love.

Nicholas is a husband and father of two boys. He is passionate about seeing men walk in God-given freedom and purpose. Originally from Maryland, U.S.A.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. How has past disappointments from people who were not committed to a relationship with you shaped your current outlook on relationships?
2. What are some committed relationships that you are a part of in your life right now?
3. What are some ways that you can commit or recommit to relationships in your life as a way to show love?

| *Read*

1 Corinthians 13:13

| *Reflect on This*

"I think a lot of people just want to "date" God. They want enough of a relationship with Him to make sure they're going to Heaven, but they don't want to make the long-term commitment. As a result, they miss out on so any of the great perks that come along with it…they give up the great life God wants them to have! …and they're also not impacting the world around them." – *Joyce Meyer*

COMMITMENT IS NECESSARY

DEVOTIONAL 5

What can we learn from God's Word to help us understand the necessity of being committed in our relationships?

Commitment is necessary! The word commitment itself is a strong word which we use often. Made between two parties, it is an agreement to do good and not to do bad towards the other person. For example, we see this commitment in marriages. It is at work in every person's life, including his/her relationship with God. As humans, we often fail to fulfill our commitments, in our work as well as our personal life. Only God is able to always keep his commitments. And the reason we fail to keep our commitments is because of sin. Sin has been ruling our lives ever since Adam broke his relationship with God. What does the Bible tell us about commitment? Psalm 37:5 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. (ESV)" and Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established. (NKJV)"

One of my young American friends came to Nepal as a

missionary in 2009 when he was only 24. He left his beautiful country with its excellent facilities, and where his parents and friends were, to start a children's home in Nepal. He is spending his life taking care of children and doing his ministry up until now. He committed to doing ministry in Nepal and raising godly children for future generations. According to Philippians 2: 8, this is what Jesus did: he committed himself until his very last breath. He obeyed until his last day, therefore God exalted him, raised him up and gave him the name that is above all names. He didn't speak by himself and he didn't even work by himself but he listened and committed to the father. And according to the will of father, he did everything. It shows that he was perfect in following through on his commitment.

I attended a Christian wedding ceremony once. There was a deep love between the couple so it was a love match and not the traditional arranged marriage. The bride and groom were in a relationship for about 10 years. We rejoiced and celebrated with them on their special day. One year later, they had a boy. Sadly however, her husband became paralyzed later and couldn't work for the family. After that, his wife stopped showing love to her husband. She always had a sad face instead of a happy one. She stopped using verbal words of encouragement with her husband. Later, she married another boy. From what I understand, she totally forgot her

commitment to her first husband. She committed before God, the pastors and the church to which I was a witness, a memory I will have until my death. But she broke her commitment after her husband got sick.

How do I keep my commitment in marriage?

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)" It requires sacrifice; Christ called us friends and sacrificed to bring us into the family of God. Love is a key requirement in our commitment; the more we love someone, the more committed we should be to them. Jesus says if anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - even their very own life - such a person cannot be his disciple. Therefore, we have to make sacrifices in our lives to keep commitment in our lives.

How do we keep expressing our love and commitment to our family?

There are a lot of ways to show love to them: 1 doing devotions with them, 2 praying for one another, 3 eating and sharing food together, 4 playing games and spending time together, 5 apologize for our mistake and even try to fix it together, 6 reading the Bible and encouraging one another, and the list goes on.

How do I keep commitment in my work?

The Bible says, "Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Ephesians 6:7-8 ESV" This encourages us to take responsibility seriously and consider work as serving God by doing our best, being diligent, and working honestly. Reflect on your work or job right and check whether or not you are doing this. Remember that this is a commandment made by God and not by man. Any man, organization, company or institute are only mediators. Therefore, we should be serious in fulfilling our duties as unto God and not unto men.

Commitment is hard but necessary, but with Jesus all things are possible including being committed.

Kumar lives in Nepal and volunteers with MST as the MST Nepal National Leader and MST South Asia Director.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. How can you show greater commitment in your marriage?
2. How can you show greater commitment in your family?
3. How can you show greater commitment at work?

| *Read*

1 Kings 8:61

| *Reflect on This*

"So be steadfast in your commitment to Christ, and be a real VIP-a person with vision, integrity, and God's presence." - *Billy Graham*

COMMITMENT IS BIBLICAL

DEVOTIONAL 6

What can we learn from God's Word to help us see that commitment in relationships was first demonstrated to us by God and that He continues to be committed to us even now?

Growing up, I have watched many Christians living a different lifestyle than that which God requires of every true Christian child of God. They are easily taken away by every temptation and are not willing to endure hardships. In this devotional, I would love to talk about commitment in three areas of our life:

• Commitment to God:
"When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless …" (Genesis 17:1-2).

Abraham lived in Canaan for about 24 years. In this period, Abraham was not completely committed to God. Sometimes he obeyed but some other times he failed to trust God.
God, then appeared to Abraham at the age of 99 years old, and

commanded Abraham saying, "Walk before Me and be blameless." To walk before God is to follow Him with faith, trust, holiness and obedience and to be blameless is to live a righteous, peaceful, just and pure life.

God was demanding complete commitment from Abraham.

God demands complete and total commitment from all of us if we are to receive His blessings and promises.

Commitment in obedience to God's commands results in the fulfillment of His promises for us. We see one year later, because of Abraham's commitment to God, a son was born to him through his wife Sarah as promised by God.

Commitment is not a one-day performance but a lifetime journey and it takes effort, dedication and patience.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." (Hebrews 10:36)

• Commitment in our Marriage:

In Genesis: 25:19-26, we find the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah as his wife and they remained childless for about 20 years because Rebekah was barren! It is clear that Isaac needed children and that is evident from his prayer for his wife.

As a sign of commitment Isaac remained faithful and committed to his own wife, and for all that time, he supported his wife, encouraged her and faithfully committed to her by praying for her.

As men of God, we have this example from the Bible to follow when our marriages are faced with challenges, temptations and difficulties. We must commit ourselves to pray for our spouses and to work on making our marriage stronger and successful.

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

• Commitment in our relationships with others:
"So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets". (Matthew 7:12)

When it comes to commitment in our relationship with others especially our fellow Christians, it doesn't depend so much on them as it does on us, we are charged to do to others what we expect them to do for us. We must commit to love, respect and care for others.

"Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Peter is currently serving as the MST South Sudan National Leader, as well as with FRUITS Ministries Organization in Juba and also as an associate pastor at the Christian Disciple Making Church – Lokwilili. Peter's wife and children live in the neighboring country of Uganda where they went seeking refuge from the civil war in 2016.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What decisions and actions are you going to make in your commitment to God and your spouse?
2. Are you ready to commit yourself in doing for others what you expect them to do for you?
3. What do you think are some of the benefits and results of commitment in our relationship with God and others?

| *Read*

James 5:12

| *Reflect on This*

"Strengthen your commitment to Christ now. Don't wait until the storms of temptation, or sickness, or old age threaten to blow you off-course; now is the time to strengthen your faith". - *Billy Graham*

LOOKING BACK...

DEVOTIONALS 1-6

During this connect group cycle, we pray that you have been challenged, encouraged, and inspired as you pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity in your life. We want to encourage you to now take some time to reflect on the last six devotionals and see how you can consistently apply the many truths that have been shared and that you have learned in your life.

Devotional 1

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 2

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 3

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 4

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 5

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 6

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

FAST AND PRAY FOR YOUR WIFE

Each month, we encourage you to set aside a time to fast and pray for your wife (or future wife) for one or all of the following points. As husbands (or future husbands) commit to praying and fasting for their wives, we will see a significant spiritual breakthrough and a spiritual legacy created.

Serve Her

My wife is not a project I need to work on or change; instead, I want to serve her better as her husband, lover, and friend.

Love Her

I want to love and support my wife better so that our marriage reflects Christ's love for the Church.

Honor Her

I want to honor my wife's emotions better by being a safe place where she can freely share her feelings without my trying to solve every problem.

Respect Her

I want to respect my wife better by learning to appreciate the unique talents, gifts, and perspectives she has. Couples should complement one another and not compete with each other.

Listen to Her

I want to be a better listener. I want to listen to my wife with my heart and not just my ears.

INTRODUCING RMPP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| *What Is RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity (RMPP) is a community of men who are committed to growing in integrity, purity and wholeness through relevant teachings, accountability, mentoring and honest dialogue. You might not be sure that you really need to be part of a community like this because you don't struggle with compulsive addictions or sexual sin. While it is very important for many men to focus primarily on resisting sexual temptation and sin, we want to inspire and challenge you to pursue more. Although growing in purity is a big part of the vision for RMPP, it's much more than that. It's also learning about deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment with like-minded brothers. We believe that when we invite Him into these areas, He will extend His healing hand and bring about wholeness. Max Lucado says this very well.

EST. 2014

"Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, "I can clean that if you want."

We are men who are not willing to settle for a life of spiritual mediocrity. We choose to relentlessly pursue greater depths of purity and wholeness for ourselves and for our families. Welcome to the RMPP community.

| *How does RMPP support the local church?*

RMPP does not intend to replace or represent a church; it only creates a safe place for men who want to stay active in their own church community. When a man joins the RMPP community he joins other like-minded men who desire to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. He is choosing to walk out in greater honesty and vulnerability. He is choosing to pursue purity in all aspects of his life. Aspects such as deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work

boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment.

We then pray that as these men grow in greater maturity that they would influence their families. That they would impact their communities and their work places, and that they would be an example for other men in their home church. We believe that as men take hold of the awesome and holy call to live lives that reflect Christ, that the church will be inspired and the world will take notice.

| *What happens next?*

If you have ever attended a men's retreat, you probably remember being deeply impacted by worship, challenged by teaching, and being in community with many men who shared your excitement and enthusiasm for growth and change. A few weeks or months down the road, the gathering became a distant memory as you settled back into the routines of daily life. We don't want to create just another mountain top experience. We are committed to creating a long-term mentoring relationship for everyone who attends an event. That is why you are holding this devotional book in your hands. As you flip through these pages you will see that there devotionals with corresponding

questions. Each devotional is meant to solidify the teaching of the event by encouraging and challenging you, as well as helping to stimulate discussion through thought provoking questions, verses and quotes.

| *Who writes the devotionals?*

Christian men from around the world have written these devotionals and have overcome real issues in their life through God's grace, goodness, mercy and love. We hope and pray that their testimonies and stories inspire, challenge and point you to Christ.

| *What are RMPP connect groups?*

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue both purity and wholeness within an environment of peer support and encouragement. The journey to greater purity and wholeness is a journey that involves inviting other men to walk alongside of you. It is a place where you can share your prayer requests, victories, and struggles and where you can be heard, prayed for and challenged to grow in all areas of life. A connect group is designed to be a support system for you for as long as you want.

During your time in a connect group you will be:

***Challenged*:** You will be challenged to grow in your love for Biblical truth. The men in your group will challenge you to grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word thereby enabling you to stand firm in the midst of life's trials.

***Encouraged*:** You will be encouraged to persevere when life, work, and numerous responsibilities may seem overwhelming. The men in your group will support you through prayer, encouragement and a listening ear.

***Inspired*:** You will be inspired to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. While pursuing Christ-likeness may not always be easy, it will also be worth it. The men in your group will be there to inspire you on that journey.

***Accountable*:** The men in your group, as well as your group leader, will support you and hold you accountable as you pursue greater freedom and victory. Be assured that whatever you share in your group will be strictly confidential.

| *When are the events held?*

RMPP events are held online 4x a year in February, May, August, and November.

| *Who can attend?*

RMPP events are open to all men worldwide.

| *What about privacy?*

Because of the sensitive nature of RMPP events, video or audio recording by participants is not allowed. Also, details of personal testimonies are not to be published via email, social media, or in any other form. Thank you for contributing to a safe and secure environment that helps build honesty and vulnerability.

| *Who started RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity was founded in 2014 and is an initiative of The MST Project.

MEET THE TEAM

THE MST GLOBAL BOARD

Christian Lenty is the founder and director of The MST Project, a ministry that seeks to mentor men into a pursuit of sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity. Christian has lived in Thailand for over 21 years and resides in Bangkok with his wife.

Rex DeKoning is the 60-year old husband and father of a large family. A former nurse and pastor, he now works in Thailand with New Counseling Service as a counselor. Rex has experienced great healing of addictive behaviors after he confessed everything and began to live an accountable life. Rex is highly motivated to inspire other men to seek out a mentor, as it has helped him to walk freely, build honesty and vulnerability.

Nick Chilver is married and is part of a blended family containing 6 children. He is grateful for the people God has brought into his life and across his path. And as he continues to learn to better reflect Him, it is his prayer that God will grant

him the privilege of helping others on the path to freedom and into the Light. He resides in Thailand with his wife.

Mike B. Wood is married to his wonderful wife of 28 years. He is a Pastoral Counselor in the area of sexual recovery therapy. He is a man in process, passionate about bringing men together to share life together. This is where we study God's Word together and share the challenges we face. This inspires us to accept what God has freely given us: His love, mercy, grace and acceptance. He and his wife have lived in Thailand for 18 years.

Steve Odera has been happily married to Liz for the last 43 years and they have two wonderful adult children. After serving as a pastor in Bangkok, Thailand, for seven years, Steve returned to his native Kenya in 2023, where he and Liz are involved in the family enrichment ministry – their sweet spot - in their local church.

EVENT DATES AND RESOURCES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

| *2025 Event Dates and Zoom ID*

Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and invite a friend to one or all of the events below.

Event 45: May 17
Event 46: August 16
Event 47: November 15
Zoom ID for all events: 561 433 8821

| *The Pursuit of Purity*

The book, The Pursuit of Purity, is meant to transform the way you think and live, putting you on a lifetime path of purity and wholeness leading to consistent victory.

***W*:** themstproject.com/pathway-to-purity
***E*:** hello@themstproject.com

THANK YOU

| *With Gratitude*

We would like say thank you to the following for their contribution to RMPP.

Financial Donors

Thank you for generously providing funding that allows for RMPP events, seminars, and translation of materials.

Devotional Authors

Thank you for writing devotionals that inspire, encourage and challenge each of us to pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness and Christlike maturity.

| *Scriptural Oversight Team*

RMPP has a Scriptural Oversight Team consisting of several pastors from local churches that review all devotionals for theological integrity.

CONNECT GROUPS

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity within an environment of peer support, encouragement, and accountability.

Connect groups are held worldwide on a weekly basis. To inquire about joining a group or to find out more information please email **hello@themstproject.com**.

If you are interested in starting an RMPP connect group at your church, men's ministry, Bible study, college group, etc., please contact us. We'd love to support you and have the resources to help you.

JOIN ONE
TODAY!

FEBRUARY 2025