

I Want an Ironclad Guarantee, First!

(How to face and overcome your fear of long-term commitment)
(SERIES: Fear Less; Live More 06 of 08)
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"Now it is required that **those who have been given a trust must prove faithful**. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God." (1 Cor 4:2-5)

Why Do We Bail?

We get distracted & cool down.

"Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold." (Matt 24:12 NLT)

We get discouraged & compromise.

We get disillusioned & quit.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal 6:9)

5 Benefits of Commitment

The committed prevail.

"But when they saw him coming, recognizing him in the distance, they decided to kill him! 'Here comes that master-dreamer,' they exclaimed. 'Come on, let's kill him and toss him into a well and tell Father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what will become of all his dreams!'" (Gen 37:18-20)

The committed perform.

"The Lord greatly blessed Joseph there in the home of his master, so that everything he did succeeded. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph in a very special way. So Joseph naturally became quite a favorite with him. Soon he was put in charge of the administration of Potiphar's household, and all of his business affairs. At once the Lord began blessing Potiphar for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs began to run smoothly, his crops flourished and his flocks multiplied. **He hadn't a worry in the world with Joseph there**" (Gen 39:2-6)

The committed are protected.

"One day at about this time Potiphar's wife began making eyes at Joseph, and suggested that he come and sleep with her. Joseph refused. 'Look,' he told her, 'my master trusts me with everything in the entire household; he himself has no more authority here than I have! He has held back nothing from me except you yourself because you are his wife. How can I do such a wicked thing as this? It would be a great sin against God.'" (Gen 39:7-9)

The committed have perspective.

"'I had a dream last night,' Pharaoh told him, 'and none of these men can tell me what it means. But I have heard that you can interpret dreams, and that is why I have called for you.' 'I can't do it by myself,' Joseph replied, 'but God will tell you what it means!'" (Gen 41:15-16)

"Turning to Joseph, Pharaoh said to him, 'Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, you are the wisest man in the country! I am hereby appointing you to be in charge of this entire project. What you say goes, throughout all the land of Egypt.'" (Gen 41:39-41)

The committed are rewarded.

Until I am committed, there is a hesitancy, a chance to draw back. But the moment I definitely commit myself, then God moves also, and a whole stream of events erupt. All manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings, persons, and material assistance which I never have dreamed would come my way begin to flow toward me—the moment I make a commitment.