

# Total Commitment

*Patriot, Total Commitment, Unique Bond*

This weekend is **Memorial Day**. It is a national holiday for honoring and mourning the US military personnel who died while serving in the United States armed forces. I recently spoke with a good friend, Bill Apple, who served in the military for many years. I asked him about the parallel of his faith with serving our country. His answer centered around the word "Patriot," which he defined to be an allegiance to country, and the concept of "total commitment." Bill went on to say that "when a serviceman steps on an airplane, he or she is making a total commitment." In their act of service, there is a unique bond with fellow men and women who have made the same commitment and are serving beside them.

Apple paralleled serving our country because of a patriotic spirit to serving God. He said, "**Patriotism** and **faith** complement each other." We have an allegiance to God in response to God's love for us. We love our country, even though, at times, we may take it for granted. We often take God for granted, but deep down we realize what He has done for us. Apple said,



"Once you become a true, committed believer in Jesus Christ, it permeates every decision you make." The Bible says, *And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time (1 Kings 8:61).* You worship the Lord among fellow believers, forming a unique bond with others. *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).*

Our community recently had on display the Vietnam "Moving Wall." It contains the names of servicemen and women who died in military service during the Vietnam War. Many local people went to that wall to pay their respects to friends and relatives whose names are inscribed. Inside the VFW, there were photos and artifacts from that conflict. The pictures showed the unmistakable camaraderie that existed even in the face of gruesome battle pictures. These were people who answered the call of duty with their total commitment.

While we all realize the total commitment of Jesus Christ, we sometimes overlook that God asks for our total



commitment to Him. Being a follower of Jesus Christ permeates every decision in our lives. Just as we enjoy the freedom of living in the United States, Jesus gives us freedom from our sins. We have a unique bond with our Lord and Savior through prayer and our faith. We also have a unique bond with fellow believers enduring everyday life's battles. Our faith requires total commitment. When you "step on the plane" of being a believer, you commit to the life-changing cause of Christianity. Jesus gave His life for our freedom.

Thousands of patriots died for our freedom, protecting our right to worship and live in a free country. Servicemen and women step out of their comfort zone to protect the freedoms of others. Jesus wants us to share the gospel with others so that they might receive forgiveness and enjoy freedom from their sins.

Let us pledge our allegiance – to the flag and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is our Total Commitment.

*This devotion is based on a conversation with Bill Apple on May 24, 2023. Thanks, Bill, for your commitment to our country, community, and God. Your total commitment has made our world a better place.*