

A Powerful Declaration

This statement, by a young African pastor, was found among his papers in Zimbabwe after he was martyred for his Christian faith. I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power. My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!

Citation: This vibrant declaration was contributed by Dr. Nina Gunter who got it from veteran missionary Louise Robinson Chapman (Africa: 1920-1940).
<https://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/commit.htm>

Paul's Declaration

Philippians 3:10-16 NET

My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained this – that is, I have not already been perfected – but I strive to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead, with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let those of us who are “perfect” embrace this point of view. If you think otherwise, God will reveal to you the error of your ways. Nevertheless, let us live up to the standard that we have already attained.

Sermon in a Sentence:

When Jesus grabs on to you, you will press on to grab on to everything God wants for you.

The Secret

This is The Secret of World-Class Jesus Followers – they are driven by a holy dissatisfaction with the status quo. World-class Jesus followers may be well known or unknown, but they all share a holy discontent with themselves. These world-class Jesus followers are people with an intense determination. Their lives are seized by a pure and holy passion to know Jesus in a way that can help others know him too. They long to be closer to God than they were last week. World-class Jesus followers press on seeking to think, to relate and to act more like Jesus all the time.

Aim to know King Jesus

Our aim is not to know about King Jesus. Our single goal is to gain real personal knowledge of King Jesus, as my master, as my prophet and priest; knowing him as my teacher of wisdom and the atoning sacrifice for my sins.

Experience the power of his resurrection

The power of his victory over sin, death and the forces of evil is available for us here and now.

Share in his sufferings

This sin broken world opposes everyone who swims upstream to God. It will not be easy to follow Jesus. But you can do it.

Be like him in his death

Jesus was obedient & faithful.

Realize the resurrection

Here and now – spiritually Then and there – physically

A Challenging Point of View

Too many of us who claim to follow Jesus are filled with an indifferent satisfaction. We ooze a complacent comfort. We act like faultfinding spectators. We appear to believe all that's left in following Jesus is to simply coast along as God carries us off to heaven someday. But as long as we are in this world we are not finished. God will complete the work he began but he is not finished yet. God wants us to live up to the progress we've already made – to refuse to back down or lose ground. The Holy Spirit encourages us to make more progress toward the goal God has set for us. We need to PRESS ON!

NEXT STEPS

Give yourself to King Jesus – once and for all. Hold nothing back. Surrender every area of your life. Give him permission to do whatever he wants to do with you. (Like wedding vows) Give yourself to King Jesus every day. Hold nothing back. Surrender every area of your life. Give him permission to do whatever he wants to do with you. (Like a real marriage – the day to day living out of the wedding vows)

A Powerful Prayer

[King Jesus] I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, praised for you or humbled for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and cheerfully yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. Amen. Citation: From A Worship Service for Those Who Want to Renew Their Commitment to God (A Revised Form of John Wesley's Covenant Service)