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| **Resolute** | **Acts 11:22-24***Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all,* ***that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord****. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.* |
| **Uncompromising** | The man of God that came and prophesied to Jeroboam.Contrast:***Started well*** – he was uncompromising and knew that he knew that he knew that the LORD had directed his path—**1 Kings 13:8-10*****Suffered total loss—death***—because he listened to what someone else told him God said he should do—**1 Kings 13:11-26**One of several lessons in this passage is that it’s vitally important for us to hear from God ***through His unchanging Word.******Anything else, anyone else should not circumvent what God has shown us.***Consider, if God saw fit to show a thing to you and direct you, as He did this prophet, why on earth did the prophet so easily determine that God wouldn’t speak to Him again directly, especially if He had new direction for him???This will happen more and more as it gets harder and harder to discern between real prophets and those who are prophets for profit! |
| **Steadfast** | **Hebrews 3:12-15***Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But* ***exhort one another daily****, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ,* ***if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;*** *While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*🡪 “***if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end”*****1 Corinthians 15:58***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***Contrast:****Psalm 78**—Psalm of Asaph. He writes to remind the people to remember God, because their fathers didn’t and they were NOT steadfast.**Psalm 78:7-8***That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.***Psalm 78:26-41**—Describes when the people of Israel murmured and God brought the quail for them to eat and they gorged themselves, ***having had their own way.*****Key verses:**Verse 37—They were not steadfast in their covenant with HimVerses 30-31—Because of the lack of steadfastness in believing Him, they experienced destruction!**Verses 40-41—Even worse is this result:**“. *. . they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.*”***I wonder how much I hinder the Holy One of Israel because of my lack of steadfastness?!?!*** |
| **Determined** | **Definition:**having reached a decisionfirmly resolvedhaving made a firm decision and being resolved not to change it.**Daniel 1:8***But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*What comes to mind here is “desire”.We all say we desire God and we desire His ways.Yet we struggle so much to do Godly things.What it boils down to is**desire != determination**Whatever we set our sights on, that’s what we’ll do.Until we set our sights on this—truly discard other things, comforts, entertainment, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life**Psalm 57:7***My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.***Psalm 108:1***A Song. A Psalm of David. O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.***Psalm 51:10***Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.* |
| **Purposeful****Others: 🡪🡪🡪🡪****🡪 LEFT OFF HERE*****There are more...*** | **This to me speaks of having a specific direction—Purpose!**Calling!**Philippians 3:14***I press toward the mark for the prize of* ***the high calling of God*** *in Christ Jesus.***2 Timothy1:9***Who hath saved us,* ***and called*us*with an holy calling****, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,***1 Peter 1:5-11***5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;**7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**10* ***Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:****11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.***1 Corinthians 7:22-24***For he that is called in the Lord, [being] a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, [being] free, is Christ's servant.* ***Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.*****Galatians 1:15***But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called [me] by his grace,***Galatians 5:13***For, brethren,* ***ye have been called unto liberty****; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*If I was to paraphrase this, with the intention of expounding upon it, I would say:*Brothers,* ***ye have been called to be liberated from sin and from the flesh [i.e. lust of the flesh, pride of life]****; so use your liberty from the flesh and carnality for serving each other and not as an excuse to partake in entertaining or feeding the flesh.****🡪 VERSE 1*****Ephesians 4:1***I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye* ***walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called****.* **Ephesians 4:4***[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as* ***ye are called in one hope of your calling****;***1 Thessalonians 2:12***That ye would* ***walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory****.***1 Thessalonians 4:7*****For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*****2 Thessalonians 2:14*****Whereunto he called you by our gospel****, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***1 Timothy 6:12*****Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called****, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.***1 Timothy 6:20***O Timothy,* ***keep that which is committed to thy trust****, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:***2 Timothy 1:9***Who hath saved us,* ***and called [us] with an holy calling****, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,***1 Peter 1:15***But as* ***he which hath called you*** *is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;* |
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| **Committed** | **One aspect of Committed** **Psalms 37:5***Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.***Proverbs 16:3***Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*Another aspect is personally committing oneself:**There is a cost for being a disciple of Christ—a cost of discipleship:****Luke 14:25-35*****We must love God more than anything or anyone!******Three of the four Gospels:*****Matthew 16:24**Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** and **follow Me**.**Mark 8:34**And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** and **follow Me**.**Luke 9:23**And He was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** daily and **follow Me**.**Matthew 10:38**And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**Luke 14:27**Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.***Contrast these things with the ultimate commitment that a man can have:*****Galatians 2:20**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**Philippians 1:21**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.***And the picture of ultimate commitment Romans 5:8***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***What does a lack of commitment look like?***Lot’s wife looked back**Luke 9:62**And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**Luke 18:18-24***Verse 23: And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.****There out to be a cost counting, and a caution about committing to something:*****James 5:12**But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and [your] nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.**But here’s the challenge:*** Should counting the cost cause us to be absent from the Body of Christ?
* Does it cause us to be absent from the Body of Christ?
* **Does our presence make a difference either way in the life or mind of other Christians?**
	+ **If you left your right arm at home, how would you feel about that?**
	+ **What if your eyes could say, “We’re burning; we’re staying home today.”**
	+ **What if your mouth said, “I don’t feel like going with you?” (a bit of a pun there)**
	+ **Do we realized how important it is, at times, to be counted and together?**
		- **How much is enough?**
			* **Am I really committed?**
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| **Dedicated** | Daniel was dedicated to the ways of the Lord and would not defile his body with the kings meat.**In our day, how often do we defile ourselves with visual delicacies, or even physical ones?**  |
| **Persistent** | Examples of men in the Bible:* Job
* Noah
* Daniel
* Jeremiah
* Others?
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| **Devoted** | Daniel was committed to hearing from God, he devoted himself to fellowship with Him first and foremost every single day; and he was devoted to pray to God three times a day!He understood that the busy-ness of one’s day ought not cause us to be with Him less,but to be with Him all the more!The point here I think says that I’ve devoted to letting God guide me no matter how busy I am.**2 Corinthians 12:15**And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.***Paul devoted all he had to the Lord, being willing to spend and be spent.*** |
| **Faithful** | Job was dedicated to worship and praise God even if God stripped him of everything he had. And God DID strip him of all he had. And Job refused to curse God for it!If God made it clear that He would take your wife, your children, your home, your car, would you still serve him? Are you dedicated to Him that way?**Biblical Faithfulness:****Proverbs 14:5**A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.**Proverbs 20:6**Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?[**Luke 19:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/19/17/s_992017)And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.**Other examples:****Luke 18:8-14***The man in the parable of the two men who went up to the Temple to pray, one in his self-righteousness, the other in humility and in the faith of God’s mercy.***Matthew 15:21-28***The Canaanite woman who begged the Lord to heal her daughter—with faith and persistence.**Jesus proclaimed her as having great faith in Him!*The**Contrast:**[**Luke 16:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/16/11/s_989011)If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?**The parable of the minas indicate the same principle:*****Unfaithfulness in the littlest things will have grave consequences!***Luke 19:11-27**Another aspect of Faithfulness—or “FAITH” is Trustworthiness—or “TRUST”:*** Daniel had complete trust in the Lord;
* Daniel’s trust wasn’t just intellectual—it was experiential;
	+ But before it was experiential, it was by faith!
		- At some point, he had to step by faith without knowing the outcome.
		- **What were some steps he took?**
			* *Not eating the king’s meat*
			* *Not knowing what the outcome was, going to the lion’s den (although he had no choice)*
* Hezekiah is another example of one who trusted in the LORD (***2 Kings 19:14-20***):
	+ At this point, Hezekiah has a very simple attitude:
		- LORD, I’m helpless against this enemy, but you are the only God and you are my God!
		- And God give him insight as to how Sennacherib is nothing more than an instrument in His hands—instrument to punish Judah, but ultimately, Assyria would be punished for their actions, and there would be an assured restoration of a remnant.
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| **Obedience** | **Daniel and Joseph****Daniel purposed in his heart*** **It kept him steady, persistent, strong in the Truth that was outside of himself; kept him calm in the Lion’s Den; gave him boldness in presenting interpretations of dreams to kings;**

**Joseph made the same purposed decision*** **It kept him faithful in being wrongfully accused and abused by those closest to him**

**BOTH MEN SPENT TIME AT THEIR FATHER’S FEET:*** **Daniel three times a day in prayer with his Father;**
* **Joseph probably learning all that God had told Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;**

***Their belief to MAKE time early on in their lives kept them from complaining and becoming cynical.*****Obedience in Proverbs 3:1-6:**1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,4 [And] so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**Paraphrase: “Obedience will add years to your life and will add life to your years” (Wiersbe)****Exodus 19:5**Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine:**1 Samuel 12:13-15**13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, [and] whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.14 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as [it was] against your fathers.[**A very volatile time:*** Saul is made the first king and Samuel warns the people because they think having a king will help them obey the LORD;
* But ultimately it will not;
* **It ALWAYS comes back to the question, “WHAT WILL YOU DO?”**
* Kings and governments will typically corrupt themselves and when they begin to stray from God’s ways and tell the people that it’s OK to do things that are contrary to the LORD’s law, how will we react?
	+ ***Some will gladly follow the king, because he’s offering cart blanc excusal from the consequences of sin;***
	+ ***Some will stand firm in the council of the LORD; They may be mocked for their stance, or have their liberties stripped away, or even killed; but their reward will be eternally better than hell!***
		- **1 Corinthians 16:13**
			* Whatch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
		- **1 Corinthians 15:58**
			* Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
		- **Galatians 5:1**
		- **1 Timothy 6:12**
		- **Matthew 24:13**
		- **Luke 21:19**
		- **Proverbs 12:3**
			* Man cannot be made secure by wickedness, but the root of the righteous is immovable.
		- **Proverbs 10:25**
			* When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.
		- **Matthew 10:22**
			* You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
		- **James 1:12**
			* A man who endures trials is blessed, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.
		- **Ephesians 6:10-14**
			* Finally, be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.
		- **2 Corinthians 1:20-22**
			* For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

 ]**Hebrews 5:5-14**5So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” 6As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; 7who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, **8though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.****9And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,****10called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”** 11of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.12For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.13For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.14But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**🡪 PURITY 🡨** |
| **Preparedness** | Can one hope to be prepared for the spiritual battle without being obedient to God? |

**Jesus was:**

* **Devoted** to knowing His Father’s will;
* **Dedicated** to accomplishing His Father’s will;
* **Faithful** unto death on the cross;
* **Persistent** in the Truth of God;
* **Committed** to His Father’s plan of Salvation;
* **Purposeful** and deliberate in every action He took—evidenced in that fact that He was able to never sin!
* **Determined** to reconcile us;
* **Steadfast** in His purpose and devotion to the Truth of the Word of God;
* **Uncompromising** when it came to the Truth of God’s Word (and he had no issue with reconciling love in Truth either);
* **Resolved** to His Father’s will and plan and ways, which included His choice to not accept what Satan offered Him and instead He was **resolved** to go to the cross!
* **Obedient *to DOING His Father’s will, unto death!***

**Quote:**

***A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ.***

**--Jonathan Edwards (October 5, 1703 - March 22, 1758, American revivalist preacher, identified with the first Great Awakening)**

I think the Jonathan Edwards quote applies to at least two of the characteristics: ***Faithful*** and ***Purposeful***.