WOW: Word Of the Week

Commitment

March 18, 2026

How does one put a cap on a series devoted to “radical discipleship?” I characterized surrender as both summary and foundation.

Here is another possible summary WOW. Commitment. A word we use a lot and understand a lot less. Biblical commitment is an absolute, lifelong dedication to God, prioritizing His will and lordship above all else, regardless of personal preferences, or personal cost. Spiritually, commitment is a binding, covenant pledge of loyalty, similar to a marriage vow, requiring total surrender of all of one’s life to God. This dedication is characterized by obedience, sacrificial love, and unwavering trust, even in challenging times. Commitment has been around since the late 1500s. The word was available to the KJV translators but was not used.

Definitions mention that commitment" denotes a pledge, obligation, or dedication. The psalmist urges to “commit your way to the Lord.” Marriage vows are a commitment or pledge of faithfulness. Surrendering everything to God requires commitment. Taking up one’s cross is a commitment. Ministry is sometimes described as a commitment, as is the Christian life, and discipleship.

At the root of committed discipleship is a covenant agreement of total (mutual) dedication. Commitment certainly encompasses surrender and submission, faithful loyalty to who we are called to be, trust, and consecration of our entire being.

In summary, I observe that the dimensions of radical discipleship mentioned in this series – maturity, conformity to Christ, nonconformity to the world, character fashioned into an exact copy of Christ, holistic seen in comprehensively consistently living out our identity in Christ, and surrender – require an extraordinary commitment.

I share what I hope is a memorable close to the series: radical discipleship is for extraordinary disciples. We need time to grow up in Christ, but the call to radical discipleship is a call to be extraordinary!