

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Psalm 85:10

The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.
Mark 12:29-31

LESSON FROM CENTURY ONE Rediscovery of New Testament life for the church can never take place as long as men who make up the church are satisfied with the status quo or cling to the conviction that they are capable of solving its problems and renewing it through their own efforts and ingenuity.

The church in Century One was new and alive and powerful and miraculous, not because it had more clever members than we do, or better-trained leaders, or less to distract it from its commitment -- but because everything it had was given it by God and everything it was produced by Christ in it and everything it did was done through it by the Holy Spirit. It saw itself as nothing and having nothing apart from Jesus Christ."

**Soon Oh soon the light
Pass within and soothe this endless night
And wait here for you
Our reason to be here**

**Soon Oh soon the time
All we move to gain will reach and calm
Our heart is open
Our reason to be here**

Long ago, set into rhyme

**Soon Oh soon the light
Ours to shape for all time, ours the right
The Sun will lead us
Our reason to be here**

Read the excerpts below from Fr. Andrew Greeley's book on the Spirit:

"The children of the Spirit are playful. They do not laugh at foolish things or at the wrong time but they laugh a lot. There are some things just a few, that they take seriously but they rarely take themselves seriously. On the contrary, they laugh more at themselves than they do at anything else. When you are caught in the dance of the Spirit, it is impossible not to laugh at yourself because you realize how foolish you were before you joined the dance and what great, splendid fun it is now that you are dancing."

FOLLOW ME Stanley Jones tells of a missionary who got lost in an African jungle -- nothing around him but bush and a few cleared places. He found a native hut and asked the native if he could get him out. The native said he could. "All right," said the missionary, "show me the way." The native said, "Walk," so they walked and hacked their way through unmarked jungle for more than an hour. The missionary got worried. "Are you quite sure this is the way? Where is the path?" The native said, "Bwana, in this place there is no path. I am the path."

It Costs—It's Easy
"It costs much to obtain the power of the Spirit. It costs self surrender and humiliation, and a yielding up of our most precious things to God. It costs the perseverance of long waiting, and the faith of strong trust.

"But when we are really in that power, we shall find this difference, that whereas before, it was hard for us to do the easiest things, now it is easy for us to do the hard things."

—A.J. Gordon

Jesus was committed to His mission here on earth which even included death on a cross. Because of His dedication to His commitment, He saved us from death and gave us everlasting life. However, He also gave us a mission. Jesus commanded us to "love one another." But He promised us He would always be by our side to give us strength and guidance.

Commitment is the key to following our mission. A mission that can lead to happiness and smooth sailing or discouragement and chaos. There are many servants of the Lord, such as Mother Theresa, who would never have succeeded without committing themselves to God and their missions. Commitments hold families together and make great things happen. But most importantly, if we are committed to Jesus, His commitment keeps God by our side.