

**DATE: September 25, 2011**

**TITLE: "TOTAL COMMITMENT"**

**TEXT: Romans 12:1-2**

**SERIES: "MADE FOR MORE" – Living the Lifestyle of the Transformed  
(#1 of 10)**

The lifestyle of total commitment (transformation is a change from some commitment to total commitment).

### **SERIES INTRODUCTION**

1. Do you ever wish things were different?
2. Do you ever wish things were different spiritually?
3. Are you satisfied with where you are spiritually?
4. Perhaps you have tried many techniques to be close to God but you are not really seeing results.
5. Maybe today you are tired of rules, formulas, religious activities and well-meaning church programs that promise transformation and don't seem to deliver.
6. Perhaps your dream of what the Christian life would be like has not at all come to reality.
7. Maybe today there are some changes that you know should happen but they are just not happening.
8. Change can be hard.

**ILLUSTRATION: 90 percent of all heart bypass surgery patients report that they have not changed their lifestyle after a year.**

9. Many people want to be different but they don't want to change, so they live in the land of compromise.
10. Many want to be transformed or to become better Christians or grow spiritually, but they are not sure how to define that or describe what that looks like.

**ILLUSTRATION: Researcher, George Barna said, "We found that six out of ten believers have no sense of what they want to achieve or become and roughly two out of ten have only the vaguest idea. Studies have pointed out that many do not seem to know what the transformed life really looks like.**

11. So often we determine spiritual growth by input, like the things we put into our spiritual life, such as church attendance, prayer, or study of the Word.
12. The reality is that true transformation is best seen in outcomes.
13. Transformation is seen in signs and actions that our lives are changed.
14. For some, the Christian life is a little more than church attendance or prayers prayed.
15. Others live a transformed life experiencing God's power and presence in supernatural and powerful ways.
16. In this 10 week series, we are going to seek to discover what the transformed life really looks like by looking at 10 biblical lifestyles of the transformed.

17. They are 10 changes, or shifts, of the soul that take place in the life of transformed people.
18. They will help us understand what the transformed life really looks like and how to live it.
19. During this series, it is my prayer that each and every one of us will look deep into our souls.
20. Are there some shifts or changes that need to take place in your life?

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Are you totally committed to God?
2. What does it mean to be totally committed to God?
3. What is the next step for you towards being totally committed to God?
4. The lifestyle of the transformed is a lifestyle of total commitment.
5. The word “commitment” in many settings is a turn-off word.
6. Every year, couples stand and make a commitment in marriage, and every year, thousands of commitments are broken.
7. They are committed to their marriage to a certain degree.
8. The world is full of people with some commitment but not total commitment.
9. They are committed to be someplace or to do something if something else does not come up.
10. “Committed” in the church is one of those words that has been troublesome for man.
11. Churches are full of committed people, but how committed are they? 25, 50, 100%?

**ILLUSTRATION: H.B. London and Neil Wiseman in their book, *Pastors at Greater Risk*, state, “Only half the adults who say they’re Christians contend that they are “absolutely committed” to the Christian faith.”**

12. The lifestyle of the transformed is a change from a life of some commitment to a life of total commitment.
13. It is a shift of the soul from some commitment to total commitment.
14. Today, we want to look scripturally at total commitment.

### **I. (v.1) THE MOTIVATION FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT**

**“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)**

1. What motivates you to make a commitment to someone or something?
2. In this verse, Paul gives the motivation or reason for a total commitment to God.
3. Paul’s authority is not the reason for a total commitment to God.
4. Paul does not make an appeal for commitment based on moral principles or religious rules.
5. He did not say, “Make a total commitment to God because I say so or because it is a religious rule.”

6. His call was to make a total commitment to God because of the reality of God's mercy.
7. The motivation for total commitment to God is solely based upon God's mercy.
8. Paul addresses the church as brothers, for they were people like himself who had experienced God's mercy through Jesus Christ.
9. Caring deeply about those who were part of the family of God, he writes with urgency.
10. The word 'therefore' takes us back to what Paul has been saying about God's mercy.
11. Through His mercy, He provides a solution for the problem of sin that separates us from God.
12. One author described mercy as "love with legs on it."
13. Because of His mercy, sins are forgiven and we are loved, adopted and filled with the Spirit.
14. The gospel is God's mercy.

**"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5)**

**ILLUSTRATION: A presidential pardon is an exemption from punishment and can't be reversed. People have to apply to be pardoned. During his eight years in office, former President George W. Bush received 2,489 pardon requests. He granted 189 of those 2,489 requests. In contrast, God graciously pardons all who apply, for He is "rich in mercy."**

**ILLUSTRATION: Isaiah the prophet said, "...Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)**

15. As Christians, we are not motivated to total commitment by hopes of receiving from God, but in response to what we have already received through His mercy.
16. As someone said, "True Christian ethics are ethics of gratitude.
17. Commitment is a way of saying thanks to God for His great mercy.
18. We are transformed through the mercy of God that motivates us to commitment.
19. God wants us to live transformed lives, so He makes it possible through His mercy.
20. We need to understand the God who wants to transform us.
21. We need to understand the God who calls us to commitment.
22. Commitment is the proper response to who God is.
23. Commitment requires that we have a right view of God.
24. The 'therefore' takes us back to what has taken place throughout Romans, as well as the doxology in the previous chapter that highlights some of the characteristics of God.
25. We need to look at the God that calls us to commitment.

**“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out!”**

**(Romans 11:33)**

26. God is a God worthy of total commitment to our lives.

27. Scripture does not call us to commit to a God who is unknowing, uncaring, uncompassionate, or unfaithful.

28. Scripture calls us to commit to a God of mercy.

29. Scripture calls us to totally commit to a God who is totally committed to us.

30. God does require a total commitment of my life, but Paul wants us to understand that we can trust Him with our lives.

**ILLUSTRATION: “The whole outlook of mankind might be changed if we could all believe that we dwell under a friendly sky and that the God of heaven, though exalted in power and majesty, is eager to be friends with us.” (A.W. Tozer)**

31. Commitment is not so much about what you lose but about what you gain. (Ingram)

32. We live in a society where many seem to run from commitment.

33. Young people, “commitment” is not a bad word.

34. Don’t run from the word “commitment.”

35. We tend to look at the cost of what commitment entails rather than the blessing of it.

36. Commitment is letting God provide what He really wants you to have.

37. God’s mercy takes us to places we could never go by ourselves.

**ILLUSTRATION: While up in Washington on sabbatical, I watched a news report about an airplane pilot who found a boy’s wallet in a rental car in Colorado. He took the wallet on the flight he was doing literally around the world. He took pictures of the boy’s wallet in a variety of places. He returned the wallet to the boy, but before he did, he put a hundred dollars in the wallet.**

38. He gave the boy more than expected, what he did not deserve, and took the boy where he could never go on his own.

39. The motivation for commitment is God’s mercy.

40. God sent His Son to redeem the whole person.

## **II. (v.1) THE MANDATE OF TOTAL COMMITMENT**

**“...to offer your bodies as living sacrifices...” (Romans 12:1)**

1. Total commitment requires action.

2. Total commitment requires more than the words we speak.

3. God desired more than people who talk the “total commitment” language or use the “totally committed” vocabulary.

4. Churches are full of people who talk the total commitment life, but are they full of people who live a life of total commitment?

5. God wants more than our words or pledges of commitment.

**ILLUSTRATION: In the Broadway play, *My Fair Lady*, Eliza is courted by a man named Freddy. Freddy writes her love letters every day. But Eliza's response to all of these written promises is to cry out in**

**frustration: "Words! Words! I'm so sick of words! Don't talk of stars burning above! If you're in love, show me! Don't talk of love lasting through time. Make no undying vow. If you love me, show me now!"**

6. In the same way, Christians need to show their love and gratitude to God with actions, not just words.
7. Paul describes this action as offering our bodies as living sacrifices.
8. It is one thing to give things to God like money, time, talents, services or sacrifice but another to give oneself.
9. God ask us to give ourselves.
10. To offer God ourselves is to Give God what He really wants

**ILLUSTRATION: (Show poster) The J.M. Flagg's 1917 poster, based on the original British idea of three years earlier, was used to recruit soldiers for both World War I and World War II. Flagg used a modified version of his own face for Uncle Sam, and veteran Walter Botts provided the pose. The key words were "I WANT YOU."**

11. What does God really want from you?
12. God wants you.
13. God wants a relationship with you.
14. God wants your total commitment and surrender.
15. He wants to love you and to be loved.
16. God wants you because He loves you and wants you to experience His best.
17. Totally committed Christians are ordinary people who are experiencing God's biggest and best blessings.

**ILLUSTRATION: "Total commitment is the channel through which God's best and biggest blessings flow." (Pastor and author, Chip Ingram)**

18. To offer our bodies is to offer to God the whole of ourselves.
- "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness." (Romans 6:13)**

19. It is to offer ourselves in the service of a cause that is greater than we are.
  20. It means the alignment of your will, your mind, your emotions, your possessions, and your relationships around a person, goal, or cause.
  21. Offering ourselves is a crisis and process, a gift and a life.
- EXAMPLE: The "I will" at the altar of marriage includes a whole life of commitment and love, as it is an act and a life, a crisis, and process.**
22. The gift brought to the altar became consecrated to God and no longer belonged to the one who offered it, but to God.
  23. Offering ourselves to God implies we are no longer in our own power.
  24. Christians no longer belong to themselves but to God who redeemed them.
  25. To "offer" or "present" is to put yourselves absolutely at God's disposal.
  26. It is to be consumed by God.

**ILLUSTRATION: Back when I was a kid growing up, we had a record player. Dad had a record he liked of a Christian singer. He played it often. One of those songs asked these questions: “Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart does the Spirit control? You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest, As you yield Him your body and soul.” (E.A. Hoffman)**

27. Some may be tempted to write it off and say, “Surely, God does not mean this,” but He does.

28. Total commitment is Christ’s demand for all followers – without exception. **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)**

29. Regardless of how culturally relevant we want to be or comfortable we want to make people feel, the Lord calls us to total commitment.

30. Total commitment is really an issue of trust.

**ILLUSTRATION: I was raised in a home where credit cards were not used. Everything was paid with cash or check. One time, I had to pay a bill but I did not know the amount or who to write the check to. Dad gave me a signed check, saying to me, “I trust you son, not to lose it.”**

31. Your whole life is a blank check.

32. God says, “Give Me a signed, blank check and let Me fill it in.”

33. We can do that because God is trustworthy.

34. Surrender to God what He asks, for you can trust Him with all of your life.

35. Surrender is a transfer of trust to God.

**EXAMPLE: We see this type of trust and total commitment in the story of Abraham, found in Genesis 22:11-12. Abraham went to make a sacrifice to God. God asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, who was a gift from God and a fulfillment for the promise of God. God was asking Abraham to literally give him back. Abraham trusted God and was willing to sacrifice his son. He had a trust that was greater than his fears.**

36. Do you have an Isaac, those things that don’t make sense, but you trust God, so you have surrendered them to God?

37. A living sacrifice is an oxymoron, for it is a call to total devotion of a believer’s life.

38. The command is to offer yourself totally to God while you are living.

39. It is something that only you can do.

40. Regardless of what others do, you are to hold nothing back from the Lord.

41. Total commitment is not reserved for spiritual superstars, pastors, or missionaries.

42. What comes to mind when you think of the term, “total commitment?”

43. What could it mean for you if you are totally committed?

**EXAMPLE: Webster’s Dictionary says, “Total commitment is the alignment of one’s motives, resources, priorities, and goals to fulfill a specific mission, accomplish a specific task, or follow a specific person.”**

44. Total commitment means absolute surrender.

**ILLUSTRATION: Author, Chip Ingram, says, “Surrender is the greatest need in the Body of Christ today.”**

45. God is not looking for admirers.

46. He is looking for those who are totally committed.

**“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)**

47. God is looking for people who will jump in completely and hold nothing back.

**ILLUSTRATION: 61-year-old American swimmer, Diana Nyad was pushing toward Florida this August in her bid to set a new world record with a 103-mile crossing from Cuba without a shark cage. She had tried the crossing from Cuba in 1978, at the age of 28, but failed in the face of winds and heavy waves. The same swim was completed successfully in May 1997 by Australian, Susan Maroney, who was 22 at the time. But, Maroney used a shark cage. To do that, she had to jump in and make the commitment. She had to get her whole self into the water. She swam about half of the estimated 30 hours before, due to difficult winds, she was pulled out of the water.**

48. God wants us to get our all in, and with Christ, we can make it.

49. Can you say, “God, am I ‘all in’?”

50. I’m all in a contemporary picture of being a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God.

51. We are to offer ourselves to God as holy or set apart for God.

52. We are to offer ourselves to God in a way that pleases Him.

53. The sacrifice that is pleasing is the kind of sacrifice God accepts as satisfying His expectations.

54. Commitment pleases God, for it enables you to become all that God desires for you to become.

**“This is your spiritual act of worship.”**

55. Offering ourselves to God in total surrender is an act of worship, for true worship is nothing less than the offering of one’s whole self in the course of one’s inward thoughts, feelings and aspirations, words and deeds.

56. Spiritual worship is not primarily a religious activity but a response of the whole person to God’s mercy.

57. The word literally means “that which is reasonable or logical.”

58. Surrender is logical and smart in light of what God has done for us in Christ.

59. The presentation of our bodies, or the whole of our lives, is a logical or reasonable form of worship.

60. Real worship is not the offering to God of a liturgy, but offering everyday life to Him.

**ILLUSTRATION: [In an article for *Decision* magazine 1978], Samuel Kamaleson illustrates [the difficulty of submission] through a Christian folk story from South India. There are several versions of it, but here, it opens with a young boy who loved to play marbles. He regularly walked**

through his neighborhood with a pocketful of his best marbles, hoping to find opponents to play against. One marble in particular, his special blue marble, had won him many matches.

During one walk, he encountered a young girl who was eating a bag of chocolate candy. Though the boy's first love was marbles, he had a weakness for chocolates. As he stood there interacting with the young girl, his salivary glands and the rumbling in his stomach became uncontrollable, and he thought to himself, "I have got to get my hands on those chocolates."

Concocting a plan, he asked the girl, "How about I give you all these marbles for those chocolates?" She replied, "Sounds fair to me." He put his hand in his pocket, searching for the distinguishing cracks on the surface of the blue marble. Once he identified the blue marble with his finger tip, he carefully pushed it to the bottom of his pocket and pulled out all the other marbles. As he handed the marbles to the girl in exchange for the chocolate, the boy thought his plan was a success and turned to walk away. As he began to eat the candy, he suddenly turned to the girl and asked, "Hey, did you give me all the chocolates?"

61. We want everything the kingdom of God has to offer.

62. We want to have a secure sense of God's presence, we want all our prayers to be answered, we want to "feel close" to Jesus, we want to flourish in the riches of God's glory—we want it all.

63. God calls us to surrender all the marbles.

64. Is there is a "blue marble" in our lives that we seem unwilling to offer to the control of Christ.

65. Until we can fully subjugate ourselves to God's will, our participation in God's kingdom will be limited.

### III. (v.2) THE MISSION OF TOTAL COMMITMENT

**"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

#### **(Romans 12:2)**

1. The mission is to be transformed.
2. Total commitment leads to transformation.
3. There are several Greek words in the NT that may be translated as transform or change.
4. The word used in Romans 12:2 is the source of the English word, "metamorphosis."
5. What Paul urges is not merely a change of appearance and behavior, but a change of essence, for it is not acting a part but being completely different.
6. True transformation comes from within and reveals the condition of the soul.

7. With the exception of the transfiguration narratives of the gospels, II Corinthians 3:18 is the only one other place where the Greek verb used in Romans 12:2 is used.

**“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 3:18)**

8. Transformation is a sanctifying work God does within us through His Spirit.

9. Transformation is the alternative to conforming to the pattern or form of the world, for God calls us to be non-conformist.

10. Paul instructs us to refuse the negative option of the passing world and accept the positive of the transformed life.

11. This world refers to a worldview or world system whose architect is Satan.

12. Paul warns us to avoid matching our lives to all the fashions of this present world.

**ILLUSTRATION: (Picture of chameleon) We are not to be like a chameleon lizard which takes its color from its surrounding.**

13. Don’t let the world rub off on you.

14. It is an unbending refusal to be deceived by the illusory pleasures of sin and the world.

15. The world has been defined correctly as society organized apart from God.

16. We live in a toxic environment to our spiritual health.

**ILLUSTRATION: Sometimes what tastes great isn’t very good for us. As someone once said, “We are what we eat.” This is also true spiritually. If we feed on the world’s values system and fill our minds and hearts with the stuff of the world, it will destroy us from within.**

17. This is one reason living the Christian life is difficult and challenging.

**18. John warns, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (I John 2:15)**

19. John gives a brief definition of what the world or the systems of the world look like.

**“For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world.” (I John 2:16)**

20. These refer to the passions “to feel,” “to have” and “to be” or, in other words, pleasure - hedonism, possessions - materialism, and position - egotism.

21. The world and, sadly to some degree, the church has bought into the lie that sex, salary, and status are the keys to a life of fulfillment and happiness.

**ILLUSTRATION: One study of Christians, ages 23-41, concluded: 44 percent said sex outside of marriage is acceptable, 33 percent said pornography is acceptable, 32 percent said abortion is acceptable, and 28 percent said homosexual behavior is acceptable.**

22. The church must not rationalize or let the world give us our view and perspective instead of scripture.

23. The world and the things of the world pull away from the transformed lifestyle.
  24. Transformation is rooted in what we feed upon spiritually.
  25. We are in a spiritual battle, and the stakes are very high.
  26. You have an enemy whose goal is destroy your life.
  27. The world wants to steal your heart and affections from the Lord.
- ILLUSTRATION: “At the heart of ‘worldliness’ is who you love and who you trust to meet the deepest needs of your life.” (Chip Ingram)**
28. A tragic sentence in Paul’s writings is found in II Timothy 4:10, when he writes, **“...for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.” (II Timothy 4:10)**
  29. The world is out to rob you of the transformed life.
  30. J.B. Phillips’ memorable paraphrase is, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.”
  31. Non-conformity is demanded, but it is not enough, for we must be transformed, for it is not about legalism, but spirituality.
  32. As the caterpillar undergoes the change which transforms it into a beautiful butterfly, so we are changed from within by the power of Christ’s love.
  33. This takes place in the real world by the renewing of your mind.
  34. The mind is more than the human thinking capacity; it is the character, nature, the inner disposition, the motivating center of our personal and communal lives.
  35. To renew your mind, you need to allow God to completely change your inward thinking and outward behavior by cooperating wholeheartedly with the Spirit of God.
  36. The transformation Paul has in view here is shaped by the recovery of a realistic appraisal of ethical choices in the light of the new creation brought by Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION: Matt Woodley tells this story: “A few summers ago, I watched our 18-year-old son participate in a real X-ball paintball tournament. With sophisticated paintball guns that shoot 13 paintballs per second, the matches are quick and exciting. They’re also chaotic. The X-ball concept depends on five players from each team shooting at their opponents and working their way up a large outdoor field. The goal is to “kill” (that is, hit with a paintball) the other team’s players so you can capture their flag. But it’s not an easy task. The main problem is that in the midst of thousands of flying paintballs it’s tough to spot your opponents. The other team can crouch and dive behind bunkers and barriers. To make matters even worse, as your team’s coach shouts the right information about your opponents’ locations, the other team’s fans start yelling false information. When I heard the other fans intentionally confusing my son’s teammates, I was shocked. It sounded like cheating to me—or at least incivility. But after the match, my son calmly informed me, “O, yeah, that’s called ‘counter-coaching.’ They’re trying to distract our players with false information. It’s part of the game, Dad. We have to**

**deal with it all the time. It just means that we have to focus on our coach and block out all the other distractions."**

37. The Bible clearly warns us that it's not easy to listen for God's voice. There will be plenty of "counter coaching" from the culture, the devil, and from our own distracted hearts.

38. It is part of it and the way to deal with it is the renewing of our minds.

39. It is living in tune with the spirit of God, knowing the voice of the Lord and listening to Him.

40. The word "renew" is used only by Paul and it means "to grow up new, afresh, like foliage in the spring."

41. The renewed mind must be understood against and in contrast to the depraved mind of Romans 1:28.

42. The mind of Christ within transforms us.

43. Renewal is a paradigm shift of focusing our heart and mind upon Christ through the working of His Spirit.

44. The indwelling Spirit of Christ is God's agent in effecting this inside-out transformation, reproducing Jesus in the lives of committed Christians.

45. Transformation is what God can do through the renewing of our minds.

46. The consecration and surrender of life is the believer's responsibility, but the transformation of life is God's.

**"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:23)**

47. Renewing of mind is a supernatural work of the Spirit of God as we consecrate to the God who sanctifies and transforms us.

48. Renewal of the mind is the surrender to and passion for an internal relationship with the Lord that flows out into our external behavior.

49. It is not by trying harder but by the renewing of our mind.

50. The spiritual disciplines of worship, Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship are the driveway to God's presence but it is God's presence that transforms us.

51. Christ changes the way we think and what we think about.

52. The reason for living in the word is because God renews our mind by feeding on that which reveals the mind of Christ.

53. It is not relying on willpower, self-effort, or religious activities that we live the transformed life or the holy life, but by Christ within.

54. God longs to renew us.

55. Renewing our minds is God's divine prescription so we can receive the very best God has to offer, which is transformation.

56. The renewed mind leads to the ability to test or discern and approve or practice God's will.

57. His will that is good, morally right, free from evil, pleasing, acceptable and perfect or complete in Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION: Steve Sample, President of the University of Southern California, writes: "In the spring of 1970, when I was 29, I learned I had won a fellowship from the American Council on Education, which would**

allow me to serve an administrative internship with Purdue University President, Fred Hovde, for the 1970–71 academic year. I was elated by the opportunity. Despite having only recently been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at Purdue, I was already leaning toward a career in administration. Soon after the award was announced, I happened to bump into a colleague, Vern Newhouse, who was a highly respected senior member of the electrical engineering faculty. "So, Sample," Newhouse said, "I see you've won some sort of administrative fellowship in the president's office." "Yes, that's true," I said. "And you'll be learning how to become an administrator?" "I suppose so." "And then you'll probably want to be president of a university somewhere down the road?" "Well, I don't know. I guess I've thought about it now and then," I said, somewhat disingenuously. He smiled and said: "Personally, I've never had any ambition whatsoever to be an administrator. I am totally inept at managing things.... But I've been a careful observer of ambitious men all my life. And here, for what it's worth, is what I've learned: many men want to be president, but very few want to do president." And, with that he wished me well and walked away."

58. God wants us to be transformed, which takes total commitment.

**ILLUSTRATION: One of Oswald Chambers' frequent phrases was, "Be absolutely His!"**

59. The mission of total commitment is to be transformed.

**CONCLUSION: The lifestyle of total commitment (transformation is a change from some commitment to total commitment).**

**I. THE MOTIVATION FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT IS GOD'S MERCY**

**II. (v.1) THE MANDATE OF TOTAL COMMITMENT IS COMPLETE SURRENDER**

**III. (v.2) THE MISSION OF TOTAL COMMITMENT IS TRANSFORMATION**