

Prayer of Commitment

The Prayer of Commitment is a reminder of how a broken relationship with God is restored, how much it cost God to restore that relationship, and what it means to be fully committed to Him. *The Prayer* goes like this...

*God, I realize that I have sinned, and that my sin separates me from You.
I come to You in repentance, and I receive Your forgiveness in Christ.*

*Jesus, I believe You died on the cross for me, and I join You in death to sin.
I believe You rose from the grave for me, and I join You in resurrection
to eternal life, which You give by grace through faith.*

*I take You, Jesus, as Savior and Lord,
to have and to hold from this day forward.
For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health.
Forsaking all others, and holding only to You throughout eternity.
I give You my life, and I receive Your Spirit.*

Interpretation of *The Prayer*

Life is about personal relationships, and relationships are about commitment. The deepest commitment that anyone can make to another is this: "I give you my life." *The Prayer of Commitment* embodies the meaning of this statement. There are three parts to *The Prayer*. Part 1 presents the "three R's" necessary to restore a relationship with God. Just as education is built on the foundation of "three R's" (reading, writing, arithmetic), relationship with God is also built on "three R's" (realize, repent, receive). Relationship with God, and people, is broken because of sin. Unless we realize our sin, we will not respond to it, and the relationship remains broken. When we realize our sin separates us from God we must act. The action is called repentance, which simply means, "change your mind." Repentance occurs when we choose to turn away from sin and return to whomever we have offended. Only then are we in a position to receive forgiveness, which is the gift of mercy and grace given by the one offended. God forgives all who truly repent. The gift is free for the person, but not God; it cost Him everything. Part 2 of *The Prayer* reveals the great price of this gift; Jesus died for our sins, and we must join Him with an attitude that chooses not to live in sin anymore. Jesus has risen from the dead, and we join Him in a resurrection to eternal life, which comes when we put our faith in Christ. Part 3 of *The Prayer* reveals the nature of this commitment. Basically, it is a marriage of our spirit with the Spirit of God. The traditional marriage vows communicate the depth of commitment between a man and woman for life. These vows are slightly modified to show the depth of commitment God wants us to have with Him forever. As God gave His life to us through Christ, we must give our lives to Christ in order to enjoy spiritual union with the Lord forever. In response, God gives His Holy Spirit to work in us and through us for His glory.