

***The Twelfth Step:
Commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior***

Everything I have written thus far is preparatory to this step, which is the most important of all. For, if we hope to renew our faith so that it is on fire we must be committed to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. There are three elements that I want to consider here.

First, at the heart of our Christian faith is Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who died for our sins and was raised from the dead so that we might share eternal life, the very resurrection life he enjoys. Remove Jesus Christ from our faith and there is no faith. Deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and there is no faith. Everything centers on and depends upon our faith in Jesus Christ, our willingness to trust in him and to entrust our lives to him. For it is in and through Jesus Christ that we encounter God. To hear the words of Jesus is to hear the Word of God. To witness what Jesus did is to see how God acts in the world, for Jesus the Son of God is God incarnate.

Second, if our faith is to be on fire we must be committed to Jesus as the Lord of our life, the one to whom we give and entrust our lives, the one who rules over and shepherds our life. One of the first ways in which the early Christians confessed Jesus was by the phrase, "Jesus is Lord." This statement was their confession of faith. Jesus, not Caesar, was the Lord and ruler of their lives, and so they lived accordingly.

Who is the Lord of your life? To whom do you give complete and total allegiance? For some people the Lord of their life is Power, or Wealth, or Success. But it cannot be that way with us. For us there can only be one Lord who claims the whole of our allegiance, and that is Jesus Christ.

When we take the great step of living so that Jesus Christ and no one else is the Lord of our life, everything falls into place. We know how to act and what to do.

Third, if our faith is to be on fire we must be committed to Jesus Christ as our Savior, for it is only Jesus Christ who can bring us the fullness of salvation. What does salvation mean for you? Who or what gives you salvation?

For many people, salvation is limited to the world and this life. And so, their “savior” is their work, their reputation, their possessions, etc. But there is more to what we can see and hear. If we truly want to be “saved” we must be saved from the last and greatest enemy; we must be saved from Death. But how is this possible? We must all die. How can we be saved from death? The answer is Jesus Christ who is the resurrection and the life. Because God raised Jesus from the dead and took Jesus into His own divine life, we believe that God will do the same for us who have believed in Jesus. We will experience, but if we are in Christ we will also experience resurrection.