

I can make many goals for my life, but am I willing to do what it takes to achieve them? That's a completely different issue, and that's true for nearly anything. Being willing to go the distance means I'm committed, I'm all in, I'm determined. Therefore, the willingness to stop smoking, lose weight, finish school, paint your living room, clean out the garage, even read your bible, or get more involved – are all things that you have to be willing to do.

Zig Ziglar often said, "The main reason for people's lack of success is their willingness to give up what they want most of all, for what they want right now!" But this dilemma has always plagued mankind. Our inability to see the future causes us to be reluctant to move, or nervous to speak up, or to do what we know we need to do.

Many statistics show that churches are dying. The retention rate is awful, and the commitment rate of those that still linger on is just as bad. How willing are Christians to obey Christ and solve problems rather than just complain about them? How do we be a light to a world that doesn't seem to see the value of assembling together? How do we be proactive to go find a way for them to see and know about the King of kings?

The assembly of saints often seems more like a private social group filled with mind-numbing traditions rather than ground-breaking solutions to a dying world. Our willingness to do and be more than just a group that gathers, and become a willing vessel ready to serve intently, is crucial to God's kingdom.

The people who are willing to follow Jesus soon realize that there is a high cost of discipleship. Doing what he did, and going where he went, means total selflessness. It means depending upon him completely for whatever success we're looking for. **Prov 16:3**, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Read **Matt 8:1-4**

What are you willing for a new home? A new car? A vacation? An education? Your soul?

Define "Willingness" in your own words:

What was the leper (in **Matt 8**) willing to do to be healed?

Compare his effort to the instance of Jabez we read about in **1 Chron 4:9-10**. What's the same? Why would it be different?

Consider **James 4:2-3**. How does his instructions compare to the leper's actions?

How willing are you to ask for forgiveness, give up something for someone else? Help someone in need?



Willingness

ASKING

BOLDNESS FAITH

HOPE

JABEZ

JESUS