Go All In

By RJ Regan

One of Scripture's most revealing moments unfolds in a single verse. The crowds welcomed the healings, miracles, and free bread. But when Jesus told them the cost of following Him, they disappeared—fast.

Too many Christians stop at salvation. But following Christ means going all in: bearing fruit, becoming more like Him, and growing in maturity until we meet the Lord.

As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore (John 6:66)
[Notice that verse number. It makes the verse easy to remember.]

When following Him became costly, many decided it was not worth it and had better options. Jesus then turned to the twelve and asked a simple question:

> *Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"* (John 6:67)

And Peter, impulsive, rough-edged, often-wrong Peter, got this one exactly right:

> *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God"* (John 6:68-69)

Peter understood something that the others, who left, missed. Peter understood, and believed as true, the promise made to him. The men who left did not. To them, the promise was not clear, not understood, or not believed, so to them the price was too much and they left.

The message is this: When the promise is clear, and valuable to you, you will pay the price. Peter understood and trusted that, in Jesus, life eternal was available, if you simply follow Him. That is biblical faith—what you understand to be true. What you believe is seen by your actions because we all do what we believe is in our best interest to do.

Peter and the remaining disciples believed that there was no better option. There was no backup plan. There was no alternate path that leads to life.

The question is not ***whether you will serve*** something. The question is ***what you will serve***?
You can serve short-term comfort, immediate pleasure, shortcuts to money, imaginary status, shallow people, toxic entertainment, or your own pride and ego.

Or you can see that all the things you desire eventually come as a result of seeking God. *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you* (Matthew 6:33).

But make no mistake, you will serve something.

The Disease Killing Us Today Has a Name: Option Paralysis

Every door is cracked open. Every path shows promise. So we hedge. We hold back. And we tell ourselves the most comfortable lie: *Tomorrow.*

> Tomorrow I'll read my Bible and pray.
> Tomorrow I'll share my faith.
> Tomorrow I'll teach that Sunday school class.
> Tomorrow I'll look for an opportunity to tell someone about God.

Tomorrow I'll hit the gym.…
Launch the business.
Walk away from the addiction
Become the person I know I'm called to be

But tomorrow is where purpose and intention go to die.
Here is what no one tells you:
Tomorrow is a fiction. It does not exist.
There is only today, and whether you will use it.

And while you wait, the **Law of Diminishing Intentions** is running. Hours become days. Days become weeks. Weeks become years. The thing you were "about to do" slowly dissolves into the thing you "used to think about." The heat goes out of it. The vision and desire fades.

That is the altar where potential goes to die—on the altar of comfort and short-term gratification. And then one day, usually in some quiet moment when you cannot distract yourself, you wake up wondering what happened. Where the years went. Where you went.

This is not a modern problem. Nor is it simply a spiritual problem. This applies to life. As usual, Jesus described it perfectly when He said:

"So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:16)

Lukewarm Christians (and people) are all over the place. God is not looking for fans. He is not recruiting spectators. He is calling you to get in the game, those who know what they stand for, people who do not quit when it costs them something, people who have decided.

Because here is the truth that most never discover: the greatest risk is not going all in.

The greatest risk is never fully committing to anything that mattered.

The person who risks everything and fails has at least learned something true about himself or herself. The person who risks nothing and coasts, dies wondering.

There comes a day in every Christian's life (hopefully before laying on their death bed) I call the "I-Will-Not-Kid-Myself-Anymore Day."

That's the day you stop blaming your father. Your ex. Your zip code. The government. Bad luck. Bad timing. The economy. Your childhood. Every excuse you have been carrying around. On that day, they run out of power.

It is the day you stop waiting to be rescued and start building something. The day you stop lying to yourself in the mirror and start looking yourself in the eye. The day you say, maybe for the first time, and really mean it:

The outcome of my life is <u>my responsibility</u> before God.

Everything changes on that day. Everything.

So, choose.

- Choose who you will serve.
- Choose what kind of person you are becoming.
- Choose your standards.
- Choose your mission.
- Choose the kind of father, husband, wife, daughter, son, and leader you are going to be.

We all have different gifts, talents, treasures, and opportunities. Maybe you like to reason with unbelievers, maybe you like to teach young believers to grow, maybe you like to help others. The application is yours and its personal, so learn your gift, understand your talents and opportunities, and then act.

God brought Israel out of Egypt, like He brought us out of unbelief, but Joshua said it plainly to an entire nation and asked them what kind of people are they going to be? They are LORD-reps in the world. So are we. What kind of LORD-rep are you going to be in *your* world?

> *"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, <u>choose for yourselves today</u> whom you will serve… but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15)

He did not hedge. He did not say, "We were exploring some options." He drew a line in front of everyone and stepped across it.

Now it is your turn.

Push every chip to the middle of the table. Burn the boats. Close the escape routes. Not because you are reckless, but because you have decided. Because you have seen enough of what the half-life looks like, and you want no part of it.

The Scripture is full of this call. We are created with the freedom of choice, and we are expected to choose who to trust and obey, and we will be held accountable for the choices we make.

- God brought a great deliverance of Israel and gave them the Law to obey to serve Him, so they could live with blessing and not die with a curse. Life and blessing were found in obedience to the LORD and His Law. *"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So, choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants…"* (Deuteronomy 30:19b).
- *"How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word* (1 Kings 18:21b). In our Burger King and word-of-faith consumerism world of "having it our way," how quickly we turn aside to follow other things: doctrines, speakers, teachings that take us away from the Word (2 Timothy 4:3-4).
- *Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways* (Proverbs 3:31).
- *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you"* (John 15:16). God chose us to be believers because He wanted us to bear fruit for Him, and the wonderful promise that the fruit would remain into eternity. Pray for God's help before you teach, before you witness, before you talk to a difficult person.

You were made in the image of a God who creates, who decides, who acts. Choosing is not just something you are allowed to do, it is something you were *built* for. Sitting on the fence is not neutrality. It is a slow surrender. So, stop waiting. Right or wrong, move. Commit. Go all in. Because the greatest tragedy is not falling while you were running hard. It is standing at the end of your life, realizing you never actually got in the race.