

**THE FAITH JOURNEY Series: THE FAITH  
JOURNEY Title: “The Commitment of Faith”**

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**1. A COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. A COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD’S WILL**

**3. A COMMITMENT TO LIVE \_\_\_\_\_**

*<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. – Genesis 12:4-5a (ESV)*

**1. A COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_**  
We will Trust and Obey no matter where God calls us to go  
We will Trust and Obey no matter what God calls us to do.  
We will Trust and Obey no matter how many obstacles are in our way.

**2. A COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD’S WILL**  
**Yielding precedes success.**  
*<sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God. – 2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV)*  
**Yielding recognizes God’s greatness.**  
**Yielding places us all on the same level.**

**3. A COMMITMENT TO LIVE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**We know our eternal destiny.**  
*<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has*

foundations, whose designer and builder is God. – **Hebrews 11:8-10 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” – **John 5:24 (ESV)**

**We know we are walking with God.**

### **From The Pastor's Study What The World Needs**

“What the world needs now is love sweet love  
That’s the only thing that there’s just too little of  
What the world needs now is love sweet love  
No not just for some but for everyone”

When Jackie Deshannon’s version of this song hit the airways in 1965 we were just getting deep into Vietnam. The country was somewhat in turmoil over a war many thought we shouldn’t be involved in, and years of war and tens of thousands of lives lost may well have proven that to be true.

In 1965 I was present in Vietnam, a piece of Southeast Asia known as The Pearl of the Orient and it certainly wasn’t a vacation destination. And love wasn’t in the air. Someone asked me why I volunteered to go and I responded “Isn’t that what we are supposed to do?”

The series I preached last month was The Bible 3:16’s. When I first started the series I didn’t realize all of the scripture I preached on referenced love from a Biblical perspective and as I developed the sermons I realized how

much it really did apply to our daily lives as people of God and how we have been missing the boat. This has colored my thoughts on how I should view others as it relates to my relationship with God.

A word that has been flying around for a while is “racist” and has become the new “N” word. It certainly is never used in love and is spit from the mouths of people with the intent to inflict pain. It is a hate word and should be termed hate speech and treated the same as the vile “N”. There is a lot I could say about this but it would probably cause issues that are not necessary.

I am often considered politically incorrect simply because I speak openly about what I believe but I am careful because I am not about creating dissension. But there is little to disagree with when we speak of love, that is unless one just loves to hate.

There is a fair amount of violence in the Old Testament but you also don’t have to look far to find love there as well. And when Jesus began His ministry love was at the center of His teaching, preaching, healing, and ministry. His entire ministry was about loving all He came in contact with.

Someone once told it takes 62 muscles to frown and 26 to smile. So unless you are into facial calisthenics try smiling more than frown. That isn’t anywhere near as easy to do as it is to say but if Jesus is our example, smiles are needed. Have you ever told someone you love them with a frown?

Loving the world is a challenge but again following our Savior’s example requires love, loving people who would

rather see you dead than alive, people who would rather remove your head than shake your hand. The ministry to the world is to love who doesn't love you seems like a high demand. Why can't we love.

When we are told to love someone even if we don't agree with their lifestyle, or because our skin tone differs, or because the denomination is different than ours, or they live in the streets, maybe it is some scruffy biker flying the American flag. The blood under our skin is red regardless of the skin.

All the laws, rules, and riots will not change what must change. The Southern politicians were pretty much run by the KKK, the central rule was hate, and it came from the heart. And the heart is what has got to change; politicians, government, laws, and preachers won't change hearts, only God can do that, only Jesus can turn hate to love.

But it takes two. Both sides have to lay their hate aside, out their anger in a hole somewhere, people who are capable of listening need to be across the table and discover the grounds where people can meet