

The 43rd Commitment
Vision • Sacrifice • Continuing a Legacy

42 years ago, someone prayed for you. You didn't know their name. You weren't born yet. But their prayers built the foundation you're standing on. Today, I'm asking you to do the same—for one name you will write on a card. That is your 43rd Commitment.

The Unseen Foundation –

Think about a skyscraper. You walk into the lobby, you take the elevator to the top, you look out at the view. But what you don't see—what you never see—is the foundation. Buried underground, out of sight, are steel beams and concrete that hold the entire building up. Nobody takes a photo of the foundation. Nobody posts it on Instagram. But without it, the building collapses.

That's what 42 years of prayer is. Men and women you've never met, whose names you don't know, prayed in the dark, in the quiet, when nobody was watching. And because they did, we are standing here today. We are the building they built.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT) *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

Application: We are surrounded by witnesses. They ran their race. Now it's our turn. The question is: Will we run it for ourselves, or will we run it like they did; for the generation coming behind us?

To run this race, we need three things. First, we need to see what they saw. That's vision.

VISION — Seeing What Others Cannot See - Vision is the ability to see God's promise before it manifests. It's faith that believes what God said, even when circumstances say otherwise.

The "Instant Gratification" Problem –

We live in a generation that wants everything now. Amazon delivers in two hours. Netflix gives you the whole season at once. If a video is longer than 60 seconds, we scroll past it. We've lost the ability to wait, to trust, to see something that isn't here yet.

But faith is the opposite of instant gratification. Faith says, "I don't see it yet, but I know it's coming." Vision says, "The harvest isn't here, but I'm planting anyway."

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) *Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.*

Proverbs 29:18 (NLT) *When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.*

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NLT) *All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. ¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. ¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. ¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."*

Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NLT) *Then the LORD said to me, 'Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.'*

Moses saw the Promised Land

Deuteronomy 34:1-4 (NLT) *Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole land... "Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, I will give it to your descendants. I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."*

Moses spent 40 years leading a grumbling, complaining, rebellious people through the wilderness. He dealt with their whining, their golden calves, their constant doubts. And at the very end, God said, "You can see it, but you can't enter it."

Most people would have been bitter. "After all I did? I can't even go in?" But Moses didn't complain. He saw it. He saw the promise with his own eyes. That was enough.

Vision is the ability to see your students—your kids, your grandkids, the children in this church—walking in God's purpose before they ever take a single step. You may never see the full harvest. But you can see it from the mountain. That's vision.

Discussion Question: What do you see for this church in year 43? Who is the young person God is placing on your heart that you can already see walking in their purpose?

But here's the problem. Vision is cheap. Everyone has a dream. Everyone has a hope. But vision without sacrifice is just a daydream. You can't build a legacy on good intentions.

SACRIFICE — Paying the Price for What You Cannot Yet See - Sacrifice is willingly giving up something valuable for the sake of something greater. It's the price you pay to see vision become reality.

The "Low-Cost" Christian:

We live in an age of easy Christianity. We want the blessing without the obedience. We want the promise without the pain. We want the legacy without the sacrifice. We'll pray if it's convenient. We'll serve if it doesn't cost too much. We'll commit if it doesn't interrupt our schedule.

But the 43rd Commitment that we are talking about today isn't easy. It will cost you something. It will cost you time you could have spent scrolling on your phone. It will cost you comfort—praying for a student whose life is messy, whose future is uncertain. It will cost you patience—because you may not see the answer with your natural eyes.

Romans 12:1 (NLT) *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

Acts 20:24 (NLT) *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NLT) *As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.*

Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT) *Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will find it.'*

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NLT) *It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, ¹⁸even though God had told him, 'Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.' ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.*

Abraham Offers Isaac - Genesis 22:1-14 (NLT) (Summarize)

Think about what God asked Abraham to do. "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—and sacrifice him." This wasn't just any son. This was the son of promise. This was the son through whom God said, "I will make you into a great nation."

Abraham had waited 25 years for Isaac to be born. He was 100 years old when Isaac came. And now God says, "Give him back."

Abraham could have said, "God, this doesn't make sense. You promised me a nation through this boy. If I kill him, how will your promise come true?" But Abraham trusted God more than he trusted the promise. He believed that even if Isaac died, God could raise him from the dead.

What is your Isaac? What is the thing you love most that God is asking you to release? Maybe it's your comfort. Maybe it's your control. Maybe it's your fear of what people will think. Maybe it's your time.

The 43rd Commitment is about releasing these the generations after you into God's hands. It's saying, "God, I'll pray for them even if I never see the answer. I'll invest in them even if they never thank me. I'll sacrifice for them even if they never know my name." What are you willing to lose to see this generation walk in God's purpose? What comfort, time, or convenience are you being asked to lay down? Vision sees it. Sacrifice pays for it. But without one more piece, it all dies with us. That piece is legacy.

LEGACY — Building What Outlasts You - Legacy is what you leave behind for the next generation. It's building something you may never personally enjoy, for people you may never meet.

The "Selfie" Generation – We live in the age of the selfie. Everything is about "me." My brand. My platform. My followers. My legacy. We want to build our name, build our kingdom, build our reputation. But biblical legacy is the opposite. Biblical legacy says, "I'm going to build something for people I may never see. I'm going to plant trees I'll never sit under. I'm going to lay foundations I'll never walk on."

Psalms 145:4 (NLT) *Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.*

Proverbs 13:22 (NLT) *Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.*

1 Chronicles 28:9-10 (NLT) *And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. ¹⁰So take this seriously. The LORD has chosen you to build a Temple as his sanctuary. Be strong, and do the work.*

2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT) *You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*

Psalms 78:4 (NLT) *We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.*

David Prepares for Solomon

1 Chronicles 22:1-5, 14-16 (NLT) - David had a heart to build God a temple. But God said, "You won't build it. You're a man of war. Your hands have shed blood. But your son Solomon will build it."

Now, most kings would have been offended. "What do you mean I can't build it? I'm the king! I conquered Jerusalem! I defeated the Philistines! I brought the Ark back!" But David didn't pout. He didn't throw a tantrum. He didn't say, "Fine, if I can't build it, nobody will." Instead, he spent the final years of his life preparing. He gathered gold, silver, bronze, iron, timber, and stone. He drew the plans. He trained the workers. He gave Solomon everything he needed to finish what David started. David is the picture of legacy. He built something he would never see. He prepared for a future he would not personally enjoy. He passed the baton to the next generation.

Parallel: The Grandparent's Investment - Think about grandparents who sacrifice for their grandchildren. They save for college. They invest in 529 plans. They set aside inheritance. They do all of this knowing they may never see the graduation, the wedding, or the career that their investment made possible. But they do it anyway. Why? Because they love the generation coming behind them. That's what legacy is. You invest in someone else's future, knowing you may never see the return.

Caleb's Faithfulness - Joshua 14:6-12 (NLT)

Caleb was 85 years old when he finally received his inheritance. He had waited 45 years—through 40 years of wilderness wandering, through an entire generation dying off—because he believed God's promise. At 85, he didn't say, "I'm too old. I'm tired. Let the younger guys take the mountain." He said, "Give me this mountain! I'm still as strong as I was the day Moses sent me out!"

Legacy isn't for the young. Legacy is for the faithful. It's for people who refuse to give up, who refuse to quit, who refuse to stop believing what God promised—even when it takes 45 years to see it fulfilled. What are you building that will outlast you? Who is the next generation that will stand on the foundation you're laying today?

Recap:

- Vision Seeing God's promise before it manifests Moses saw the Promised Land
- Sacrifice Paying the price for what you can't yet see Abraham offered Isaac

- Legacy Building what outlasts you David prepared for Solomon's temple

In the Middle Ages, cathedrals took centuries to build. The builders knew they would never see the finished structure. They would lay foundations, raise walls, carve stones.. and die long before the final spire was placed. But they built anyway. They built for generations they would never meet. They built for people who would stand in awe of a structure those builders would never see completed. That's what we're doing today. You are a cathedral builder. You're laying a foundation of prayer that someone will stand on 43 years from now. You may never see the finished product. But you build anyway.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT) *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ²We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

Now. Pick up your pen. Write one name. And know this—you just became part of the prayer foundation that someone will stand on 43 years from now. This is your 43rd Commitment. Don't take it lightly. Take it personally.