

# HOLDING PATTERN

*Dr. John Tolson*

**Do we really understand  
a commitment to  
Jesus Christ?**

# Who shapes our concept of God?

Past

Culture

# Result:

**We commit our lives to God if:**

- 1. It's convenient.**
- 2. It doesn't cost too much.**
- 3. It doesn't make me a fanatic.**
- 4. I don't have to be a missionary**

**Your concept of God will  
determine your  
commitment to God.**

**There is a difference  
between believing in Jesus  
and being an  
obedient disciple of Jesus.**

Satan **believes** but

Satan does not

**submit.**

**What difference is it  
making in my life and in  
the lives of others?**

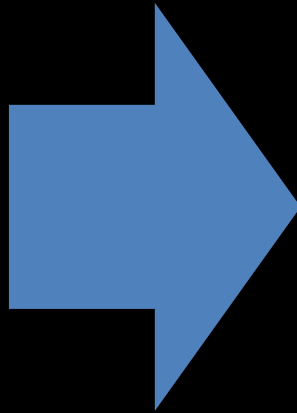


**Jesus never made it easy  
to follow Him.**

**Mark 8**

**Luke 9**

**John 6:66**



**Contrary to  
cultural  
Christianity**

**If you have ever met  
Christ – for real – you  
can never be the same  
again!**

**How do I become an obedient  
disciple?**

**How do I become the person  
God meant for me to be?**

**Some people are saying...**

**“I’m too young”**

**“I’m too old”**

**“I’m retired from  
church work”**

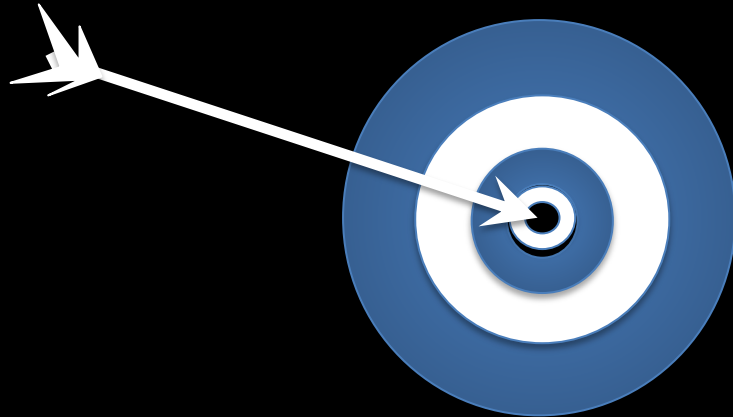
# 2 Timothy 2:15

**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

**In essence, he is saying...**

**Objectives determine outcome**

**You achieve that for  
which you aim.**



# **3 secrets to becoming the person God meant for you to be!**

- 1. Is the Lord well-pleased?  
(a passion for a person)**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved (2 Tim. 2:15)



# John 17:3

**Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**

# Philippians 3:10

**I want to know Christ – yes, to  
know the power of his  
resurrection and participation in  
his sufferings, becoming like him  
in his death.**

**As Christians, we play to  
an audience of ONE.**

**We can be a success  
with men but a failure  
with God.**

**John 14:15**

**If you love me, keep my  
commands.**

**Am I a thermometer  
recording a temperature, or  
am I a thermostat  
determining temperature?**

**Impact comes as we live  
distinctively different  
from society.**

**Is the Lord well-pleased?**



# **3 secrets to becoming the person God meant for you to be!**

**1. Is the Lord well-pleased?**

**2. Is the work well-done?**

**(a passion for excellence)**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed  
(2 Tim. 2:15)

# **A passion for excellence in:**

- **Your life**
- **Family life**
- **Morals**
- **Relationships**
- **Work**
- **Relationship with the Lord**

**We want happiness.**

**The Lord wants holiness.**

A workman who  
does not need to be  
ashamed.

# 2 Reasons

1. I aimed too low – settled for average
  - In my personal spiritual development
  - As a parent
  - As a servant of the Lord
2. Working without sacrifice

# Luke 19:17

**“Well done, my good servant!” his master replied. “Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.”**

# **3 secrets to becoming the person God meant for you to be!**

- 1. Is the Lord well-pleased?  
(a passion for a person)**
- 2. Is the work well-done?  
(a passion for excellence)**
- 3. Is the Word well-used?  
(a passion for Truth)**

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

**A worker who does not need  
to be ashamed and who  
correctly handles the word  
of truth.**



**There is a direct correlation  
between a person's use of  
the Bible and their influence  
in the world.**

# How do I use the Word well?

## 1. Know the Word

- **Steady diet**
- **NOT a chapter a day to keep the doctor away**
- **Prerequisite: Christ must be in your life.**

# How do I use the Word well?

## 2. Use the Word

True learning of the Bible only takes place when it alters our behavior.

**John 14:15**

**If you love me, keep  
my commands.**

**Just because we know the  
Bible and have read it from  
cover to cover doesn't mean  
we are changed!**

# How do I use the Word well?

## 3. Share the Word

- By your life
- By your lips

**You will earn the right to  
share it when you:**

- 1. Know it**
- 2. Live it**
- 3. Love those you want to  
share it with**

**NO PLAN B!**



## 2 Timothy 2:15

**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

Remember you can get the audio  
and slides from John's message  
today at

*[www.TheTolsonGroup.com](http://www.TheTolsonGroup.com)*

under Gathering of Men.