



## Characteristics of a Joshua

In the movie “The Forge” one of the lead characters is a man named “Joshua”. Joshua is a mature Christ follower who disciples other men by providing guidance, support, and encouragement. This document defines the characteristics of a Joshua, and we hope it help men answer the question "What kind of a man do you want to be?"

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### Mature

**Having the ability to consider someone besides themselves.**

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1. **Physically:** This refers to the completion of physical growth and development.
2. **Emotionally:** This involves the ability to understand and manage one's emotions, and to respond to situations in a thoughtful and balanced way. It includes qualities like self-awareness, empathy, and resilience.
3. **Social Maturity:** This encompasses the ability to build and maintain healthy relationships, communicate effectively, and cooperate with others. It also involves understanding and respecting social norms and expectations.
4. **Cognitive Maturity:** This refers to the development of advanced thinking skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making. It also includes the ability to think abstractly and consider different perspectives
5. **Spiritually:** Spiritual maturity is not about age or how long you've been a Christian. It's about becoming more like Christ in your character, conduct, and relationship with God. Here's a breakdown based on various biblical principles:

#### **Key Characteristics of Spiritual Maturity:**

1. **Christlikeness:** The ultimate goal is to become more like Jesus (Romans 8:29, Ephesians 4:13). This involves cultivating His qualities such as humility, love, compassion, forgiveness, and obedience.
2. **Deepening Relationship with God:** Spiritual maturity involves consistent prayer, studying and applying Scripture, and seeking God's will in all areas of life (James 4:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

3. **Fruit of the Spirit:** Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are evidence of the Holy Spirit working in a believer's life and are indicators of spiritual growth.
4. **Humility and Servanthood:** Philippians 2:3-4 emphasizes considering others as more important than oneself and serving them with humility. Mature Christians are characterized by a selfless attitude.
5. **Love for Others:** Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-39). Loving others, even those who are difficult, is a mark of spiritual maturity.
6. **Perseverance and Faithfulness:** Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages believers to run the race with endurance, keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus. Spiritual maturity involves persevering through trials and remaining faithful to God despite challenges.
7. **Discernment and Wisdom:** Hebrews 5:14 talks about those who have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Spiritual maturity involves developing discernment and wisdom through experience and applying God's Word.

### **It's a Journey, Not a Destination.**

Philippians 3:12-14 highlights that even the Apostle Paul saw himself as still striving towards spiritual maturity. It's an ongoing process of growth and sanctification that continues throughout a believer's life.

### **Key Scriptures on Spiritual Maturity:**

- **Ephesians 4:11-16:** "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."
- **Colossians 1:28-29:** "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."
- **1 Peter 2:1-3:** "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."
- **2 Peter 1:5-8:** "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"

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# Initiator

*An initiator is someone who takes the first step, sparks action and gets things going. They are the catalysts who set plans in motion and inspire others to follow.*

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Key characteristics of initiators:

1. **Proactive and Self-Motivated:** Initiators don't wait for instructions or permission; they see what needs to be done and take charge. They possess a strong inner drive and don't need external pressure to get started.
2. **Visionary and Idea-Oriented:** They often have a clear vision or a wealth of ideas. They can see possibilities where others see obstacles and are excited to bring those ideas to life.
3. **Courageous and Risk-Taking:** Initiators are willing to step outside their comfort zone and embrace challenges. They are not afraid of failure and see setbacks as learning opportunities.
4. **Decisive and Action-Oriented:** They don't get bogged down in overthinking or analysis paralysis. Once they have a plan, they move forward with confidence and determination.
5. **Energetic and Enthusiastic:** Their passion is contagious, and they inspire others with their energy and excitement. They create a sense of momentum and possibility.
6. **Good Communicators:** Initiators can effectively convey their vision and plans to others, rallying support and motivating them to contribute.
7. **Leadership Qualities:** Initiators often naturally assume leadership roles, guiding and inspiring others towards a common goal.

## Examples of Initiators:

Entrepreneurs: Starting new businesses and ventures.

Community Organizers: Bringing people together for a cause.

Project Managers: Launching and leading new projects.

Artists and Creatives: Pioneering new styles and forms of expression.

## Key Scriptures on being initiators:

The Bible encourages believers to be proactive and take initiative in their relationships with others, demonstrating love, compassion, and service. Here are some verses that instruct believers to be initiators:

### Initiating Love and Compassion:

- **1 John 3:18:** "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."- This verse encourages believers to take the initiative to show love through actions, not just words. Be proactive in demonstrating care and concern for others.

- **Galatians 6:2:** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." - Take the initiative to help those who are struggling. Don't wait to be asked; offer support and assistance.
- **1 John 4:7:** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." - Be the first to extend love and grace to others, reflecting God's love.

#### **Initiating Reconciliation and Forgiveness:**

- **Matthew 5:23-24:** "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." - Take the initiative to seek reconciliation and resolve conflicts. Don't wait for the other person to make the first move.
- **Colossians 3:13:** "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." - Be the first to forgive and extend grace, initiating healing in relationships.

#### **Initiating Service and Hospitality:**

- **Matthew 25:35-40:** "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Take the initiative to serve others, especially those in need. - Don't wait for opportunities to come to you; actively seek ways to help.
- **Hebrews 13:2:** "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." - Be proactive in welcoming others, extending hospitality and kindness.

#### **Initiating Encouragement and Support:**

- **1 Thessalonians 5:11:** "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." - Take the initiative to offer encouragement and support to others. Be intentional about building them up and speaking words of affirmation.
- **Hebrews 3:13:** "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." - Don't wait for others to reach out; initiate contact and offer encouragement in their walk with God.

These verses demonstrate that believers are called to be proactive in their faith and relationships. By taking initiative, we can demonstrate God's love, promote healing, and build up others in the body of Christ. Initiators are the driving force behind progress and change. Their ability to spark action, inspire others, and overcome obstacles makes them invaluable in various settings, from business and community to personal life.

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# Committed

*Someone who displays a strong dedication and steadfastness towards a particular cause, person, or goal. They are characterized by their unwavering loyalty and determination to see things through, even in the face of challenges.*

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Key characteristics of a committed person:

1. **Dedicated and Devoted:** They invest their time, energy, and resources into what they believe in. This dedication goes beyond mere interest; it's a deep-seated passion that fuels their actions.
2. **Responsible and Reliable:** They take their commitments seriously and follow through on their promises. They are dependable and can be counted on to fulfill their obligations.
3. **Persistent and Resilient:** They don't give up easily. They persevere through obstacles and setbacks, maintaining their focus on the end goal. They see challenges as opportunities to grow and learn.
4. **Loyal and Steadfast:** They remain true to their commitments, even when things get tough. Their loyalty is unwavering, and they stand by their beliefs and the people they are committed to.
5. **Passionate and Engaged:** They show enthusiasm and genuine interest in what they are committed to. They are actively involved and invested in the process.
6. **Sacrificing and Giving:** They are willing to make sacrifices to uphold their commitments. They prioritize their responsibilities and put in the necessary effort to achieve their goals.
7. **Goal-Oriented and Focused:** They have a clear vision of what they want to achieve and maintain their focus on the desired outcome. They set priorities and work diligently towards their objectives.
8. **Consistent and Steadfast:** They demonstrate consistency in their actions and behaviors. They are reliable and their commitment is evident in their long-term dedication.

## Examples of Commitment:

A committed parent: actively involved in their child's life, providing support and guidance.

A committed employee: dedicated to their work, going above and beyond to contribute to the company's success.

A committed partner: loyal and devoted to their relationship, working through challenges together.

A committed athlete: training diligently and consistently to achieve their athletic goals.

In essence, commitment reflects a person's character and integrity. It demonstrates their ability to persevere, stay focused, and maintain loyalty to their values and goals.

While the Bible doesn't explicitly use the word "committed" in the modern sense, it speaks extensively about dedication, perseverance, and wholehearted devotion to God, His Word, and others. Here are some verses that encourage believers to be committed:

### **Commitment to God:**

- **Deuteronomy 6:5:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." - This verse emphasizes a complete and unwavering devotion to God, encompassing every aspect of one's being.
- **Joshua 24:15:** "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." - This demonstrates a decisive and unwavering commitment to serving God, regardless of the choices of others.
- **Matthew 6:33:** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." - This highlights the importance of prioritizing God's kingdom and His will above all else, demonstrating a committed pursuit of His purposes.
- **Romans 12:1-2:** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - This calls for a complete dedication of oneself to God, a commitment to living a life transformed by His Word and guided by His will.

### **Commitment to Others:**

- **Ruth 1:16-17:** "But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." - Ruth's unwavering loyalty to Naomi exemplifies a deep commitment to a relationship, even in the face of hardship and uncertainty.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." - This passage describes the characteristics of true love, which requires commitment, perseverance, and selfless dedication to another person.
- **Colossians 3:13:** "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." - This emphasizes the importance of commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation in relationships, reflecting a willingness to work through challenges and maintain unity.

### **Commitment to Spiritual Growth:**

- **Acts 2:42:** "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." - This describes the early church's commitment to spiritual disciplines, demonstrating a dedication to learning, community, and prayer.

- **Philippians 3:13-14:** "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." - This highlights the importance of perseverance and a forward-focused commitment to spiritual growth, continually striving towards Christlikeness.
- **Hebrews 10:25:** "Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." - This encourages a commitment to the Christian community, emphasizing the importance of regular fellowship and mutual encouragement in the faith.

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# Faithful

*Faithfulness encompasses loyalty, trustworthiness, and steadfastness. A faithful person is someone who can be relied upon to uphold their commitments and remain steadfast in their beliefs and relationships, even in the face of challenges.*

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Key characteristics of a faithful individual:

- 1. Loyalty and Devotion:** They demonstrate unwavering allegiance and support to the people and causes they are committed to. They stand by their loved ones, friends, and beliefs through thick and thin.
- 2. Trustworthiness and Reliability:** They are honest and truthful in their words and actions. They keep their promises and can be counted on to follow through with their commitments. They earn the trust of others through their consistent integrity.
- 3. Steadfastness and Perseverance:** They remain committed to their values and goals, even when facing adversity or temptation. They don't waver in their dedication and persevere through challenges.
- 4. Integrity and Honesty:** They live by a strong moral compass and uphold ethical principles. They are truthful in their interactions and maintain their integrity even when no one is watching.
- 5. Commitment and Dedication:** They are deeply devoted to their relationships, responsibilities, and beliefs. They invest their time and energy into nurturing these commitments and prioritize them in their lives.
- 6. Dependability and Consistency:** They are reliable and consistent in their actions and behaviors. They can be counted on to be there for others and fulfill their obligations.
- 7. Respect and Honor:** They treat others with respect and honor their commitments. They value their relationships and strive to maintain trust and mutual respect.

**Examples of Faithfulness:**

- **A faithful friend:** someone who is always there for you, offering support and loyalty through good times and bad.
- **A faithful spouse:** committed to their partner, remaining loyal and dedicated to their relationship.
- **A faithful employee:** dedicated to their work, consistently performing their duties with integrity and reliability.
- **A faithful believer:** steadfast in their faith, trusting in God's promises and living according to their beliefs.

Faithfulness is a valuable quality that builds trust, strengthens relationships, and fosters personal growth. It reflects a person's character and their commitment to living a life of integrity and loyalty.



- **Proverbs 28:20:** "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished." - This emphasizes the rewards of faithfulness and the dangers of prioritizing wealth over integrity.
- **1 Corinthians 4:2:** "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." - This highlights faithfulness as a requirement for those entrusted with responsibilities, implying that we are all stewards of something in God's kingdom.
- **Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." - Faithfulness is listed as a fruit of the Spirit, indicating it's a result of the Holy Spirit working in a believer's life.

#### **Faithfulness in Relationships:**

- **Proverbs 18:24:** "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." - This emphasizes the value of true, faithful friends who remain loyal even in difficult times.
- **Ruth 1:16-17:** "But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.'" - This demonstrates Ruth's extraordinary faithfulness to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

#### **Faithfulness to God:**

- **Deuteronomy 7:9:** "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations..." - This highlights God's own faithfulness as a model for believers.
- **Psalms 33:4:** "For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness." - This emphasizes the trustworthiness of God's Word and actions, encouraging believers to have faith in Him.
- **Matthew 25:21:** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" - This parable illustrates the rewards of faithfulness to God, even in seemingly small tasks.
- **Hebrews 10:23:** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." - This encourages perseverance and trust in God's promises, even when facing challenges.
- **Revelation 2:10:** "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." - This powerful verse highlights the importance of remaining faithful even in the face of persecution and death.