

What is a good definition of commitment? Monroe Hawley in his book Searching for a Better Way gives the following idea: "We were in a canoe in a fast-moving Wisconsin stream. Often the stream would part for rocks, sand bars, logs, or some other obstacle. As we neared the place where the stream split I would shout to my partner in the front of the canoe, 'Which side?' He would survey the situation, decide which passage was best and reply. We would both then maneuver the canoe in that direction, once we rounded a bend, shot through some rapids and were faced immediately with an obstruction. Almost before I could shout, 'Which side,' we had quickly entered the passageway. My partner replied, 'Brother, we're committed.' What he meant was, the decision was made, we were on our way, there was no turning back, there was no stopping, there was no changing course."

Commitment is a decision that you make that puts you in the mainstream so that there is no turning back. Winston Churchill said of his people during World War II that they had 'drawn the sword and thrown away the scabbard.' That meant that the fight was to the finish. This is what our life is like. We must keep on trying no matter what happens.

I remember camping once in the Carter mountain area and feeling the freedom of boyhood. I was just running through the woods (which I was not quite familiar with) and I suddenly saw a drop-off ahead of me. I had too much momentum to stop; I passed the point of no return and I had to go on and jump. Fortunately for me it was only about six feet to the ground. In our lives we get a lot of momentum and just like the canoeists above, we find it very hard to change our direction. So it is therefore extremely important that we are following the right path or stream. Otherwise, the fall (or falls) could be more than we can handle.