



“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself (his soul)?” Jesus in Luke 9:25

THEME FOR THE YEAR For the past year we have been working our way through the book of Acts in order to find out what made these early followers of Christ so ALL IN. They were ordinary men like us who did not **TRY** dutifully but **TRUSTED** daily for God to do exactly as He promised. You see, these ALL IN men were players on the field, not spectators in the stands. Humble followers, not fickle fans. Men who obeyed in reality not operated in theory. Guys who honored Him with their lives, not just their lips. Men who were so overwhelmed by His gracious forgiveness at the cross that they are compelled to live **ALL IN** by growing in their love for Him. That is why our theme verse is **Matthew 22:37-40** “Love God with **ALL** your **HEART** (character), **SOUL** (conviction), **MIND** (comprehension), **STRENGTH** (courage) and **NEIGHBOR** (compassion). We each carry around a poker chip as a reminder that the OT Bible word for being ALL IN is ‘**committed**’ which is a gambling/banking term meaning to ‘**to roll**’ [the dice] (Ps 37:5). And the NT word for ‘**commit**’ is a banking term meaning to ‘**give over**’ (Luke 23:46). God invites you to go **ALL IN** by gambling on Him because you will never lose! The odds with Him are always 100% because He is faithful to His Word. And He encourages you to invest in His promise which guarantees a great return in your life for eternity. You no longer need to **bluff** your way through life or **fold** in tough times.

REVIEW Men who followed Jesus became ALL IN men because they...

- Were surrendered to and were filled with His **Holy Spirit**. Acts 1:2, 5, 2:4
- Were convinced that **Jesus rose from the dead**, was **reigning** and would **return** to set up His kingdom for eternity. Acts 1:3
- Understood they were **sent by God and were on mission**. Acts 1:8
- Continually **devoting themselves to the truths of God’s Word**. Acts 2:42

- Believed in the **power of prayer**. Acts 2:42; 3:1
- Were a **part of a team** for encouragement/accountability. Acts 2:14
- Were **living between Sundays** “in Jesus’ name”. Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10,
- **Obeys** in response to God’s love. Acts 5:29
- Had a **lifestyle of repentance**. Acts 3:19
- **Responded to cultural persecution** with grace/love. 4:19-20; 5:40-42

THE GREATEST GAMBLE by Ray Comfort We kick off the fall with a video guaranteed to get you in the gambling mood. Put yourself in the casino wrestling with the questions being presented.

1. With which person interviewed could you most identify? Which one thinks most like you used to think or still think now? Why?
2. What word, thought, principle or challenge made you think hard or become uncomfortable? Why?
3. How does God’s extreme love for you demonstrated in the death and resurrection of Christ for your sin make it worth going ALL IN for Him?
4. What truth presented most makes you most want to be ALL IN for Christ? Why?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Read Acts 1-5 reading for yourself what made the men in Acts ALL IN as you reflect on the “Review” bullets on the front of this sheet.
2. Write out a heartfelt prayer to start the fall season asking God to help you grow to ‘gamble’ with and invest in Christ in order to become an ALL IN man.
3. Would you be willing to show and discuss The Greatest Gamble by Ray Comfort with a friend?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ulZkYqkKqM>