

## Commitment

In the Gītā, Lord Kṛṣṇa tells us that in this world very few seek Him; and of those that do seek Him, very, very few find Him. And this is certainly verified by our own observation.

We can understand, to a certain extent, why very few people seek the Lord. Most people are so busy with their own personal interests that they have neither the time nor the inclination to seek Him. Even those who are very pious—who pray regularly, worship regularly—do not seem to have a desire to seek the Lord Himself. They think in terms of worldly blessings, heaven or a better birth.

The reason seems to be simple—they have never had a call. They have never read something in a book, heard a talk, or had an inner spiritual experience that stirred them so deeply that they realized that without a doubt there was something more important in life than what they had been previously seeking. So unless we have had a call from the Lord, it is not likely that we will seek Him in Himself.

But then the question arises, Why, if we have had that call, do so few find Him? There can be many reasons given, but there is perhaps an absolutely key one that we don't think of too often. And that is contained in the word "commitment."

Swāmī Krishnānandajī Maharāj used to say, "If you really wanted God, you would have Him this instant." The reason we don't really want God, in the sense Swāmī Krishnānandajī meant, is because of our lack of commitment. We want God, but there are many other things we want as well. Sometimes those other things are so powerful that within a short time of our call to the spiritual life, we drift back to those things, and the call becomes simply a pleasant memory.

But even if we stick to the spiritual life, those other things are constantly calling us, constantly distracting us from the spiritual life. Even though we may be committing part of our time to the spiritual life or even leading a full-time monastic life, in actual fact, from a spiritual point of view we are drifting because we are distracted.

What is lacking? Commitment. There needs to come a time in our spiritual life when we, so to speak, make a deal with God. We say, “No matter what my mind or senses may want Lord, I want You, and I will pay any price to have You. Furthermore, I commit myself to this search for the rest of my life, win or lose.” That is commitment. That is what is ultimately required of us.

And even that may not be sufficient, so powerful is the attraction of the senses and sense-objects. So, therefore, that commitment must be constantly renewed, constantly remembered. In one sense, we might say that the only purpose of our *sādhana* is to constantly deepen our commitment. And perhaps that is the only thing that is required of us. To paraphrase Swāmī Krishnānandajī, “If we are really committed to God, we’ll have Him.” Or, if we are truly committed to God, don’t worry, He’ll do the rest.