

12 THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER GIVEN THE TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN



- We are now living in the lawless times that Jesus spoke of and the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about as we can see the imminent rapture of all true believers

Jesus Himself said, “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

(Matthew 24:10-13)





The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12)

- The simple fact is that if we wish to live wholeheartedly for Christ, we can expect persecution for our faith**



- **With the world becoming more and more unstable and ungodly, I felt today to share some keys that can help us to remain strong and focused in our Christian walk and ministry callings**



- **In this teaching I will also be looking at some important priorities given the times that we are now living in**

1) That our heart is continually right towards God and others

- It is so important that we do not allow the ways of the world to affect our heart attitudes and that we are always diligent in preventing wrong attitudes and desires from entering into our heart



In the book of Proverbs we read, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

- **What we allow into our heart will greatly impact the way that we live our life and the way that we speak to others, especially when under pressure**



Jesus Himself said,

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)



So, maintaining a right heart spiritually is absolutely crucial to living a victorious and overcoming Christian life and to finishing our Christian walk well



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ...” (Proverbs 23:7)

- For this reason, we must always be quick to repent of any known sin in our lives
- This is such a great key to maintaining a soft heart and sensitive conscience
- Having a repentant heart helps us to remain strong in our walk with the Lord

The Apostle John wrote,

**“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(1 John 1:9)**



- **We will also have many opportunities to be offended in life and ministry. Jesus Himself made this very clear**

Jesus said, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!” (Luke 17:1)

- Being a good forgiver is therefore a great key to always maintaining a right heart



- It is so important that we are always quick to forgive those who hurt us, or who let us down in life or ministry

- We must simply refuse to allow offences to enter into our heart by being always quick to forgive those who hurt us

Jesus Himself said,

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” **(Mark 11:25-26)**



- **The Devil will also always highlight the faults in others whilst we are so often blinded to our own faults**

- **THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT WE ARE ALL WORKS IN PROGRESS**



- **None of us are perfect so we must always be careful not to allow critical and judgemental attitudes to develop in our heart towards others**

- As God has been gracious to us, so too, we must always be gracious to others
- So, one great key to remaining strong in our walk with the Lord and to being fruitful in our ministry calling, is that we are always careful to maintain a right heart spiritually



The Apostle Paul gave us one great key to consistently maintaining a right heart when he wrote,

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.”

(Philippians 4:8)



- WHAT WE FOCUS ON WILL HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART SPIRITUALLY

King David, who was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart wrote,

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)



In the book of James we read,

“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the LORD is at hand.” (James 5:8)



- Especially given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, how important it is that we continually maintain a right heart towards God and others**

2) That winning souls to Christ must be a great priority

- When we see so many people in desperate need of true hope in our world and as we see the imminent rapture of all true believers, evangelism must now be a great priority in the times that we are now living in



Jesus Himself said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” **(John 4:35)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

- There is power in the gospel message to bring transformation to lives and cities and even nations**



In the book of Ezekiel, we read the word of the LORD to the prophet Ezekiel,



“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.” **(Ezekiel 33:7-9)**

- Given the time that we are now living in, actively preaching the gospel to unbelievers and sharing our faith with others must be a great priority as we seek the Lord for His outreach strategies in this season. A season for harvesting lost souls.



- Given that there are now multitudes in the valley of decision, equipping Christians to share their faith must also be an important part of our ministry as pastors and leaders

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**



- TRULY IT IS GOD’S DESIRE THAT NONE WOULD PERISH

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” **(2 Peter 3:9)**



- As it is so important to see all Christians becoming effective in winning souls to Christ, we have put together a “Run your own evangelism school” course on our Church of Hope website.



- Following is the link to go to this page on our website:

[https://www.coh.org.au/Run Evangelism School](https://www.coh.org.au/Run_Evangelism_School)

3) The importance of making disciples



- We are living in increasingly ungodly and challenging times
- For this reason, helping Christians to grow in their faith must be an important focus for church leaders
- That we help new believers to eventually become disciple makers themselves

Jesus Himself said,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” **(Matthew 28:19-20)**



- Especially for new believers given the ungodly times that we are now living in, helping them to grow strong in their faith must be a great priority for all pastors and leaders.



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,” **(1 Timothy 4:1)**

Helping all believers to become grounded in their faith through;

- Good bible-based messages,
- Discipleship through small groups, and
- Mentoring other Christians

are all important aspects of church life that can help to see all believers growing strong in their walk with the Lord



- It is also important that we also encourage all believers to develop their own personal devotional life and to build their lives on the foundation of the word of God and prayer



- A key focus in these times must therefore be on helping all believers to become strong and grounded in their Christian Walk. That we help all believers to go from being a convert to eventually a disciple maker themselves

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)



- The Apostle Paul also emphasised the need for more fathers of the faith who are prepared to invest their lives in helping other believers to grow strong in their faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” **(1 Corinthians 4:15-16)**



- Making disciples must therefore be a great focus for pastors and leaders so that those who have been entrusted into their care can grow into mature disciples



Again, the Apostle Paul wrote, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:11-13)**

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **but, speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ-“
(Ephesians 4:14-15)



- Following are links to some of our discipleship training courses that are on our Church of Hope website:

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY VIDEO COURSE

[https://coh.org.au/Practical Christianity Course](https://coh.org.au/Practical_Christianity_Course)



17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

[https://coh.org.au/Course Powerpoints](https://coh.org.au/Course_Powerpoints)

WEBSITE DISCIPLESHIP / MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

<https://coh.org.au/Webcourse>

4) Encouraging all believers to use their spiritual gifts and to connect with their God given callings

- A great key to a believer living a fulfilled Christian life is that they also connect with their God given calling in life
- This is such a great key to embracing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of



- We all need one another in the body of Christ

- Every believer has an important ministry that begins the moment they come to Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

- As pastors and leaders, we need to be actively encouraging all believers to connect with their God given assignment here on earth and **CREATING** opportunities for them to use their spiritual gifts



- It is as all believers flow in their own unique gifts and callings that the body of Christ begins to make an impact in the world

The Apostle Paul wrote, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)



- Given the fact that every believer has an important part to play in the Body of Christ, how important it is that we maintain unity in our church fellowships and between other believers and churches



Jesus Himself prayed, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” **(John 17:20-23)**



Jesus Himself also said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

- So how important it is that we appreciate the gifts and callings of other believers and that as pastors and leaders we actively encourage all believers to use their spiritual gifts and to connect with their callings**

- Every believer also has a mission's field where they can help to bring the goodness of God into their spheres of influence by sharing the gospel with others and living out the Christian life so that they shine for Jesus



Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)

- **EVERY BELIEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

- So, as we see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, how important it is that we actively encourage all Christians to use their spiritual gifts and to live their lives for the Kingdom Cause



- **I WILL NOW FOCUS MORE ON SOME PERSONAL KEYS TO BECOMING ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIVES IN THE UNGODLY TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN**

5) The importance of using our time wisely by remaining in God's will for our life (Being FOCUSED)



- Our time is the most precious resource. Every day once lived cannot be regained
- With the imminent rapture of all true believers, making the most of each day is becoming increasingly important
- Knowing the will of God for our lives is the key to being productive in the use of our time

The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)



- **Having a clear understanding of God’s will and plan for our lives helps us to use our time wisely as we know what to say “Yes” to and what to say “No” to**

- It is so important that we continually operate in our own unique gifts and callings



- We are the greatest blessing to others and the most fulfilled in life when we flow in our own unique gifts and calling
- For this reason, it is so important that we always prayerfully seek the Lord to know what to say “Yes” to and what to say “No” to

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.



Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:4-8)**

- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to prayerfully make plans to see that vision become a reality



The LORD said to the Prophet Habakkuk,

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)



- Prayerfully involving God in all of our plans helps us to consistently remain in the will of God for our lives so that we are always at the right place at the right time doing the right thing so that our lives bear much fruit

6) That our greatest priority is having intimacy with God

- Our love for Jesus must always be our highest priority in life

In the book of Daniel, we read,

“but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” **(Daniel 11:32)**



- It is in that place of intimacy with the LORD that we get to know God in a very real and tangible way
- This is such a great key to preaching with power and conviction



- It is only in maintaining an abiding and intimate relationship with the Lord that we consistently grow in Christlike character

- Cultivating intimacy in our walk with the Lord must therefore be our greatest priority in life
- This is especially the case given the times that we are now living in when Jesus said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” **(Matthew 24:12)**



Jesus Himself also said,

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” **(John 15:4-5)**



- King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart. His great desire was to spend time in the presence of God



In Psalm 63 we read the words of King David, “O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” (Psalm 63:1-3)

- **LIKE KING DAVID OUR GREATEST PRIORITY SHOULD ALWAYS BE TO SPEND QUALITY TIME IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**



Jesus Himself said,

“‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” **(Mark 12:30)**

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **(Mark 12:31)**

- **IT IS OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST THAT GIVES US THE ABILITY TO LOVE OTHERS IN A RIGHT WAY AND THAT GIVES US HIS COMPASSION FOR THE LOST AND HURTING IN OUR WORLD**



- Especially given the times that we are now living in how important it is that we make prayer and a pursuit of God's presence a great priority in our lives and ministries

- We need to continually make having a hunger for more of God's presence in our lives a great priority in the ungodly times that we are now living in
- This is such a great key to seeing revival in our nations and to seeing God bring healing and restoration to our cities



In the book of 2 Chronicles we read,

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)



7) That we build our lives on the foundation of the word of God



- Especially given the lawless and ungodly times that we are now living in, it is crucial that we build our lives on the foundation of the word of God
- In a world full of distractions and especially with the smart phone always being with us, how important it is that we consistently spend quality time in God's word and that we do not get too busy doing ministry so that we neglect our study of the word of God

- When I was on a recent missions trip the Lord spoke clearly to me that all Christians must now get back to the bible



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

- Spending quality time in God's word and applying it to our lives is a great key to building our lives on a firm foundation in the ungodly times that we are now living in



Jesus Himself said, “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24-25)**

- **Building our lives on the foundation of the word of God helps us to prosper and to have good success in our lives and ministries**



The LORD said to Joshua just before he was about to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

- **Study of the word of God is also such a great key to growing in Christlike character and being fully equipped for ministry**



The Apostle Paul wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **Consistently spending time in the word of God is also a great key to always maintaining a strong faith**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

(Romans 10:17)



- **SO HOW IMPORTANT IT IS, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE LAWLESS AND SECULAR TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN, THAT WE CONTINUALLY BUILD OUR LIVES ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

8) That we continually win the battle for the mind

- The real battle is for the mind. The enemy will continually bombard our minds with wrong and negative thoughts



- The real battle begins when we come to Christ as the Devil will try and distract and discourage us by placing wrong thoughts in our mind so that we do not help to influence others to also come to Christ

- Winning the battle for the mind is therefore crucial to living a victorious and overcoming Christian life



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” **(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)**

- It is so important that we are always quick to take all wrong and negative thoughts captive before they take us captive and become strongholds in our mind and to replace them with Christ centred thoughts



- What we think upon will greatly determine the outcome of our life

Again, in the book of Proverbs we read, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ...” (Proverbs 23:7)

Ralph Waldo Emerson was quoted as saying,

“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”



- So as Christians it is important that we win the battle for the mind by having a disciplined thought life where we are always quick to replace all wrong and negative thoughts with Christ centred thoughts

Following are some great keys that can help us to win the battle for the mind:



- Make sure that you have had enough rest. We are more prone to entertaining wrong thoughts when we are tired
- Consistently meditate on the word of God to develop Christ centred thinking. This is such a great key to immediately identifying the fiery darts of the enemy

- Be careful about what you allow into your ear and eye gates. We must protect our mind from wrong influences
- Be quick to take all wrong and negative thoughts captive and to replace them with Christ centred thoughts
- Surround yourselves with the right friends, and
- Stay well connected to other mature believers. It is when people become isolated from fellowship with other believers that the enemy can more easily get believers to succumb to thoughts of discouragement



9) That we continually have the right people in our inner circle of contacts



- We need to continually have the right people in our inner circle of friends and in our core group of leaders
- The people that are in our inner circle of friends will greatly impact the outcome of our lives
- The simple fact is we become like the company that we keep

- For this reason, we must always have people of godly character and vision in our inner circle of friends
- We must also always heed the cautioning of the Holy Spirit when we feel uneasy about certain associations. God is warning us of pending problems down the track
- Like in all decisions we must always allow the peace of God to be our umpire, especially when selecting who will be part of our inner circle of leaders



- The bible is full of Scriptures about the importance of having the right people in our inner circle of contacts

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

In the book of Proverbs we read, “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)



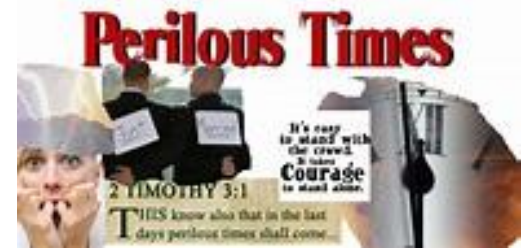
“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)

10) That we are continually guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life and ministry. The importance of having a lifestyle of prayer

- Life is full of important choices



- As God's ways are always higher than ours, we need to continually heed the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make right choices in life



Jesus Himself said,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

- Especially given the ungodly times that we are now living in, it is crucial to involve the LORD in all that we do in life and to seek His mind when making decisions and choices in life (Life is full of important choices)
- We can always depend upon the faithfulness of God and His willingness to help us to make right choices in life

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



- **IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ALSO LIVE OUR LIVES IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ARE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**



- **Jesus Himself during His ministry here on earth depended upon the Holy Spirit**

In the book of Acts we read, “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)

- It is so important that we are always living our lives and ministering out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- **Being baptised in the Holy Spirit and continually filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective in our preaching and witnessing to others**



Jesus said to His disciples as He prepared to return to His Father in heaven,

“For John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

(Acts 1:5)



“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

- **The disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.**



- **This experience totally transformed the disciples as they now began ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit**

In Chapter two of the book of Acts we read,

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1-4)**



- **As we give out to others, we must also ourselves be continually filled afresh with the Holy Spirit**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

- **Even though the disciples were wonderfully baptised with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, after Peter and John experienced great persecution for their faith, they gathered together to pray and they were again filled with the Holy Spirit**

We see this in the book of Acts;

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31)**



- **So especially given the lawless and challenging times that we are now living in, it is crucial that we are always guided by and empowered by the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life and ministry**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)

In the book of Zechariah we read,

“So he answered and said to me:

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:

‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’

Says the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)



- **CONTINUALLY LIVING OUR LIVES AND MINISTERING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GREAT KEY TO OUR LIVES MAKING A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY**



The Apostle Paul made this very clear when he wrote,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

11) That we live our lives to serve others with our own unique gifts and callings



- Jesus is our example of what it is to live out the Christian. He was referred to as the Servant King
- In God's Kingdom true greatness comes from serving others with our gifts and talents

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet is shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

(Matthew 20:25-28)



The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)



“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,”
(Philippians 2:9-10)



- Having a servant heart as a leader is also such a great key to also seeing those in our church fellowships gaining a heart to serve others as well

- It is so important as pastors and leaders that we always have the motivation of serving others with our gifts and talents and that we invest our lives in helping others to realise their full potential in Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

- Finally, in conclusion, one very important thing is that we simply continually trust God at all times and in all circumstances and that we continually remain committed to just doing what Jesus tells us to do
- Sometimes the greatest challenges are on the point of a breakthrough in our lives
- We must simply be committed to trusting God at all times and allowing Him to direct our steps in life



- We must not allow temporary trials and challenges to pull us away from our divine purpose and plan for our lives here on earth
- We must simply choose to trust God at all times and in all circumstances and allow Him to direct our steps in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” **(1 Corinthians 15:58)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”

(1 Corinthians 16:13)



The Psalmist wrote, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.” (Psalm 46:1-2)

- If we continually trust the LORD at all times and allow Him to be truly Lord of all our life, we can be assured that we will fulfill our God given destiny here on earth

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)



- I just felt to finish with one final thought



- God has so much planned for every believer's life
- We are living at a time when there are multitudes in the valley of decision
- The simple question is are we prepared to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ

- God never looks at our ability, just our availability
- Are we prepared to give our lives fully for the Cause of Christ and to simply allow the Lord to direct our steps in the days to come



- I really sensed in my heart today the importance of encouraging people to fully break open their lives for the Cause of Christ at a time when so many people are looking for true hope. We have the answer. His name is Jesus

I will finish with the words of Jesus, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” (John 12:24-26)

