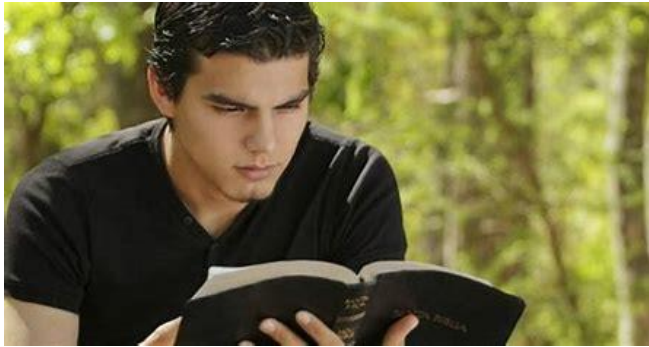


# CHURCH OF HOPE 17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



**STUDY GUIDE: WEEKS TEN AND ELEVEN (POWERPOINTS)**

**TOPIC NINE: DOCTRINES OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND  
SOME KEYS TO GROWING IN MATURITY IN OUR WALK  
WITH THE LORD (PART TWO)**

**Some keys and disciplines to help all Christians to grow in their walk with the Lord “Let us go on to perfection...”  
(Hebrews 6:1)**



**1) It is crucial for all new Christians to immediately gain a clear understanding of the basis of their right standing with God as believers after they come to Christ**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**It is crucial that all new believers have a clear understanding that:**



- i. They were justified by faith and that they now have peace with God **(Romans 5:1-2)**
- ii. That they were saved by grace through their faith in Jesus Christ and that not of themselves.
- iii. That eternal life was a free gift of God which they received when they repented and received Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives as their Lord and Saviour. **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**  
**(Romans 6:23) (John 1:12) (Romans 3:21-28)** and

iv. That the moment they believed in Jesus Christ they were declared righteous in God's sight and His righteousness was imputed to them. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**(2 Corinthians 5:21)**



- We must also never as believers get back into trying to earn God's love and approval, by endeavouring to be justified by our own righteous acts. **(Isaiah 64:6)**  
**(Galatians 3:1-3) (Galatians 5:4)**



- We must simply allow Christ to continually do the work of change in our life as we learn to say no to our fleshly desires and to live a life under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit helps to empower us to lead an overcoming life

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”  
(Galatians 5:4)**



- In this passage of Scripture the Apostle Paul was making it clear that the Galatians must make a clear choice between law and grace and that the effective operating power of God’s grace becomes ineffective in the life of anyone who trusts in his own efforts for salvation**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?” (**Galatians 3:1-3**)



**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” **(Galatians 2:16)**





- **SO AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY SECURE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT CONDEMNATION (*Romans 8:1*)**



**In the book of Hebrews we read one of God’s great promises to us as believers,**

“...For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say:

“The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **(Hebrews 13:5-6)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” **(Romans 8:1)**



**2) CONTINUALLY RENEWING OUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD (Romans 12:2)** – The importance of continually meditating on the Word of God and applying it to our own life. **(Joshua 1:8) (Psalm 1:1-3)**



**The LORD said to Joshua,** “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)**

- As we are daily exposed to negative things and as we live in a world full of ungodly influences, more than ever before meditating on the truths and promises in God's Word on a regular basis is crucial.



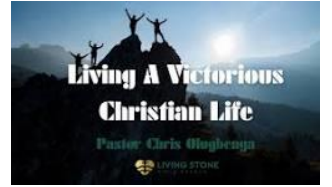
- Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of being BOTH a hearer and doer of the Word of God. **(Matthew 7:24-27)**
- Speaking out God's Word is a key to growing strong in our faith. **(Romans 10:17)**

**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.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (**Matthew 7:24-27**)



### 3) Learning to walk in the Spirit



- To grow in Christlike character, it is crucial that we learn to walk in the Spirit
- We must choose continually to not react out of our old fallen nature (works of the flesh) but to walk in the newness of life that we have in Christ – to put on the new man **(Colossians 3:12-14)**
- As believers we have the ability to walk in love towards others “because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” **(Romans 5:5)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:13-18)**



**4) Continually putting the Lord first in our life** - Choosing to live a lifestyle of obedience (Just doing what Jesus tells us to do) God knows what is best for us. His ways are far higher than our ways. **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**



- When we put the Lord first place in our life God promises to meet our every need in life. **(Matthew 6:31-33)**
- Living a lifestyle of obedience is the key to seeing God's blessings in our life as believers **(Isaiah 1:19)**



**Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**





## 5) Learning to trust the Lord with a childlike faith.

- It is a key to maintaining ongoing peace in our life (**Isaiah 26:3-4**) and to seeing God's plan and purpose for our life coming to pass (**Psalms 37:3-5**) (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)
- When we continually trust the Lord and commit to following His plan for our lives we will bear much fruit in our life (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**)
- When we take steps of faith, (**Hebrew 11:1**) we will always see God making what is impossible in the natural for us to do possible. "For with God nothing will be impossible." (**Luke 1:37**)

**In the book of Jeremiah we read, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)**

**In the book of Isaiah we read, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)**



## 6) Worship is a great key to getting to know the heart of God and to having godly desires (Psalm 37:4)



- King David was a worshipper who wrote many psalms. **(Psalm 63:1-5)**
- He was the only person in the bible referred to as being a man after God's own heart **(Acts 13:22)**
- Worship helps us to connect with God's heart and to usher God's presence into our circumstances. **(Psalm 22:3)**
- Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of true heartfelt worship and worshipping the Father in Spirit and in truth. **(John 4:23-24)**

**Jesus Himself said,** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**



- Worship helps to give us Christ’s heart of compassion for others. Worship and prayer helps to see breakthroughs in our circumstances as we focus on the bigness of our God. **(Acts 16:25-26)**

**In the book of Acts we read,**

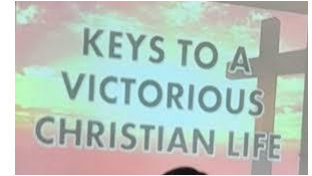
“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”

**(Acts 16:25-26)**



- **Worship helps to usher God’s presence into our circumstances and to also change the way that we see our circumstances as we focus on the bigness of God**

## 7) Involving God in all that we do (Having a lifestyle of prayer) (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

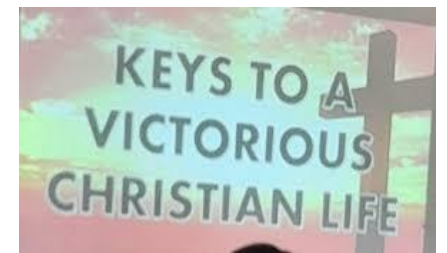


- Having a lifestyle of prayer helps us to make right choices in life as we involve God in all that we do and is a key to living a life without anxiety. (**Philippians 4:6-7**)
- Persevering in prayer is the key to seeing breakthroughs in our life. (**Luke 18:1-8**)
- God is both willing and able to answer all of our prayers that are in line with His will for our life. (**1 John 5:14-15**)  
(**Mark 11:22-24**)

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

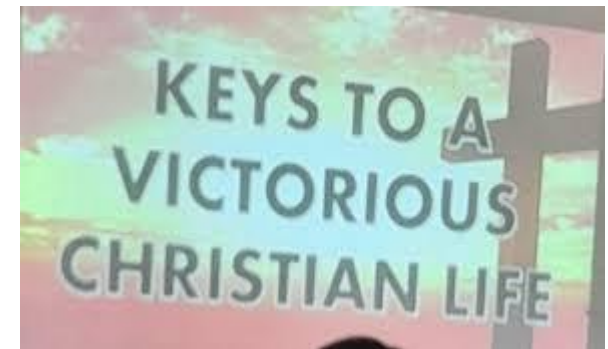
**(Mark 11:22-24)**





**The Apostle John wrote,**

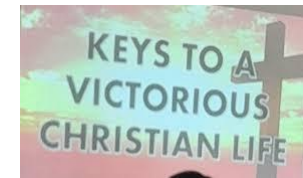
“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”  
**(1 John 5:14-15)**



## 8) The importance of continually making time to get to know the Lord in a real and personal way (2 Peter 3:17-18)

- We need to consistently make time to spend alone with the Lord so that we can get to know Him in a more intimate way.

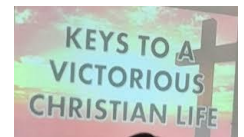
**(Psalm 46:11) (John 15:4-5)**



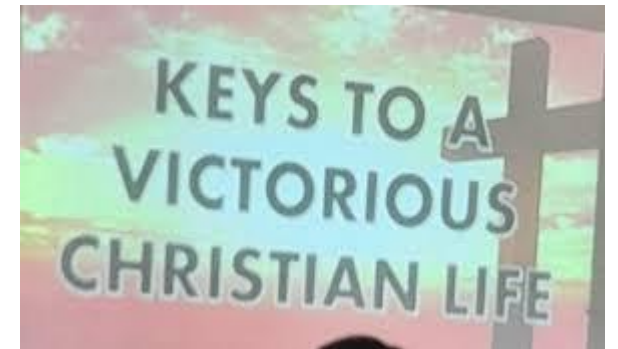
- Our primary focus as a believer needs to be on getting to know Jesus more and more and to know His love for us in a real and tangible way.
- When we get too busy to spend quality time with the Lord, we are more likely to get troubled by little things in life.

**In the gospel of Luke we read,** “Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

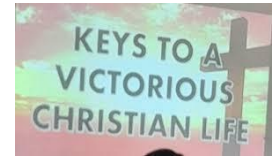
And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” **(Luke 10:38-42)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)**



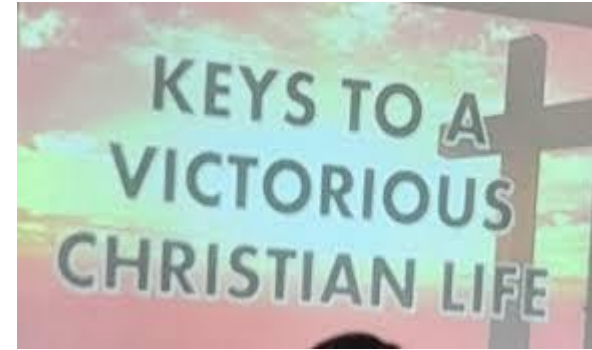
## 9) The importance of being **PLANTED** in a loving local church fellowship



- Having fellowship with other believers is crucial if we are to remain strong in our faith

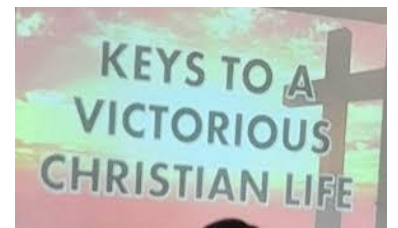
**In the book of Hebrews we read, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)**

- Being planted and connected to the life of a healthy bible based church is crucial if our lives are to bear much fruit.  
**(Psalm 92:13-14)**



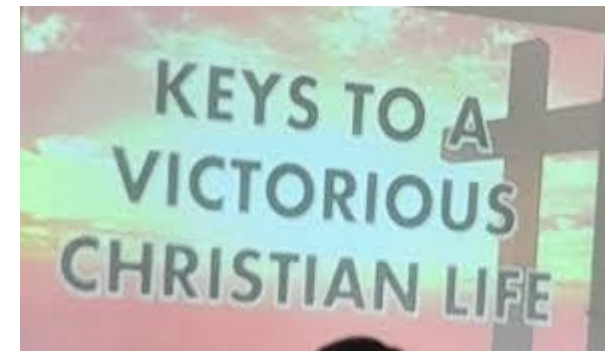
**The Psalmist wrote,** “Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” **(Psalm 92:13-15)**

- As the devil is continually trying to undermine and destroy the faith of believers, **(1 Peter 5:8-9)** it is important for all believers to have regular fellowship with other Christians who can encourage them in their walk with the Lord.
- This is especially the case when believers are going through great trials in their life.
- We all need one another in the body of Christ



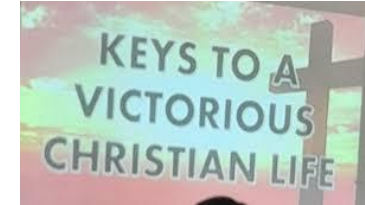
**The Apostle Peter wrote,**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**





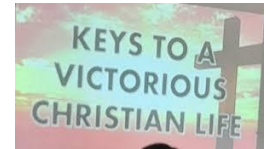
- Our God given destiny will always be worked out in connection with other believers



- When connected with other mature believers we can also receive godly counsel to help us to make good choices in life. There is wisdom and safety in a multitude of counsellors. **(Proverbs 15:22) (Proverbs 11:14)**
- Being connected to other Christians also helps to give us accountability which is so important given the lawless days that we are now living in. **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

## 10) The importance of having godly friendships – Not being unequally yoked together with unbelievers

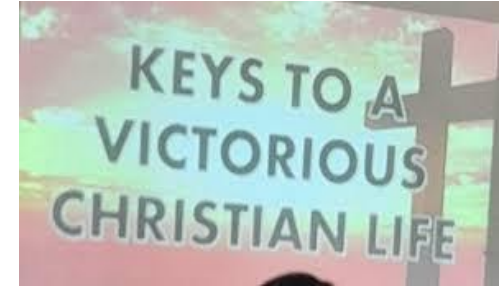
- Choosing good friends in life who will encourage us to grow in our walk with the Lord is crucial if we are to fulfil all that God has planned for our life.



- The bible says much about the importance of associating with the right people and how evil company corrupts good habits. **(Proverbs 12:26) (Proverbs 13:20) (1 Corinthians 15:33) (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)** If we are to soar with the eagles we need to have good godly friends who are people of vision and purpose.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”  
(1 Corinthians 15:33)**



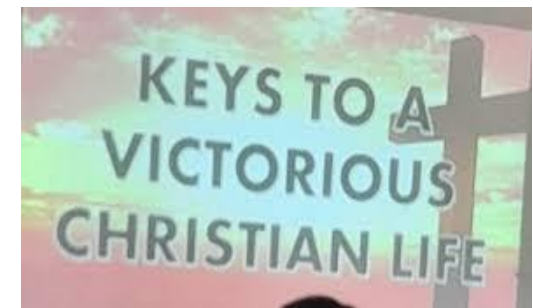
**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

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

- For this reason it is important as Christians that we do not enter into significant relationships with unbelievers and especially when choosing a marriage partner**

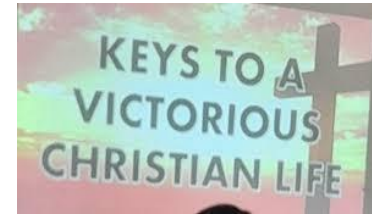
**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God...” **(2 Corinthians 6:14-16)**



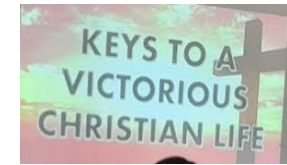
# 11) Continually living with eternity in mind knowing that we are only pilgrims in this life here on earth

- It is so important that we always live our life with eternity in mind



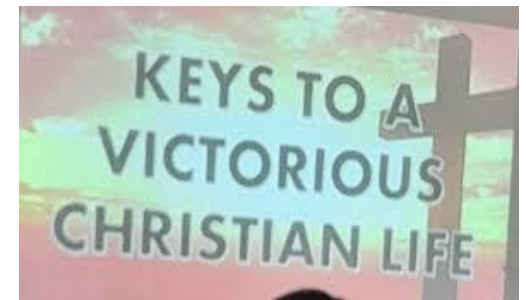
- We have one life to store up treasures in heaven. **(Matthew 6:19-21)**
- We need to learn to make the most of our time here on earth by consistently seeking to do the will of God for our lives.

**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)**



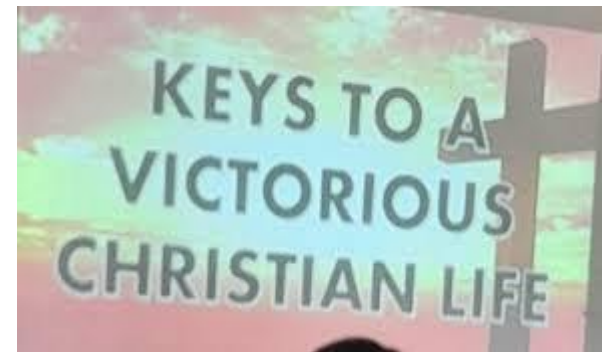
- We must purposely choose to not allow the cares of this world and desires for other things to enter into our heart to pull us away from what God has called us to do in life.
- The devil will continually try and get us focusing on the temporary things of this life so that our lives bear little or no eternal fruit. **(Mark 4:18-19)**

- Living a consecrated life that is devoted to living for the cause of Christ is the key to seeing our lives bearing much fruit. **(John 15:16) (John 12:24-26) (Luke 9:23-25) (Galatians 2:20)**
- We have all been given one gift of life here on earth to make a difference for eternity. Each day once lived can never be regained.



**The Apostle Paul who achieved so much for God's kingdom during his time here on earth wrote,**

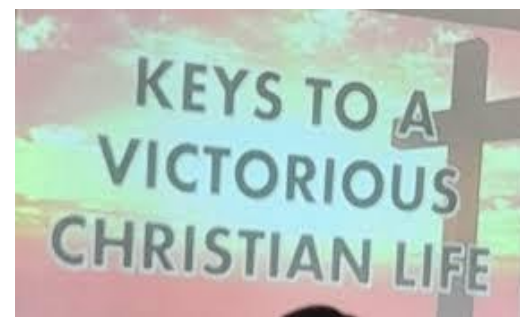
**“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)**



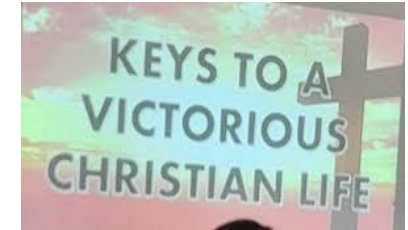


**Jesus Himself said,**

“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)**



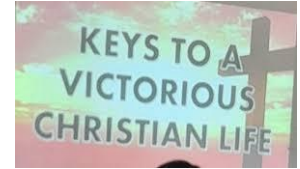
- When we live with eternity in mind it will influence the way that we live our life and the choices that we make with the use of our time, talents and resources.



- It will also give us a greater urgency to reach out to those who are unsaved knowing the reality that there is a hell to shun and a heaven to gain.

“ ... And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

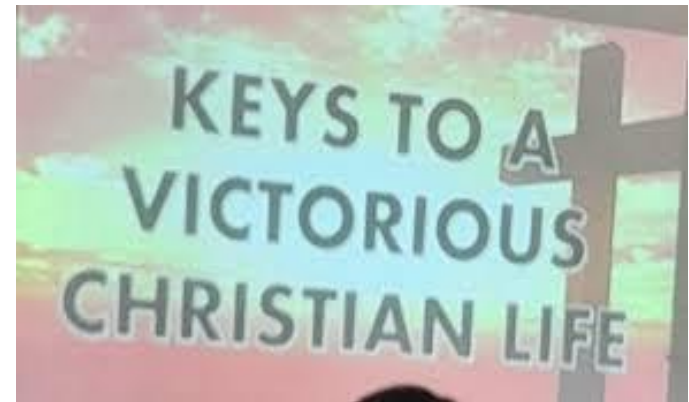
## 12) Depending on God's enabling power to do what He calls us to do (2 Corinthians 3:5)



- Whatever God calls us to do for Him in life; He will give us the ability to accomplish.
- We must never limit what God wants to do in and through our lives by looking at our own natural abilities and resources.
- We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us for the tasks that God gives us to do. Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit to perform His ministry here on earth. **(Acts 10:38)**

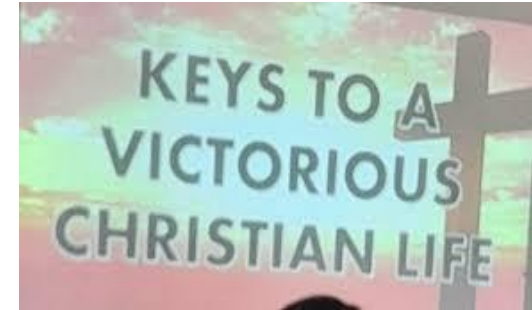
**In the book of Acts we read,**

**“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)**



- God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.

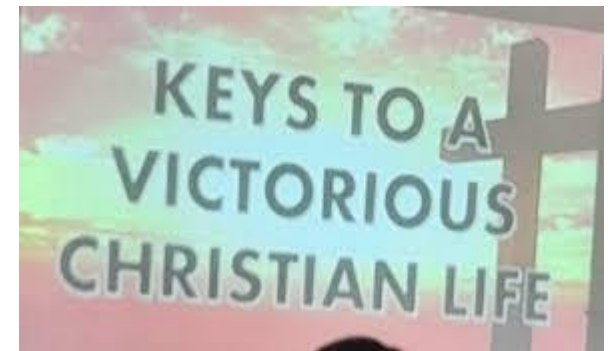
**(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**



- It is so important that we depend on God's enabling power in all that we do.
- In this way we will accomplish more with less effort as we do things in His strength and power **(1 Corinthians 2:2-5)**  
**(Zechariah 4:6) (1 Peter 4:11)**

**The Apostle Paul 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)**



## 13) Continually yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit in our life to grow in Christlike character (Fruit of the Spirit)



**The Apostle Paul wrote, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”**  
**(Romans 8:28-29)**

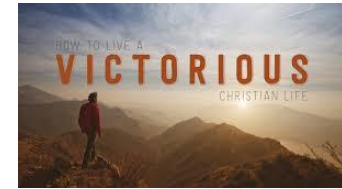
- The whole Christian walk is one of growing in Christlike character over time so that we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world.



**Jesus Himself said,** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” **(Matthew 5:13)** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:16)**



- The way we live our life often has the greatest impact on the lives of others.

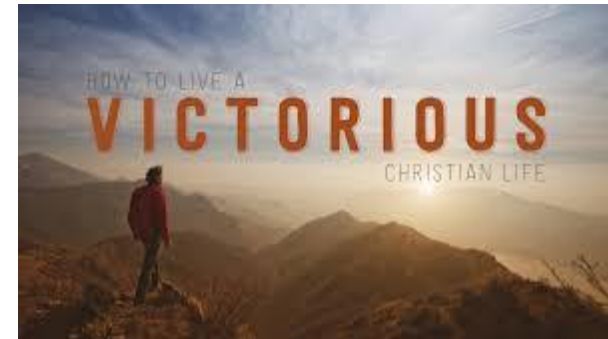


- For many people the only bible that they will ever read will be our own life.
- Allowing the Lord to do a work of change in our life over time is therefore important if we are to grow in Christlike character and influence those around us.
- Quickly heeding the conviction of the Holy Spirit and having a repentant heart helps us to grow in Christlike character. **(1 John 1:9)**

**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)**

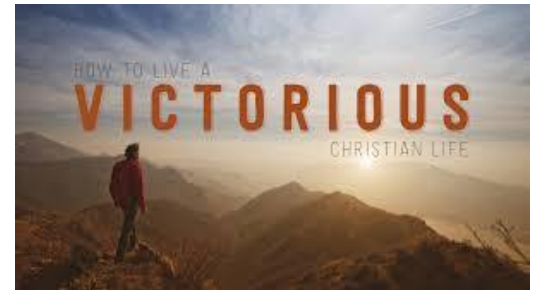


- It is so important that we continually respond to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit so that we grow in maturity in our walk with the Lord. **(John 14:26)**  
**(John 16:13)**

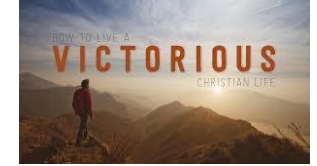
**Jesus Himself said,**

“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)**



## 14) Having a repentant heart (Keeping short accounts with God and with others)



- Having a repentant heart helps to keep our line of communication with God clear.
- Unconfessed sins can be a hindrance to seeing our prayers being answered. **(Psalm 66:18-19)**

**The Psalmist wrote,** “I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.” **(Psalm 66:17-19)**

- Jesus Himself also emphasised the importance of forgiving others who have hurt us **(Mark 11:25)** if we want our Father in Heaven to also forgive us our trespasses.
- Jesus made it clear that if we are not prepared to forgive others that have hurt us then neither will our Father in heaven forgive us our trespasses. **(Mark 11:26)**
- Having short accounts with both God and others is a key to living an abundant life as it helps us to have an intimate relationship with the Lord (in His presence in fullness of joy) and to have healthy loving relationships with other people.



## 15) Using our gifts and talents to serve the Lord in what He has called us to do.



- Every believer has a unique ministry, “good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”  
**(Ephesians 2:10)**
- God has also uniquely gifted each believer with different gifts and talents to be a blessing for others and the wider Body of Christ.
- It is as all believers work together in unity (joined and knit together) that the church makes an impact in the world and we see growth in the Kingdom of God. **(Ephesians 4:16)**

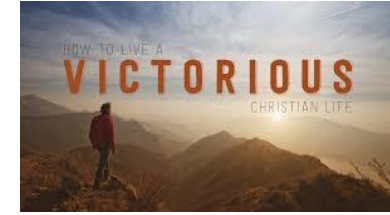
**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“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)**



- **As we all need one another in the Body of Christ, it is important that we all faithfully use our gifts and talents for the Lord and follow His plan and purpose for our life.**

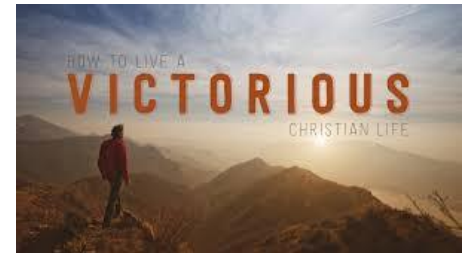
- True joy and purpose in our walk with the Lord comes from loving the Lord and being faithful stewards of our gifts and talents. **(Matthew 25:14-23)**



**In Jesus' Parable of the talents we read, "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'" (Matthew 25:20-21)**



“He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’” **(Matthew 25:22-23)**

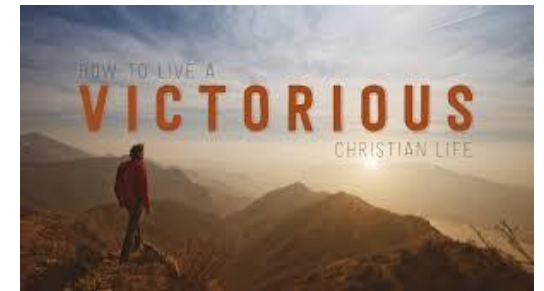


- **The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of all Christians using their spiritual gifts (Romans 12:4-8)**

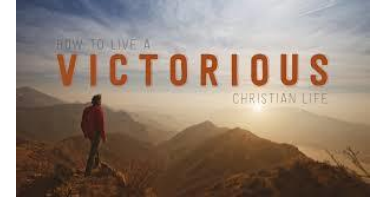
**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“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.”

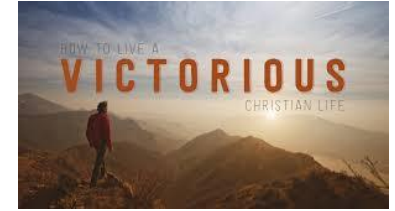
**(Romans 12:6-8)**



## 16) Choosing to continually walk in love and forgiveness towards others (The greatest is love)



- As Christians we have the ability to love people with the unconditional agape Love of God which “...has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit...” **(Romans 5:5)**
- Dealing quickly with offenses, helps us to maintain a soft and loving heart towards others. Jesus warned that many would be offended in the days just prior to His return and would betray and then hate one another. **(Matthew 24:10)**

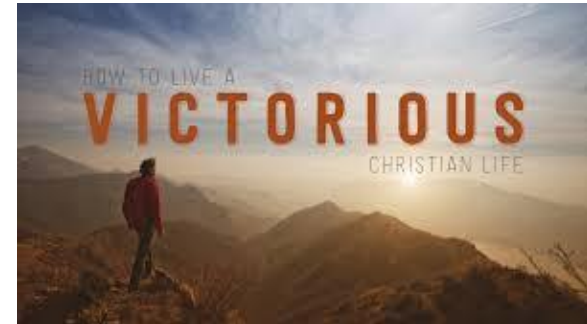


**Jesus Himself said,**

“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.” **(Matthew 24:10-11)**

- We must always be quick to forgive others and must not allow the sun to go down on our wrath. **(Ephesians 4:26)**
- We must refuse to “give place to the devil” **(Ephesians 4:27)** by allowing offences to enter into our heart and by going to bed with unresolved anger.

- Jesus emphasised the importance of loving others, even our enemies and those who spitefully use us, so that we can be an example to those in the world. **(Luke 6:27-28)**  
**(Matthew 5:43-45)**



**Jesus 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)**

- The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of all that we do for others being undergirded and motivated by love.  
**(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” **(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)**

# 17) Refusing to dwell on our past failures, regrets and injustices so that we are free to fully embrace the future that God has planned for our life. Life and life more abundantly



- We must refuse to allow our past disappointments and failures to stop us from moving on into the future that God has planned for our life.
- No amount of dwelling on our past failures can change things. But to live in the past will prevent us from embracing the future that God has planned for our life.

- The Apostle Paul made many mistakes before his conversion to Christ.



**The Apostle Paul wrote, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:12-15)**

- **But the Apostle Paul knew that he could not live with regrets. He knew that if he was to fulfil God’s plan for his life, he would have to put his past behind him to embrace all that God had planned for his future.**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do**, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”  
**(Philippians 3:12-14)**



- **God is able to turn our past mistakes and messes into messages and to turn our lives around totally if we can let go of our past regrets and failures and fully trust God with our future.**



**King David wrote, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)**

## 18) Being continually filled with the right spirit, the Holy Spirit

- It is so important that we are continually filled with the right spirit, the Holy Spirit so that we are empowered to witness to and minister to others.



- As we give out to others we need to be continually filled ourselves 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)**

## 19) Having a teachable spirit (being open to others speaking into our life)



- Having a teachable spirit helps us to grow more quickly in our walk with the Lord and to make less wrong choices in life
- If we are prepared to have others speak into our life we have the ability to make better decisions on a more consistent basis. There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors
- The book of Proverbs clearly emphasises the importance of being teachable and willing to receive counsel from others  
**(Proverbs 11:14) (Proverbs 15:22) (Proverbs 19:20)**  
**(Proverbs 23:12)**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” **(Proverbs 11:14)**

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” **(Proverbs 15:22)**

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.” **(Proverbs 19:20)**



- Having mature Christians as mentors in our life helps us to grow more quickly in our walk with the Lord, as we learn from their experiences and what they have learned while walking with the Lord for many years. **(2 Timothy 2:2)**

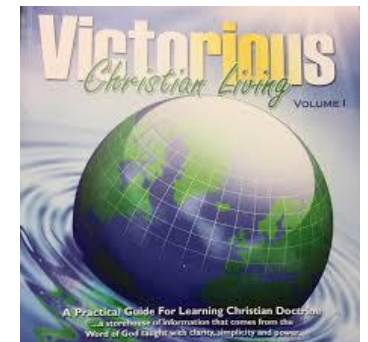


- **The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of there being more fathers of the faith.**
- **It is always good to have fathers (or mothers) of the faith speaking into our lives as we also speak into the lives of other less mature believers**

**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. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” **(1 Corinthians 4:15-17)**

**AND**



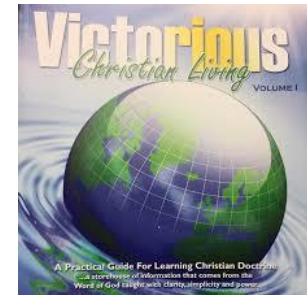
**20) Finally, our Christian walk is simply one of being in relationship with the LORD. When our love for Jesus is our highest priority in life, we will then also have a great love for people**



- Out of our ongoing relationship with the Lord, His plan and purpose for our life will unfold. **(Proverbs 3:5-6) (Psalm 37:23)**
- We must be careful that we never become religious in our walk with the Lord, doing things out of obligation and tradition, but that all the good works that we do and the way we worship the Lord flow out of our great passion to know Christ in an intimate way.

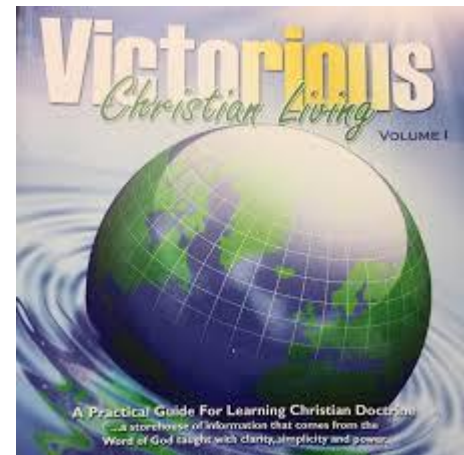


- When we do things for others out of obligation we will never enjoy the fullness of life that God has planned for all believers (**John 10:10**)
- But when we are filled with God's love and the fullness of joy that comes from being in God's presence, we have great delight in helping and serving others  
(**Matthew 20:28**)
- It is in living a surrendered life that we fully embrace the abundant life that Jesus spoke of and that our lives make a great impact in this world for eternity



**Jesus Himself said,**

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**



**Jesus Himself summarised the simplicity of our walk with the Lord when He said,**

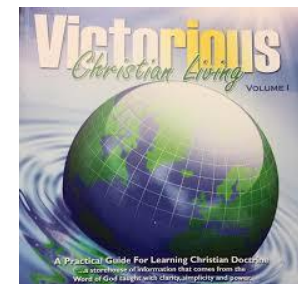


“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”  
**(Mark 12:30)**

“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)**

I will finish with what the Apostle Peter wrote in relation to the importance of growing in maturity (in the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23) and in knowledge as a believer;

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)



“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;”  
**(2 Peter 1:8-10)**

