

MAINTAINING A RIGHT HEART



King David in a prayer of repentance after his affair with Bathsheba and organizing the death of her husband Uriah wrote in Psalm 51:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

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

He also 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)

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my ^[h]strength and my Redeemer."

(Psalm 19:14)

- The Lord put on my heart a couple of weeks ago to share a message today on the importance of maintaining a right heart when I meditated on two Scriptures during one of my quiet times that related to the condition of our heart spiritually



- The simple fact is that we are now living in a world full of secular and ungodly values. So, in this message today I will also be sharing 10 keys to help us to continually maintain a right heart in the times that we are now living in

- I will begin however by looking at the two Scriptures that prompted me to share today on the importance of maintaining a right heart



Firstly, Jesus, quoting the words of the Prophet Isaiah, “This people honours Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Mark 6b-7) AND

Secondly, Jesus Himself said,

“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” **(Mark 7:20-23)**



- Over the past two weeks, the Lord has continued to confirm the importance of sharing today on the importance of all believers maintaining a right heart, especially given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers



- Having a humble and contrite spirit is also a great key to seeing revival in our hearts and lives and to seeing God moving powerfully in and through our lives as believers

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in the high and holy place,

With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,

To revive the spirit of the humble,

And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

(Isaiah 57:15)

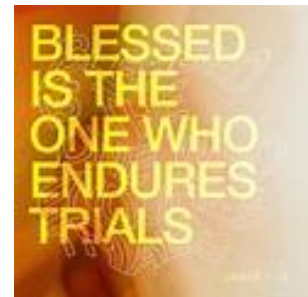


- The bible says much about the heart and the importance of maintaining a right heart
- The condition of our heart spiritually will greatly determine the outcome of our life and the degree to which we walk in victory as a believer



- This is especially the case given the lawless and ungodly times that we are now living

In the book of James we read, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone.” (James 1:12-13)



“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” **(James 1:14-16)**



- So, the condition of our heart spiritually will greatly impact our ability to overcome the trials and temptations of life and greatly determine the outcome of our life

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)



Five wise virgins

Give the times that we are now living in, more than ever before it is so important that we are ready for the return of the Lord (Matthew 25:1-13)

Jesus Himself said,



“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, ***and cares of this life***, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” **(Luke 21:34-36)**

- **How important it is that we are always watching for the return of the Lord and that we do not get sidetracked by the things of this world and that we have a great focus on helping others to come to Christ**



Application

- **Need to be constantly prepared**
 - Luke 21:34-36
 - World will try to draw you away
 - Need to be alert to the fact that Christ is coming
 - Need to be praying
 - For escape from temptation
 - Strength in trials
 - To stand before Christ

The Bible emphasises the importance of keeping our heart spiritually healthy

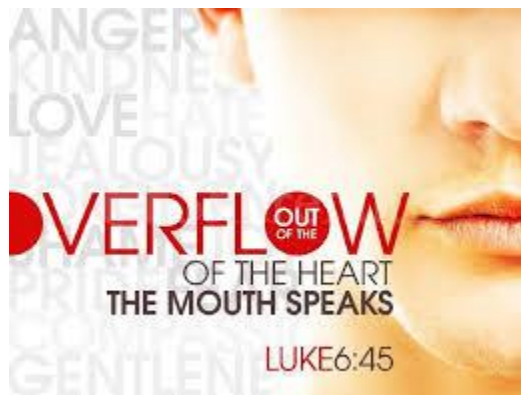


In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

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)**



For this reason, it is so important that we protect our heart and do not give place to the enemy by allowing wrong attitudes and desires to enter into our heart



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Be angry, and do not sin”; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)

Jesus Himself was “... in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

For this reason, He was able to say, “I will no longer talk much with you, *for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me.*” (John 14:30)



Like Jesus we too need to endeavour to give the devil no foothold in our life by keeping our heart with all diligence so that we CAN CONTINUALLY WALK IN VICTORY AND EXPERIENCE THE ABUNDANT LIFE THAT JESUS SPOKE OF

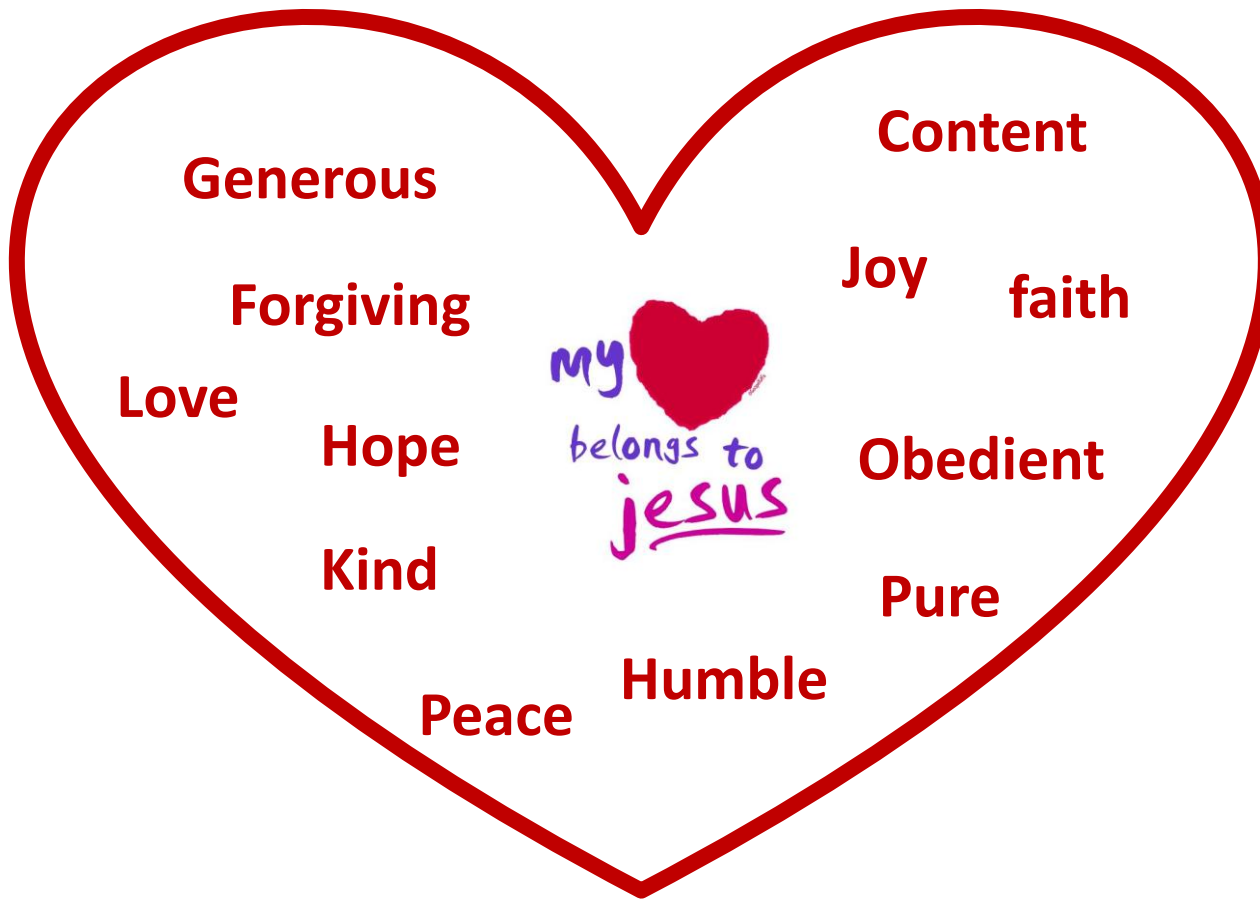
I will now quickly look at the difference between an unhealthy heart and a healthy heart

Unhealthy Heart – A heart not fully surrendered to Jesus

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”
(Jeremiah 17:9)



Healthy heart – Fully Surrendered to Jesus



Maintaining a right heart is the key to fulfilling our *full potential* in Christ

“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 17:10)

The bible has much to say about the heart:

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.” (Proverbs 23:7)

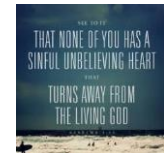


“Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day.” (Proverbs 23:17)



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” (Hebrews 3:12-14)



- This is really a warning about the dangers of persisting in known sin in our lives. Our faith is the most precious thing that we have in life**

Jesus Himself said,

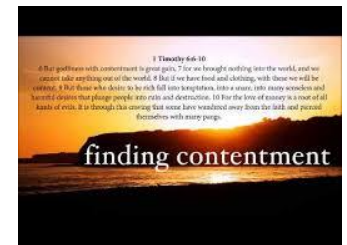
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **(Matthew 6:19-21)**



The bible also warns of the dangers of being covetous and having a *love* of money. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

(1 Timothy 6:6, 7, 9)



“For the love of money is a *root of all kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
(1 Timothy 10)



In the book of Psalms, we read

“Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” **(Psalm 119:36-38, 40)**

Coveting the things of this world and what others have will invariably steal our affections for the Lord. Our love for Jesus is the most precious thing that we have. In His presence is fullness of joy



The Apostle Paul also gave us a great key to continually maintaining peace in our hearts and minds – *Having a lifestyle of prayer*



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the *peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, *will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” **(Philippians 4:6-7)**

It is so important that we keep a soft and right heart towards God – That our love for the Lord is continually our greatest priority in life



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)**

As Christians we *have the ability to love others unconditionally* because God's agape love has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

- We must however refuse to allow critical, envious and unforgiving attitudes to develop in our heart to prevent God's love from flowing through our lives to touch the lives of others



What we allow into our heart will greatly influence

A bad attitude
is like a flat tire

you can't go anywhere



until
you
change
it

- The choices that we make in life (good or bad)
- Our attitudes towards others and to life
- The quality of our relationships with others
- Our ability to love others unconditionally

- The success that we have in life
- Our commitment to living for the Lord, and
- *Our ability to overcome the temptations that we all experience in life so that we remain strong in our faith*

A bad attitude
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A lifestyle of prayer and intimacy with the Lord helps us to develop godly desires and to keep us strong during times of temptation



King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

We all at times will be:

- Hurt by others
- Not appreciated by others
- Betrayed by people that we have loved and trusted
- Be unfairly rejected for our faith



- Experience injustices in our life
- Experience failures and disappointments in life
- Be confronted with fears that we need to overcome, and
- Be tempted to make compromising choices in life (Jesus Himself was tempted in every way)



But in the midst of all of these life's events and challenges that we all experience, we must learn to keep a soft heart *towards God and others* and to give no place to the devil.



Given the lawless and impersonal days that we are now living in, this needs to be a continual ongoing choice

- I will now just quickly look at 10 keys to help us to keep our hearts soft towards both God and others, so that we can enjoy the abundant life that Jesus spoke of and realise our full potential in Christ

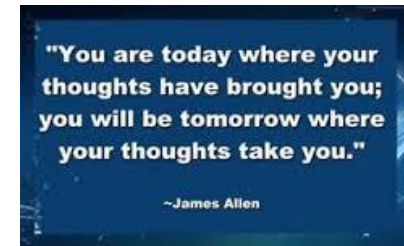


1) We need to be quick to take all wrong and negative thoughts captive and to replace them with what God says in His Word

- We need to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive and become strongholds in our mind
- It more important than ever before that we lead a disciplined thought life
- We all need to win the battle for the mind if we are to fulfil all that God has planned for our life



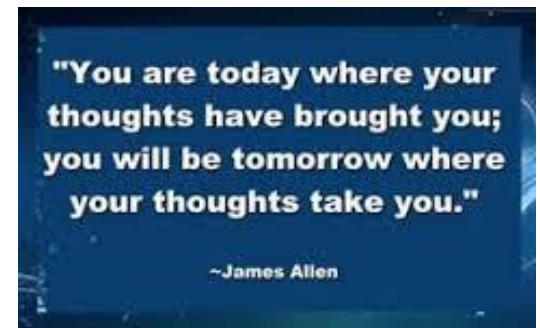
- **The thoughts that we entertain in life will ultimately influence our heart attitudes and our actions and our destiny in life**
- This is why it is so important that we only entertain Godly and positive thoughts in our mind
- The enemy will continually try and put wrong and negative thoughts in our minds to try and undermine our faith, in order to cause us to lead compromised and defeated lives



WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND IS THEREFORE CRUCIAL TO LIVING A VICTORIOUS AND OVERCOMING CHRISTIAN LIFE

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote,

- Sow a thought, reap an action
- Sow an action, reap a habit
- Sow a habit, reap a character
- Sow a character, reap a destiny



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)



2) We need to continually have the right people in our inner circle of friends

- Ungodly friendships will weaken our character and undermine our faith

- We must choose friends who will encourage us in our walk with the Lord



- The friends that we keep will have a great influence on how successful we are in life. We need people of Godly vision in our life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

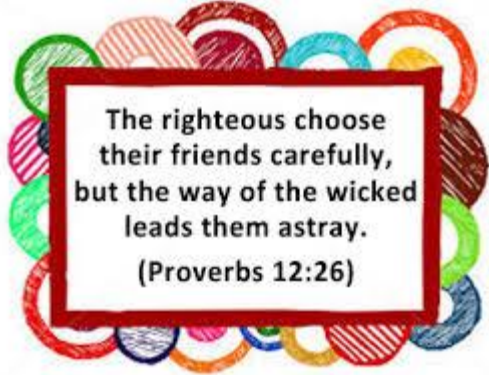
“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” **(1 Corinthians 15:33)**

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)**

The godly give good
advice to their friends;
the wicked lead them
astray.

Proverbs 12:26 NLT



The righteous choose
their friends carefully,
but the way of the wicked
leads them astray.
(Proverbs 12:26)

3) We need to keep short accounts with God (The importance of having a repentant heart)

- When we sin and have wrong attitudes, we need to be quick to repent. This is such a great key to maintaining a soft heart and conscience



- Having a repentant heart helps us to enjoy sweetness of fellowship with the Lord

- Having a soft heart helps us **to hear clearly from the Holy Spirit** and to sense His warnings before we pursue wrong choices in life that could cause us great pain and suffering

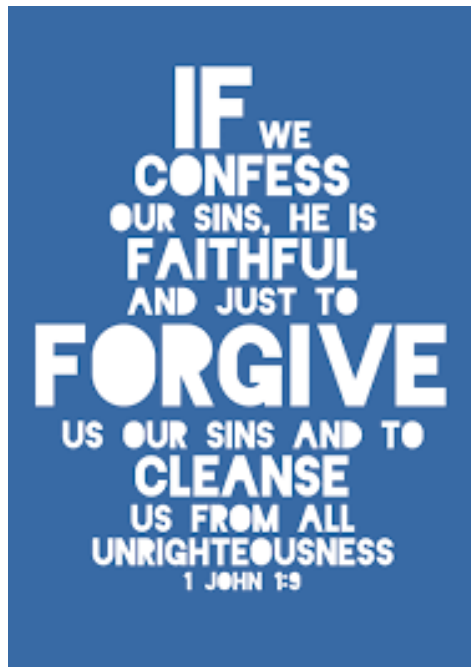
*Create in me a
clean
heart,
O God,
and put a new &
right
spirit
within
me.*



Psalm 51:10

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)



4) We need to quickly forgive those who hurt us

- If we allow offences into our heart, it will negatively affect our relationships both with God and with others



- Our unresolved hurts and pains will invariably be passed down to the next generation through our actions and words
- The simple fact is that we will have many opportunities in ministry to forgive others

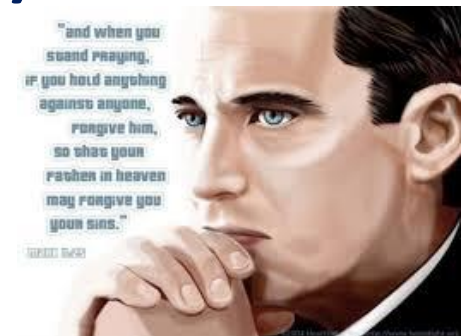
- If we fail to forgive others who have hurt us, we will experience torment in our lives and continue to be victims
- Forgiving others who have hurt us frees us to enjoy healthy relationships in the future



- Forgiving others is crucial to maintaining a healthy heart

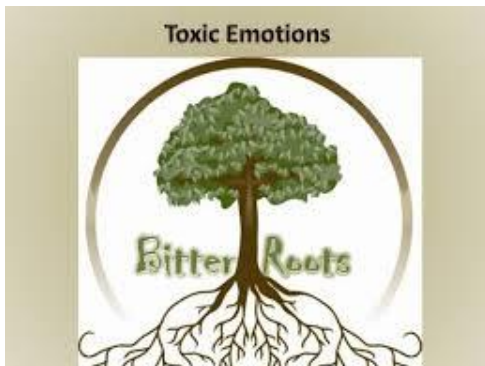
Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of forgiving others when He said,

“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)



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” **(Hebrews 12:14-15)**



5) We need to learn to *rejoice in all circumstances* and to continually *trust the LORD at ALL times*

- Rejoicing during our trials is a great key to overcoming discouragement and maintaining a good attitude in life



- God is sovereign in all things and if He is truly first in our life, all that we go through in life has been allowed by Him and will ultimately work out for our own good

- God will always fulfil His plan for our life and meet our every need in life as we trust Him one day at a time
- When we trust God at all times, we will have peace in our hearts



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)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.” **(Philippians 4:4)**

- **We must refuse to allow the Devil to steal our joy because the joy of the LORD is our strength**

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)



- As we continually trust the LORD with all our heart in all circumstances and *allow Him* to continually direct our steps in life, we can be assured that God's plan for our life will continually unfold and come to pass



King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” **(Psalm 37:3-5)**



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)

- As Christians we do not have to worry about the every day things of life. If we put the Lord *first in our life* and simply follow His plan for our life, we can be assured that God will meet our every need in life



- Trusting God at all times and in all circumstances is such a great key to maintaining a faith filled heart and a heart at peace. Nothing is impossible with God

6) We need to continually look for the best in others

- The enemy will continually exaggerate the faults in others, yet we will so often be blind to our own faults and shortcomings



PEOPLE ARE
QUICK TO JUDGE,
BUT SLOW TO
CORRECT
THEMSELVES

This is why Jesus said, “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Matthew 7:3-5)

- Someone once said, “If we are *continually judging* others, we have no time to love them”
- On the other hand, if we are continually looking for the best in others, we will always have a healthy and loving attitude towards people

- People thrive on encouragement



- We need to continually look to affirm the good in others and to encourage them to be all that God has planned for their life

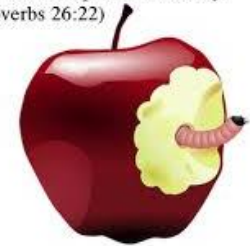
- **Learning to walk in the Spirit is a great key to continually seeing the potential in others – To see people the way that Jesus does**



- **Refusing to entertain critical and judgemental thoughts is also a great key to continually maintaining a right heart attitude towards others**

- As it is so easy to be drawn into judging others, we must purposely choose to change the topic when people start gossiping about others OR simply excuse ourselves and walk away
- If we commit to doing this, we will maintain a right heart towards other people and begin to consistently SEE THE BEST IN OTHERS

The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.
(Proverbs 26:22)



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In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.” (Proverbs 18:8)

The bible makes it clear that we are simply not meant to have critical and judgmental attitudes towards others



The Apostle Paul wrote, “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” (Romans 14:10)

Jesus Himself said, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Matthew 7:1-2)

- We are all as Christians “works in progress” (that is that we are all on a journey of becoming more like Christ) – Romans 8:29



- None of us are perfect and we all need God’s continual grace and mercy

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote, “Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

- For this reason, we must also continually extend grace and mercy to others. As we do, we will help others to realise their full potential in Christ

- For this reason, we must also continually extend grace and mercy to others. As we do, we will help others to realise their full potential in Christ



In the book of Ecclesiastes we read,

“Also do not take to heart everything people say,
Lest you hear your servant cursing you.

For many times, also, your own heart has known
That even you have cursed others.”

(Ecclesiastes 7:21-22)

Living for others is a great key to helping us to always see the best in others

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

(Philippians 2:3)



Always looking for the best in others helps us to:

- Have healthy relationships
- To have strong family units
- To have a positive attitude towards life and others

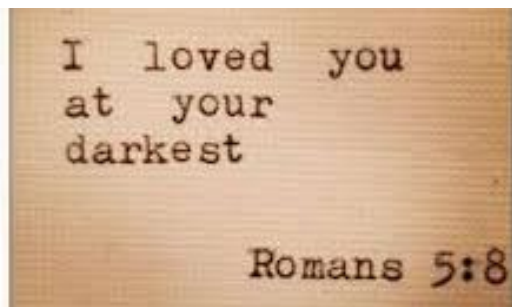


Always looking for the best in others also helps us to:

- To have peace and joy in our heart
- To encourage others to be all that God has planned for their life, and
- To maintain a right heart



When we look at our own life, we see how Jesus saw who we could become *when we were at our worst.*
(We must never forget that we all were once lost)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.” **(Romans 5:6-7)**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:8-9)**



7) We must be careful what we mediate and focus on

- We are living in more and more ungodly times
- More than ever before we need to be disciplined in what we look at and focus on (Especially on the internet)
- The enemy is always looking for an open door into our lives to cause us to stumble and fall



- Even King David, a man after God's own heart, stumbled when he look out from the roof of his house and saw a woman bathing. A short while later he had an affair with her and was responsible for the death of her husband
- **We all must be careful what we look at**
- We must also continually choose to focus on things that are wholesome and of good report, that will build us up.



What we focus on in life will greatly influence:

- What we talk about in life
- The way that we live our life,
- The degree to which we walk in victory as a believer, and
- The degree to which we wholeheartedly pursue God's plan for our life and embrace the fullness of life that God has planned for us



The Apostle Paul wrote about what we should focus on in the book of Philippians

“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)**



Be careful
how you think;
**Your life is shaped by
your thoughts.**

DAILYHOPE

What we focus on will greatly affect our heart attitudes and desires and will determine how fruitful we are in our walk with the Lord

Jesus Himself emphasised this in his explanation of the Parable of the Sower,

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the *devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts*, lest they should believe and be saved.” **(Luke 8:11-12)**



“But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”
(Luke 8:13)

**SATAN TEMPTS US TO GET
THE **WORST** OUT OF US.**

**GOD TESTS US TO GET
THE **BEST** OUT OF US.**



“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and ***bear fruit*** with patience.” (Luke 8:14-15)



8) We need to continually build up our faith by meditating on the Word of God

- We need to continually renew our mind with the truth and promises contained in God's Word



- The Word of God is *full of promises* that we can appropriate as believers and build our lives on

- Mediating on the Word of God helps to build up our faith and gives us encouragement that *with God nothing will be impossible*
- Building our lives on the Word of God gives us a firm foundation for life



that I might not
SIN
against you.
Psalms 119:11



- It is so important that we meditate on the word of God so that the word of God takes root in our hearts

The Psalmist wrote,

“How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your word.
With my *whole heart* I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your *word I have hidden in my heart*,
That I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:9-11)



“Great peace have those who *love your law*, and nothing causes them to stumble.” (Psalm 119:165)

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)**

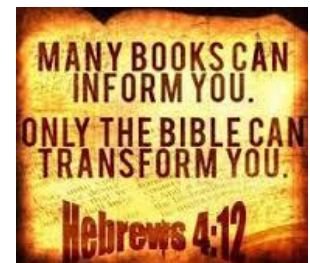


Meditating on the Word of God is a great key to replacing our negative thinking with Kingdom thinking and to being prosperous and having good success *in every area of our life*

Meditating on the word of God also helps to convict us of wrong heart attitudes and to bring correction to our lives so that we stay in the centre of God's will for our life

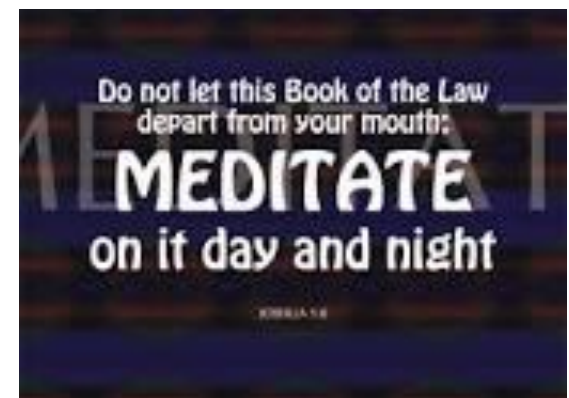
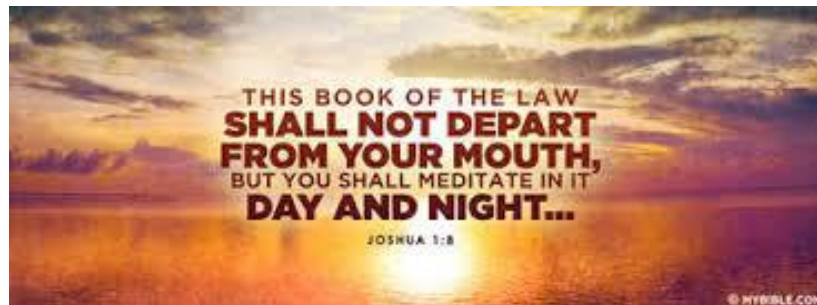
In the book of Hebrews we read,

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)



The LORD said to Joshua just prior to him leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land,

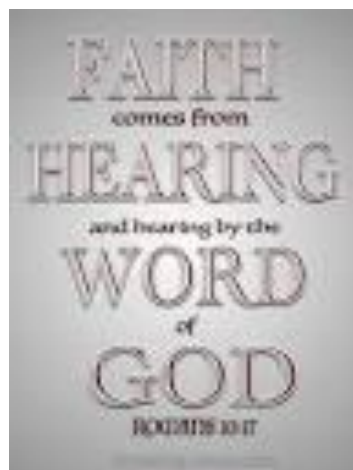
“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**



Meditating on the Word of God on a *regular basis* is a great key to developing a strong faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)



9) The importance of being in fellowship with and accountable to other Christians

- We all *need each other* as Christians
- Being accountable to other Christians is a *great safeguard* to help us remain strong in our faith



- Our God given destiny will always be worked out in connection with other believers
- When in fellowship with other believers we can receive encouragement and support and godly counsel when making important decisions in life



- Being accountable to other mature believers is also such a great key to maintaining integrity of heart in all that we do in life and ministry

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above.” (Proverbs 14:14)

- How important it is that we are accountable to other believers, especially in the lawless times that we are now living in**
- That we have mature and discerning believers in our life who can give us godly counsel when they can see potential problems arising in our life**

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)

And let us consider
How we can spur one another
On toward love
And good deeds

Scripture Reading:



• HEBREWS 10:23-25

- 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised;
- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

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)



In the book of Psalms we read,

“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.” (Psalm 92:13-14)



Being planted in a local church fellowship is such a great key to seeing Christians bearing much eternal fruit in their lives, **AND**

10) That our relationship with Jesus is our greatest priority in life and that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit

- Everything in our Christian walk flows out of our relationship with the Lord



- Intimacy with the Lord is a great key to growing in Christlike character and to fulfilling God's plan for our life

- **Being close to the Lord is a great key to walking in the will of God for our life**
- **Our love for Jesus will keep us strong during the trials of life**

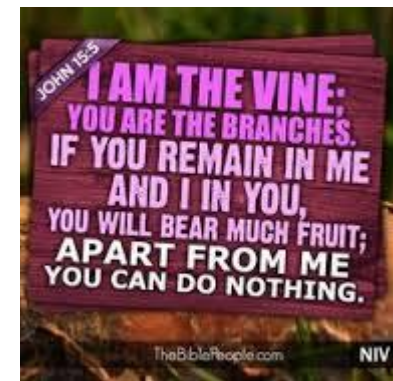


- **Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great key to living an overcoming Christian life and being filled with the right heart desires**

Jesus Himself 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)



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)



Like King David we need to make our passion to know God our greatest priority in life. That we truly love the Lord with all our heart



- As we do, we will always be ready for the return of the Lord and *our focus on things above*
- As we stay close to the Lord, we will have God's heart to reach out to the lost in our community and a great desire to live for Him

- We must purposely make time on a regular basis to spend with the Lord. As we do, we will continue to grow in our faith and love for Him



- Having a special place to meet with God is also a great key to cultivating intimacy in our walk with the Lord
- Starting the day in the Lord's presence also helps to see our days running more smoothly

- **It is our love for God that will continually help us to have a right heart both towards Him and others in our life**



- King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart. He became Israel's greatest king
- **His consuming passion was to know God intimately**
- How we too, like King David, need to make our greatest priority knowing God intimately in the ungodly times that we are now living in

I will finish with 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)**



“Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” **(Psalm 63:4-7)**

