

ATTACHMENT TWO

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

1) **Having a vision to reach the lost**

Jesus 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 the harvest.

“And he who **reaps** receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that **both** he who **sows** and he who **reaps** may **rejoice together**. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps’” (John 4:35-37)

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE HARVESTING OF LOST SOULS

Every soul is precious to God. Every church should have a clear vision and plan for reaching the lost

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)

2) **Having a vision for equipping leaders** (Building the Kingdom of God focus)

Every leader must invest time in helping to develop the next group of leaders. Mentoring and discipling future leaders will ensure the ongoing expansion of God’s Kingdom

The apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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 2:1-2)

3) Mobilising all Christians in their ministry gifts

Every Believer has a ministry and mission field. (Ephesians 2:10)

“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)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAYS

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

It is important that all Christians are equipped and encouraged to use their ministry gifts and shown how to effectively share their faith with unbelievers.

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 the 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.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- 4) **We need to start with what we have. We must not despise the day of small beginnings. (*Zechariah 4:10*) If we are faithful with the little God will entrust to us greater responsibilities and resources**

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.” (**Luke 16:10**)

SEE ALSO MATTHEW 25:14-29

- 5) **We need to have a firm belief in the **POWER** of the **Gospel** to **SAVE** and **CHANGE** lives**

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**)

“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 lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who **satisfies your mouth with good things**, So that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle’s. (**Psalm 103:2-5**)

SEE ALSO ACTS 8:4-8

- 6) **The importance of **PERSEVERENCE****

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “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 2:3**)

Any God given vision will come to pass if we do not grow weary while doing good and if we do not lose heart. (*Galatians 6:9*) (*Philippians 1:6*)

7) **The importance of making disciples** (Feeding the sheep)

All Pastors have a responsibility for looking after those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them. (**Acts 20:28**)

As part of this responsibility, pastors should be teaching and shepherding their flock to ensure that all the members in the church are given the opportunity to grow strong in their faith.

Every pastor should also be aware of the importance of their own lives being a role model to those who have been entrusted to their care.

The apostle Peter wrote, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (**1 Peter 5:2-5**)

Jesus Himself said, “Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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.” (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Jesus gave the apostle Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to His sheep when He restored Peter.

Jesus said

“Feed My lambs”,

“Tend My sheep”, and

“Feed My sheep” (**John 21:15-17**)

8) **WE NEED TO HAVE GOD’S HEART FOR LOST SOULS (The compassion of Jesus)**

As Christians it is so important that we seek to have the same compassion for the lost that Jesus had in His time here on earth. It is our compassion for the lost which will give us the passion to preach the gospel to the lost and to witness to others. As we read the gospels we can see the great love of Jesus for the lost and broken.

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Then he said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.”

“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send our labourers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:35-38)

JESUS REBUKED THE LOVELESS CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Despite all their good works Jesus said, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” (Revelation 2:4)

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ABIDE IN GOD’S PRESENCE IF WE ARE TO HAVE THE SAME COMPASSION THAT JESUS HAD FOR THE LOST. WE MUST NEVER LOSE OUR FIRST LOVE FOR JESUS. ALL OF OUR MINISTRY MUST FLOW OUT OF AN INTIMATE LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. APART FROM HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING. JESUS 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)

9) **Having a knowledge that God’s plan for our life is far bigger than we could imagine**

The LORD said to the Prophet Jeremiah whilst he was in jail,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” **(Jeremiah 33:3)**

GOD’S WAYS ARE ALWAYS HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS.

THE LORD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH TO ISRAEL,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Ephesus,

“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)**

- **We must not allow our past traditions or current comfort zones to prevent us from moving into the new things of God**
- **We must not allow our fears to stop us from getting out of the boat and becoming a water walking disciple**
- **We need to learn to walk in obedience to God’s blue print for our life as we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, and**
- **We must have a simple childlike trust in God’s faithfulness**

KNOWING THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

10) We must continue to live in the FAITH REALM and be continually LED by the Holy Spirit

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” **(Hebrews 11:1)** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” **(Hebrews 11:6)**

THE OLD TESTAMENT IS FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST

By faith the wall of Jericho fell down after Joshua and his men of war and seven priests had encircled them once daily for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. On the seventh day after encircling the wall seven times and after the priests had blown their ram’s horns and the people had shouted the wall of Jericho fell down flat. **(Joshua 6:1-20)**

By faith Moses forsook Egypt and by faith he led Israel through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians attempting to do so were drowned. **(Exodus 2:15, Exodus 14:19-30)**

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED MUCH ABOUT THE FAITH FILLED LIFE AND HOW WE CAN DEPEND ON GOD ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS AND DOING GREAT THINGS IN AND THROUGH OUR LIFE. Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” **(John 14:12-14)**

“...for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” **(Matthew 17:20)**

OTHER FAITH SCRIPTURES (Matthew 6:33) (Mark 11:22-24)

11) The importance of leaders having a servant's heart (Leading by example and prepared to go the extra mile) – See Matthew 20:25-28 and 1 Timothy 4:12

- **Living for others**

Jesus 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.” (John 12:24)

- **Helping others to fulfil God's destiny for their lives. Being a father of the faith to others.**

(2 Timothy 2:2) (1 Corinthians 4:15-16) (1 Corinthians 14:12)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
(Mark 10:45)

12) The absolute importance of maintaining unity in the church (Building the Kingdom of God together)

- A key to experiencing God's blessings (Psalm 133:1-3)

- Helps in building a strong church (Acts 2:46-47)

- A key to experiencing God's power (Acts 4:24 & 31)

- Helps to bring God's presence in our meetings (Acts 1:14), and

- Helps in creating an atmosphere of love in the church in which people can be saved, healed and encouraged to grow in their Christian walk

13) The importance of Prayer (Having a lifestyle of Prayer)

THERE ARE MANY PROMISES FOR ANSWERED PRAYER IN GOD'S WORD. **(1 John 5:14-15) (Mark 11:24) (James 5:14-18) (John 16:23-24)**

As leaders and pastors we need to have a lifestyle of prayer in which we continually seek the Lord for His wisdom and direction for our lives and churches. Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it. **(Psalm 127:1)**

The Apostle John wrote about the faithfulness of God in answering our prayers in 1 John, “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)**

Jesus made it clear that if we are living for Him, we can be assured that whatever needs we may have, when we ask the Father in His name to meet these needs, He will do so to help our lives to bear much eternal fruit.

Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

14) Continually maintaining a heart of worship and intimacy with Jesus Christ. Jesus needs to be continually our first love in life. (Revelation 2:1-5) Having a lifestyle of worship helps us to know God's heart and will for our life (Psalm 37:4)

Jesus 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)** **The apostle Paul wrote,** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **(Colossians 3:16)**

15) All great leaders live a crucified life

- A life of obedience to God's plan for their life
(**Luke 14:26-27, 33**)
- **IT IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING THE MANY DISTRACTIONS IN THIS LIFE THAT CAN STEER CHRISTIANS OFF TRACK AND ROB THEM OF GOD'S BEST**
- Abundant life can only be experienced by Believers when they deny themselves and follow Jesus' plan for their life. (**Matthew 16:24-27**)

Jesus Himself said,

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” (**Mark 8:34-38**)

The apostle Paul 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**)

16) We must depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us for ministry

- The importance of praying in the Spirit

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20)

- Preaching and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul wrote, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 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 2:2-5) *and*

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending back to Heaven,

“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 Holy Spirit makes our prayers effective

The apostle Paul wrote, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26)

- We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:17-18)

- **Jesus Himself ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit**

“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)

Jesus went about teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. People brought to Him all the sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed (Matthew 4:23-24)

AS WE CONTINUALLY MINISTER IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE WILL ALSO SEE GREAT THINGS BEING DONE IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES BY GOD FOR HIS GLORY

Jesus said to His disciples, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us when ministering to others. In the book of Zechariah we read,

“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)

17) The importance of connecting with and being accountable to other mature Christians and Leaders

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

We all need constant fellowship with other believers (Hebrews 10:23-25) It is good also to have godly mentors speaking into our lives (Proverbs 22:17) (Proverbs 19:20)