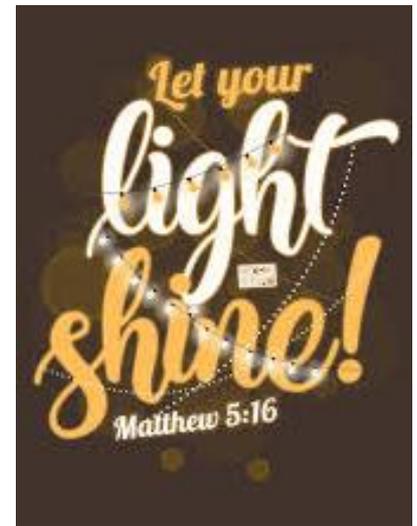


Allowing the word of God to become incarnate in our lives

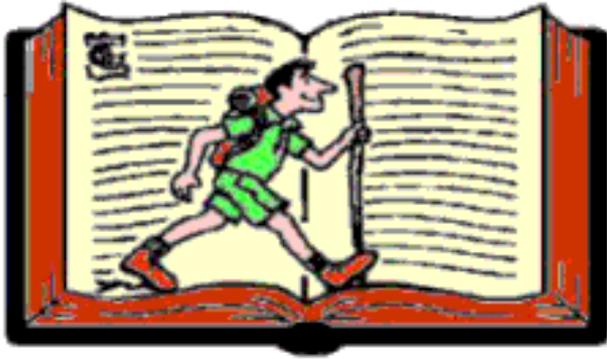
It is so important that we allow the word of God to change us – That we apply the wisdom in the bible to our own lives – That we live out the word of God in our own lives)



Jesus Himself said,

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

- **For some people we are the only bible that they will read**



- For this reason we need to allow Christ to be formed in our life as we spend time meditating on the word of God

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)



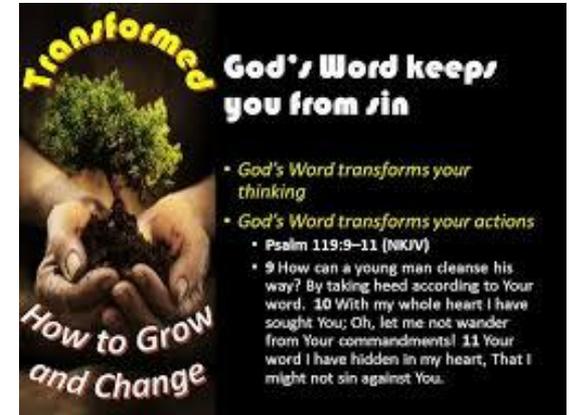
- **Meditating on the word of God is a key to prospering in our in our walk with the Lord and to doing life well**



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)**

- It is so important that the word of God goes from our head into 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)**

- **Being both hearers and doers of God's word enables us to build our lives on a firm foundations**

- This is crucial because we will all go through storms and trials in life



- As we continue to apply the word of God to our lives in ALL situations we will grow in Christlike character as we refuse to compromise in our walk with the Lord

Jesus Himself said,

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

(Matthew 7:24-25)



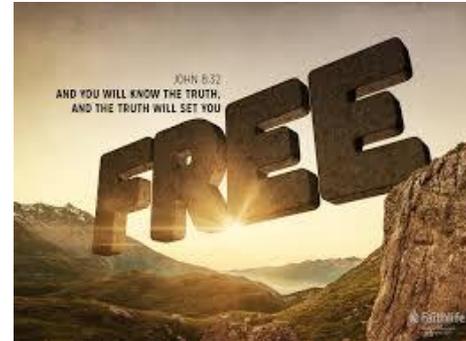
Jesus then went on to say,

“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 7:26-27)



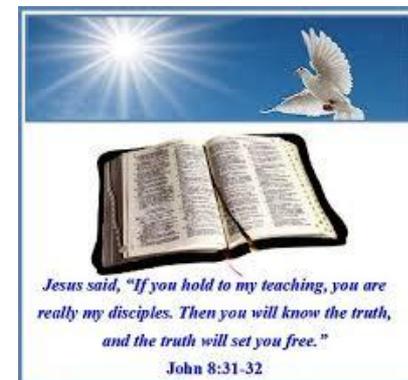
- Spending time in God's word also protects us from lies and deception



Jesus Himself said,

“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

(John 8:31-32)



- God's word is God's wisdom for doing life well

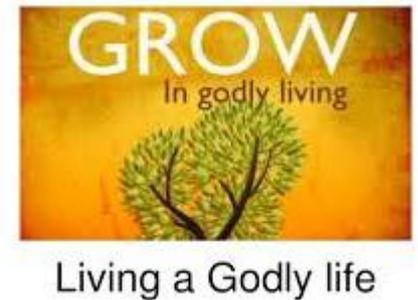
- **Consistently meditating on God's word is a great key to having our faith continually built up.**
- **If we are continually built up in our faith we will;**
 - i) Be more able to handle all the storms and challenges that come our way in life, and
 - ii) We will be prepared to take steps of faith and do new things as the Lord opens up new doors of opportunity for us



The Apostle Paul wrote,

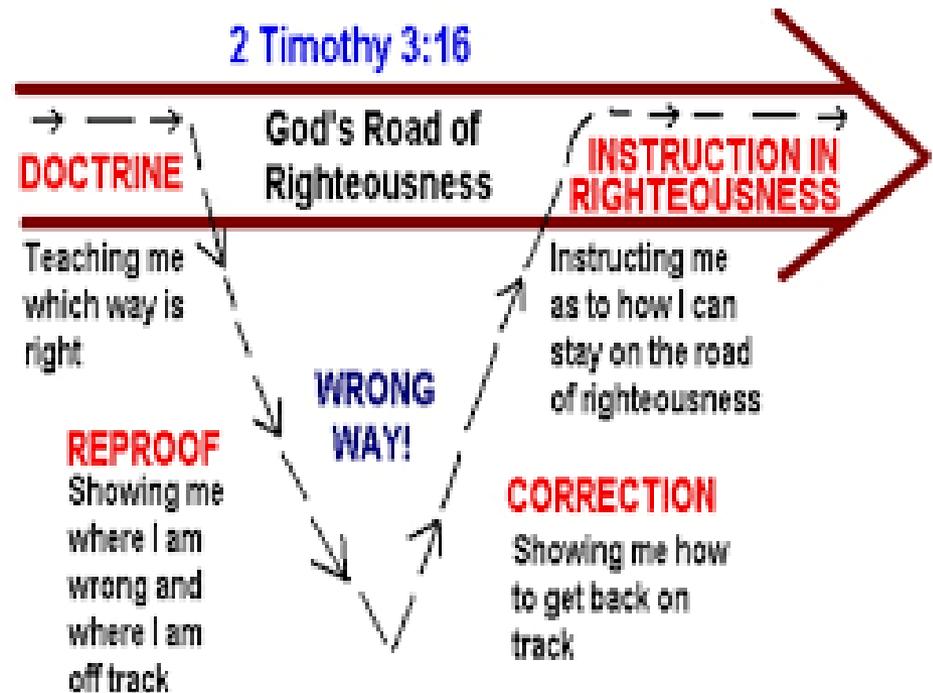
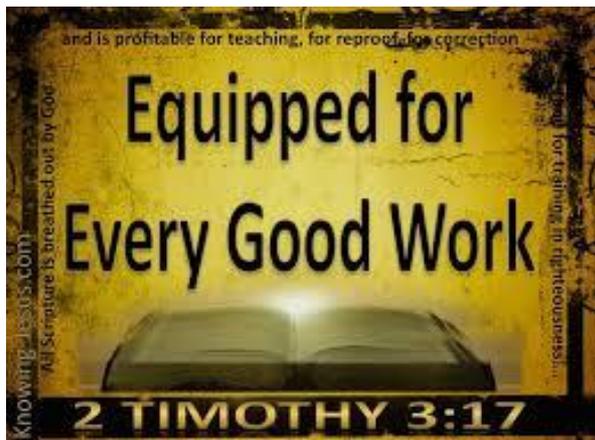
“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

- **God is more concerned about our character than what we do for Him**
- Spending time in God's word helps us to grow in Christlike character and to live in a right and God glorifying manner
- The way that we live our life will have the greatest impact on others
- Spending time in God's word also helps to prepare us for the assignments that God has planned for our life

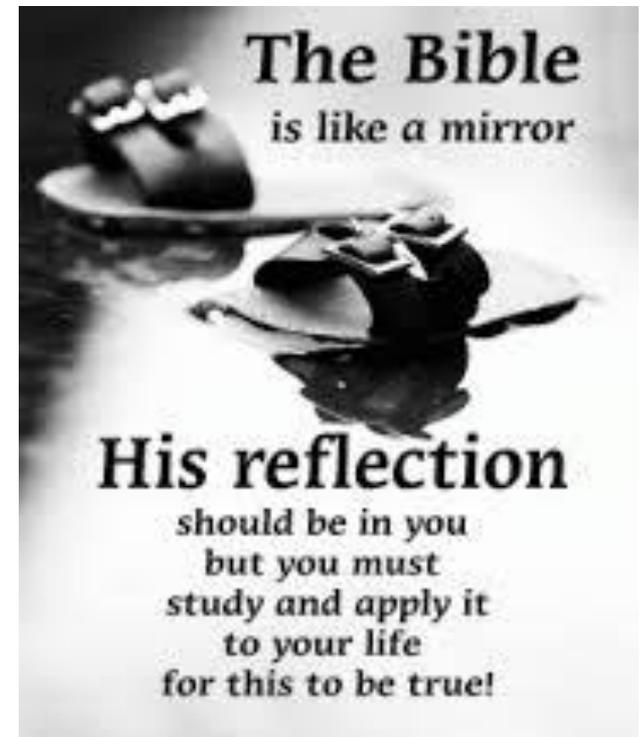


The Apostle Paul wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)



- Spending time in God's word enables the Holy Spirit to highlight areas in our life that are not in line with God's word
- As we spend time in God's word He will reveal areas in our life that need to be corrected and changed so that we can continue to grow in Christlike character
- Spending time in God's word will also help to prevent us from making wrong choices in 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)**



- **When we read the bible the bible reads us.** For this reason spending time in the word of God is crucial in helping us to walk in the ways of God so that we grow in godly character

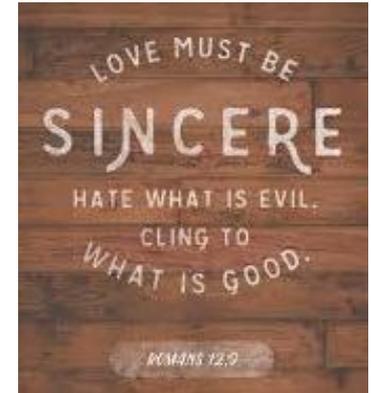
- **Spending time in God's word helps us to become more like Christ over time**
- Making time to spend in God's word is crucial if we are to become all that God has planned for our life
- I will now look at just one of many passages of Scripture in the bible that can help us to live in a way that causes us to shine in the world around us



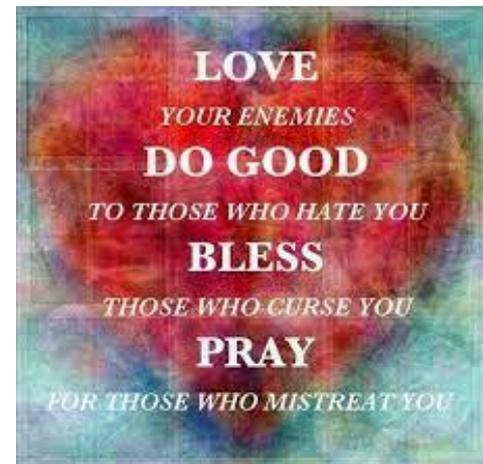
The Apostle Paul wrote in relation to how to behave as a Christian,

“Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.” **(Romans 12:9-13)**



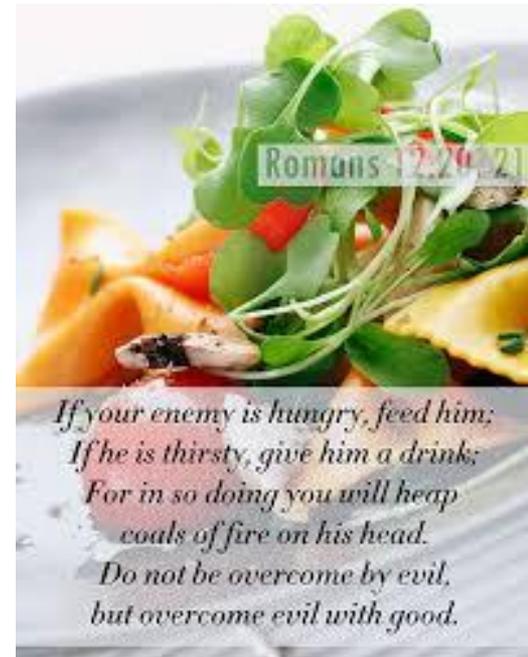
“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” **(Romans 12:14-16)**



“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.” **(Romans 12:17-19)**



“Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” **(Romans 12:20-21)**



So in conclusion;

- May I encourage you to build your life on the firm foundation of the word of God
- That you would continually allow the word of God to bring change and transformation to your life
- That you would be simply hearers and doers of the word of God so that you will continually remain strong in your walk with the Lord and realise your full potential in Christ
- I will now finish with two encouraging scriptures that emphasise our potential in Christ

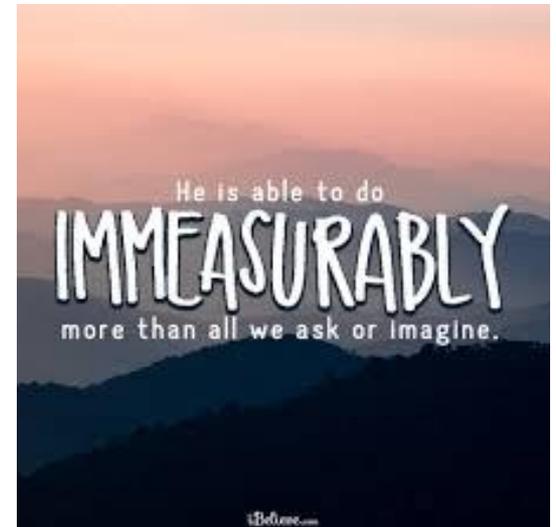
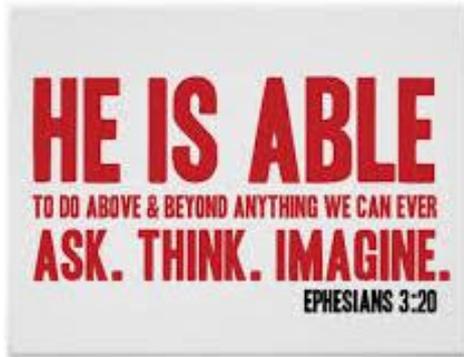
Building our lives



on the WORD OF GOD



- Firstly, a promise from God's word that we can appropriate for our own life as we faithfully pursue God's plan for our life;



The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

- **Secondly, the blessing that comes from making right associations in life and from building our lives on the word of God**



The Psalmist wrote, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)