

BECOMING A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER

(A leader who makes a great difference in the lives of others)

Firstly all Christians are called to reign with Christ here on earth.

As a royal priesthood all saints (believers) now reign with Christ on the earth through their WORSHIP, their PRAYERS and their WITNESS in WORD and DEED.

In the book of Revelation we read,

“And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, tongue and people and nation, **And have made us kings and priests to our God; AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH.**”
(Revelation 5:9-10)

We as believers are Christ's ambassadors here on earth

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” **(2 Corinthians 5:20)**

We are called as believers to be the salt and light of the earth. That through the way that we live our lives here on earth others will be *drawn* to faith in Christ

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)**

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

Every believer has the potential to influence the lives of many others. As parents we lead our families

So today I will be sharing a few thoughts around becoming a transformational leader - A Christian who inspires many others to embrace the fullness of what God has planned for their lives and to become transformational leaders themselves.

This teaching has been put together based on a teaching that I heard from John Maxwell at the Hillsong Conference in 2015. Though most of the teaching is what God has put on my heart to share, the theme of this message is based on John Maxwell's passion to learn about the life of Jesus and what made Him such a great transformational leader.

Jesus was a transformational leader who has influenced the lives of multitudes of people. We now have around 2 billion Christians in the world who are a legacy of Jesus Christ's life here on earth

I will now just quickly look at 5 distinct attributes of Jesus Christ and then other 4 attributes of great Christian leaders who help to bring transformation to the lives of others

1) Jesus saw things that others did not see. He saw the potential in others

(We see this with the woman from Samaria and Simon Peter the fisherman)

In chapter four of the gospel of John we read about the woman from Samaria and how:

- Jesus purposely detoured out of His way to meet with this woman who had experienced many failed relationships (John 4:4) (John 4:7)
- That though this woman was most likely a social outcast after experiencing 5 failed marriages, Jesus reached out to her and shared about the everlasting life that she could have through believing in Him (John 4:9) (John 4:13-15)
- How Jesus knew everything about her past failures and disappointments yet loved and accepted her unconditionally, (John 4:17-18) and
- That through her encounter with Jesus Christ her life was transformed and that through her life many others believed in Christ (John 4:39-42)

We see how Jesus also chose Simon Peter an unlearned fisherman to be one of the founding apostles and to lead the early church even though Peter:

- Rebuked Jesus when He shared about his plan to go to the cross to die for our sins (Matthew 16:21-23)
- Even though on three occasions he denied even knowing Jesus after He had been arrested, (Matthew 26:69-75) and
- That he along with the other disciples disputed about who would be the greatest (Luke 9:46)

JESUS SAW IN PETER THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GREAT LEADER IN THE EARLY CHURCH

2) Jesus said things others did not say. His words always gave value to people.

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“So all bore witness to Him, and marvelled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” **(Luke 4:22)**

Jesus Himself said,

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” **(John 6:63)**

We NEED to value people. We need to value lost people.

With our words we can inspire others to do great things for God. As we speak the word of God into people's lives we can help them to grow in their faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” **(Proverbs 15:23)**

The preaching of the gospel is good news. (Romans 10:15) Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 9:35)

3) Jesus believed things that others didn't.

We need to be people of faith who see the potential in others and the possibilities in all circumstances.

We need to believe that our community can be transformed by the gospel message.

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“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)**

Jesus fed the 5000 with just 5 loaves and 2 fish after He looked at the multitudes and saw that they had nothing to eat. (Mark 6:35-44)

4) Jesus felt things that others didn't. (Jesus had great compassion for people)

We need to fall in love with lost people. Our love for people will cause us to live for others

In the gospel of Matthew we read, “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.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

5) Jesus did things that others didn't. (*He performed many miracles, signs and wonders*)

Jesus Himself said that we could do even greater things than what He did because He was going back to His Father in heaven.

Jesus said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that 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 believe what the Word of God says, that “For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)

We need to always have a pioneer spirit and be prepared to step out of the boat to do the new things that God calls us to do in 2016

We must never put God in a box. His ways are higher than our ways and so often different to our ways.

We need to believe like those in the early church, that in the Name of Jesus we can see people being healed and set free from demonic strongholds on a consistent basis as we exercise the authority that we have been given as believers.

Jesus Himself said,

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

Jesus also consistently reached out to those who were rejected by society. Jesus reached out to the lepers, sinners and tax collectors and affirmed the value of women in society.

Jesus also loved His enemies and those who rejected Him. Jesus wept over Jerusalem after the people there did not recognise Him as their messiah.

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had know, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:41-42)

Like Jesus we must not allow cultural expectations and the peer group pressure of others to stop us from doing what God has called us to do in life

6) Great leaders are humble

We need to have a humble dependence on God and to have a teachable spirit - We come into this world knowing nothing. Great leaders are always willing to learn from others

Moses was the humblest man on earth. God raised him up to be a great leader who led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt.

In the book of Numbers we read,

“(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)” **(Numbers 12:3)**

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,” **(Philippians 2:5-10)**

7) Great leaders use their gifts to serve others

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” **(Matthew 20:25-28)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

Great leaders serve and build up others with their gifts. A servant leader has a real heart to help encourage and equip others to be all that God has planned for their life. It is as all believers operate in their own unique gifts and calling, that we see the Body of Christ making a great difference in this world.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

Transformational leaders will inspire other believers to flow in their own gifts and callings and to be all that God has planned for their life.

If we are to see our churches having a heart to serve others, we as leaders ourselves must model that lifestyle by leading by example. We all need one another in the Body of Christ. AS A TEAM WE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH

8) We need to aim to be the best at who God created us to be.

God has uniquely created each and every one of us.

We are most anointed and the greatest blessing to others when we flow in what God has called us to do in life. We need to be content with what God created us to be and do in life.

As the eternal things are the most important in life, it is good to give our best to what God has called us to do in life.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

9) We need to continually live with eternity in mind.

We have one life here on earth to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of having an eternal focus in life and to not allow the things of this world to distract us from living wholeheartedly for Him

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)**

In His explanation of the Parable of the Sower, Jesus emphasised the importance of not allowing other things to enter into our hearts to choke the word and to cause us to bear no eternal fruit in our life. Jesus said,

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” **(Mark 4:18-20)**

Given the lawless world that we are now living in and the many distractions in the world, we must purposely set our mind on the eternal things if we are to fully accomplish all that God has planned for our lives and be an example to others.

More than ever before there are many things that can steal our affections for the Lord and sidetrack us from pursuing God's best plan for our life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”
(Colossians 3:1-2)

It is as we keep our focus on the things of God that our lives make a great impact in this world for eternity and that we receive eternal rewards.

Jesus Himself said,

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

I WILL NOW FINISH BY LOOKING QUICKLY AT TWO IMPORTANT KEYS TO HELP US TO BECOME TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS WHO INSPIRE OTHERS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IN CHRIST

1) WE NEED TO MAKE ROOM FOR GOD IN OUR LIVES

- We need to spend quality time with the LORD if we are to model the life of Jesus here on earth and to have His love and compassion for all people
- We must purposely make time in our agenda's to spend with the Lord. Jesus Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed to His Father in heaven during His time here on earth. (Luke 5:16)
- Spending time with the LORD is a great key to growing in Godly wisdom and to gaining fresh revelation from heaven to help us in life

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)

- Spending time with the LORD on a consistent basis helps us to become:

- i) Bold in our faith,
- ii) To gain God's heart and compassion for people
- iii) To gain Godly wisdom to make right choices in life that are in line with God's will for our life, and
- iv) To grow in Christlike Character so that our lives bear much fruit

In the book of Acts we read,

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

King David wrote,

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

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)

- God's ways are higher than our ways. Great ideas and Godly wisdom come from spending time with the Lord

In the book of Isaiah we read, “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)

In the book of James we read, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

- **We need to allow the Word of God to transform our life, especially given all of the negative and ungodly influences that now exist in the world**

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)

- **We need to learn to live our life based on the wisdom and promises contained in God's word**

The LORD said to Joshua just before he was about to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

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)

- **Meditating on the Word of God and speaking out God’s promises in His Word is a great key to building a strong and overcoming faith**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

- **As we spend time in God’s Word we will also receive guidance and direction from God through His Word to give us wisdom and clarity to make right choices that are in line with his will for our life**

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)

- **More than ever before given the imminent return of the Lord and the rising lawlessness all around the world, we need to make our love for the Lord our greatest priority in life**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

- **Like Jesus Himself we need to continually depend on the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to others. (Acts 10:38) Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great key to leading a victorious and overcoming Christian life and to being effective in witnessing to and preaching to others. The Apostle Paul wrote,** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

- **Having a lifestyle of worship helps us to maintain our first love for Jesus**

- **King David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) and a worshipper**

- **King David wrote,**

"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)

- **HAVING A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP HELPS US**

- i) **To gain God's heart and compassion for others**
- ii) **To keep our focus on the bigness of God (Isaiah 26:3-4)**
- iii) **To usher God's tangible presence into our meetings and outreaches**
- iv) **To prepare people's hearts to receive the word of God**
- v) **Helps us to keep a right perspective in life**
- vi) **Helps to bring God into our circumstances and struggles. God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3), and**
- vii) **Helps us to keep a soft heart and to keep our first love for Jesus alive**

- **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)

2) WE NEED TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

- We need to be people of prayer who involve God in all that we do

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)

- We need to *continually* commit our plans to the Lord. God knows what is best for our life. He has a unique plan and destiny for our lives. God’s plan for our life unfolds progressively over time

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

- TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS HAVE A CLEAR GOD GIVEN VISION AND FOCUS FOR THEIR LIVES AND MINISTRIES (Habakkuk 2:2-3) Jesus Himself said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)

- We need to continually have a childlike trust and dependence on God. As we allow the Lord to direct our steps in life we will see many lives changed for eternity and all that God has planned for our life coming 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)

- We need to be committed to a lifestyle of simple obedience. Just doing what Jesus tells us to do. This is the key to seeing God's continual favour and blessing upon all that we do in life

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

- Knowing and following the will of God for our life is crucial if we are to see our lives making a great impact in this world for eternity

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)

- As we wholeheartedly pursue God’s Kingdom plan for our life we can be assured that all that we need in life shall be added unto us

- Jesus made this clear when He 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)**

- It is as we commit to just doing what Jesus tells us to do that we see the miracles and breakthroughs in our life

We see this in Luke Chapter 5 and verses 1-11

“So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid, from now on you will catch men.” So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.” **(Luke 5:1-11)**

So in conclusion, this truly is a year to break open our lives and to live wholeheartedly for the Lord by simply allowing Him to direct our steps in 2016

As we do we will see God doing great things in and through our lives as His heart is that none would perish

SO MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU TODAY IS THAT YOU WOULD MAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST YOUR GREATEST PRIORITY THIS YEAR AND THAT YOU WOULD ALLOW THE LORD TO DIRECT YOUR EVERY STEP THIS YEAR, SO THAT HE CAN USE YOU TO HELP BRING HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION TO THE LIVES OF MANY AS YOU LIVE FOR HIM

I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul, “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)**