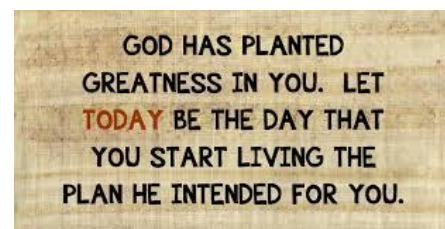


BEING FOCUSED IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

- Every believer has the potential to make a great impact in this world for eternity. (Ephesians 3:20)



- We have one gift of life to make an eternal difference in the lives of many others.
- We are now also living in those times when we can see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) prior to the bodily second coming of Jesus Christ back to earth. (Revelation 19:11-15) (Acts 1:11)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:7-9)

- The Apostle Paul described what it would be like in the days that we are now living in. There is no doubt that we are now living in the last of the last days.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

- With so many people now in our world still yet to be saved, it is so important that we remain focused on living for the Kingdom Cause so that our lives bear much eternal fruitful

Jesus Himself 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)

- In this teaching I will be looking at some key areas where we need to be focused if we are to bear much fruit in our walk with the Lord and if we are to make an eternal difference in the lives of many others

1) The importance of using our time wisely

- It is so important that we know and follow God’s will for our life. We need to continually live our life with eternity in mind and live for the Kingdom Cause
- Everyone gets the same amount of time each day. Our time is our most precious resource. Each day once lived cannot be regained. Using our time wisely helps us to realise our full potential in Christ
- Without a clear commitment to living for the Kingdom Cause we can easily be sidetracked from fulfilling God’s plan for our life

- **With the nearness of the Lord's return more than ever before we need to make the most of every God given opportunity to help others to come to Christ and to assist others in fulfilling God's plan for their lives**
- **The bible clearly emphasises the importance of using our time wisely and living for the Kingdom Cause**

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)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Jesus Himself also emphasised the importance of living for the eternal things when He 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)

2) The importance of prayerfully planning our weeks

- **The simple fact is that if we fail to plan we will plan to fail**
- **Especially as believers if we do not prayerfully commit our plans to the Lord we will be easily distracted and sidetracked from following God's plan for our life**

- It is good each Sunday night or first thing Monday morning to prayerfully seek the LORD for His direction for the coming week
- What are the key things that God wants us to commit to doing this week? Are there any things that we have been doing that are no longer required to be done?
- Is there anyone that I need to visit or contact to encourage this week?
- Who in my school or workplace, or in my neighbourhood or amongst my family should I share my faith with this week?
- How do I prioritize my weekly schedule so that I can accomplish all that God has planned for my week?
- Each day it is also good to get God's perspective on what needs to be accomplished that day and how best to prioritize the tasks for the day
- **PRAYERFULLY MAKING PLANS HELPS US TO BE FRUITFUL IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD AND TO BE CONSISTENTLY AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

"The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty." (Proverbs 21:5)

3) The importance of flowing in our own unique gifts and calling

- **We are the greatest blessing to others when we operate in our area of gifting and within our ministry calling**

- **Every believer has a unique calling and plan for their lives**

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)**

- **Every believer is uniquely gifted so that they can be effective in fulfilling God’s plan for their life**
- **We are most effective and anointed and energised when we flow in our own unique gifts and calling.**

Jesus Himself said,

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” **(John 4:34)**

- **We all need one another in the Body of Christ. For this reason it is important that we are faithful in using our spiritual gifts so that we are a blessing for the wider Body of Christ**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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.” **(Romans 12:4-5)**

- The Apostle Paul emphasised both the importance of using our spiritual gifts and having the right attitude and motivation in what we do when he listed some of the spiritual gifts in the following passage of Scripture.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8)

- Being PLANTED in a local church helps us to flow in our own unique gifts and calling. It is within the context of a local church that people’s gifts and callings can be recognized and utilized as they are released into ministry roles and responsibilities
- Being planted WHERE God would have us planted is a great key to being fruitful in our walk with the Lord. Being actively involved in the life of a local church gives us the opportunity to use our spiritual gifts to build up and encourage others in our church family and to help unbelievers come to faith
- The following passages of Scripture clearly outline how we all need one another in the body of Christ and that we all have different gifts and ministries to help edify and build up the wider body of Christ

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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 Apostle Paul also compared the church to the human body when he wrote,

“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” **(1 Corinthians 12:18-22)**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, variety of tongues.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27-28)

4) Being focused in our prayer life and study of the Word of God

- **We are now living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about in 2 Timothy 3:1-5**

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”
(Matthew 24:10-13)

- **Our faith is the most precious thing that we have and it is eternal**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

- **Studying the Word of God helps to keep our faith built up and to give us the wisdom that we need to do life well. For this reason we need to make meditating on the Word of God a key focus in our life, especially given the lawless days that we are now living in**

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)

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

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)

- **Prayer involves God in our life and circumstances. We all need God’s wisdom and help to do life well.**
- **Prayer is the key to seeing the breakthroughs that we need in life. For this reason prayer needs to be a continual focus in our walk with the Lord**
- **The bible clearly emphasises the importance of prayer**

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’”

“And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me”

Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said,

“And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?”

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” **(Luke 18:1-8)**

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)

Jesus Himself emphasised the power of prayer to change our circumstances when He said,

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

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
(Mark 11:22-24)

5) We need to continually keep our focus on things above and on God’s promises in His Word

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)

- **If we do not purposely put the things of the Kingdom first in our life it is more easy to get sidetracked by the things of this world which will never truly satisfy us**
- **It is in pursuing the will of God for our life and knowing Christ intimately that we truly experience great purpose and meaning in life.**

Jesus Himself said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

- **Continually keeping our focus on things above helps us to maintain right priorities in life**
- **As Christians we can build our lives on the promises of God contained in His word**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

- **There are many things in this world that can distract and discourage us from living for the Kingdom Cause**

Jesus Himself said in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower,

“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.” **(Mark 4:18-19)**

- **We need to continually keep our focus on the eternal things. As believers we are to be in this world but not of it. We must never lose sight of the fact that we as Christians are here on earth to help others to become part of God’s kingdom**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 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 5:18-20)**

- **We must learn to continually keep our focus on God's promises in His word and not on our problems**
- **As Christians we need to build our lives based on what God says about our future and our life in His Word**
- **As Christians we can build our lives based on the promises contained in the word of God**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

- **God knows how to meet our every need in life when we put Him first in our lives and plans**

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)**

6) We need to be focused on helping others to come to Christ

- **Given the reality of there being a hell to shun and a heaven to gain we need to be continually focused on helping others to come to Christ**
- **If we pray for opportunities to share our faith with others God will invariably bring into our path people that are open to the gospel message**

- **We need to ask God for His love and compassion for the lost. That we see people the way that He does. God has great compassion for all people**

We see this in the gospel of Matthew

“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)

- **Continually being aware of the eternal consequences for those who die without Christ is a great key to helping us to stay focused on sharing our faith with others**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

The Apostle Paul had a great appreciation of the value of every soul to God. He wrote,

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law, to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

- Given the eternal ramifications for those who die without Christ AND the nearness of the return of the Lord, having a willingness to share our faith with others needs to be a key focus in our lives as believers beginning with our own family AND

7) The importance of being focused on being faithful in completing those things that God calls us to do in each season of our life

- There will be different seasons in our walk with the LORD

In the book of Ecclesiastes we read,

“To everything there is a season,

A time for every purpose under heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

- There will be seasons of preparation. God prepared Moses for 40 years before raising him up to lead the Children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt.

- After this extended season of preparation Moses had become the most humble person in the world

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)

- We must not run from the trials and tests that we go through in life, but rather grow spiritually through them as we remain committed to completing the tasks that God gives us to do in each season of our life.

In the book of James we read,

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing.” **(James 1:2-4)**

- **God’s plan for our life unfolds over time. Our Christian walk is a marathon and not a sprint**

King David wrote, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” **(Psalm 37:23-24)**

- **We must learn to be faithful and focused in completing all that God calls us to do in EVERY season of our life**
- **When we look at the life of Jesus we see how He was committed and focused in His time here on earth to completing the assignment that His Father had given Him to do here on earth**
- **The following three Scriptures clearly show Jesus’ focus and commitment to fulfilling the will of His Father here on earth**

Jesus Himself said near the beginning of His ministry here on earth, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” **(John 4:34)**

At the end of His ministry here on earth Jesus said in His prayer to His Father in heaven, “I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” **(John 17:4)**

Finally in the book of Hebrews we read, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet rested to bloodshed, striving against sin.” **(Hebrews 12:2-3)**

- **So in conclusion may I encourage you to fully invest your life for the Kingdom Cause; that you would keep your focus on the eternal things so that your life will make a great difference in this world for eternity**
- **Our labour for the Lord is never in vain and one day the Lord will reward us for what we have done for Him during our time here on earth**
- **How we all want to one day hear the words from Jesus Christ, “Well done my good and faithful servant” when we stand before Him to give an account of our life here on earth**
- **If we are faithful in what God has called us to do in life we will help many others to come to Christs and to fulfil their own God given destinies for their lives**

I will finish with the words of Jesus Christ who said,

“If anyone 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 will find it. For what profit is it to 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 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 16:24-27)