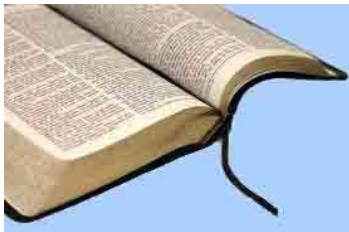


Building and strengthening the spiritual foundations of our Christian faith



**The Apostle Paul wrote,
“Finally, my brethren, be strong in
the Lord and in the power of His
might.” (Ephesians 6:10)**

Continually growing stronger in our Christian walk is crucial for several reasons

- *Firstly* it helps us to remain strong in our walk with the Lord in a world which is becoming more lawless and ungodly



- The most important thing is that we finish our walk with the Lord well. That we do not become distracted from the things of God in the final lap of our Christian walk

The Apostle Paul wrote about the times that we are now living in,

“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)



Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)



- ***Secondly* it is the key to positioning ourselves for promotion in God's kingdom.**

- God is more concerned about our character than what we do for Him. That we are faithful in the little things. (Luke 16:10-12)



- Just as in the natural the taller a building is and the more floors there are, the deeper the foundations need to be, so too in our walk with the Lord, the higher God raises us up, the deeper and stronger our Christian spiritual foundations need to be.

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our lives on a firm foundation when He 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.**

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 7:24-27)**



- When the LORD sent out the prophet Samuel to anoint the next King of Israel, He made it clear to the prophet Samuel what God looks for in a man that He is about to promote. We see this in the following passage of Scripture.

“So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him!” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” **(1 Samuel 16:6-7)**



- ***Thirdly*** it is key to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of
- The more we learn to walk in the ways and the will of God for our life, the more purpose and meaning we will have in life.



Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

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



- The more we walk in the ways of God, the more we will experience the fullness of joy and the peace of God which comes from trusting God in every area of our life and in following His unique plan for our life.

- Even when we go through the storms of life, *if our trust and dependence is in Christ alone* we can still continue to enjoy God's peace and joy in our lives



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)



Jesus Himself said,

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)




- ***Fourthly* it helps us to grow in our knowledge of God and to experience the richness of getting to know Christ in a real and intimate way**
- This is why it is crucial that we learn to not allow the distractions of this world to pull us away from our walk with the Lord
- **Both King David and the Apostle Paul had a great hunger to know God intimately. They both achieved much for God's glory. King David was Israel's greatest king and the Apostle Paul planted many churches and wrote around one third of the New Testament**




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)**



Psalm 63:1-3, 7
My Soul Thirsts for You



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

Psalm 63:1

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:7-8)



“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” (Philippians 3:10)

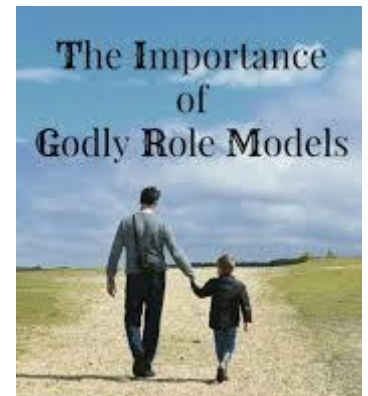
- The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of getting to know Christ in a real and intimate way. That our faith goes beyond just an intellectual understanding of who Christ is, but that we know Christ intimately.

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)



- ***Fifthly* it helps us to become good role models for other believers and for our family and to help many others to also grow strong in their walk with the Lord so that they can fulfil God's plan for their lives**

- The way that we live our lives has the greatest impact on the lives of others

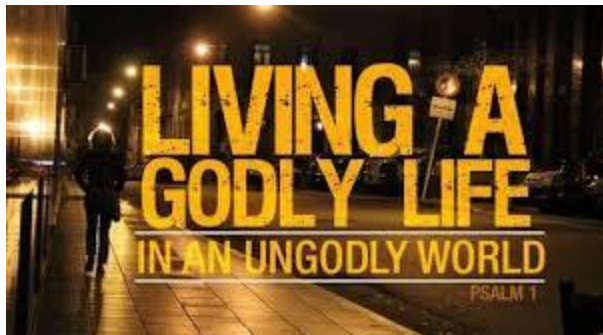


- Growing strong in our walk with the Lord helps us to become better role models and mentors to others. We can only impart into the lives of others what we ourselves are living

This is why 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)

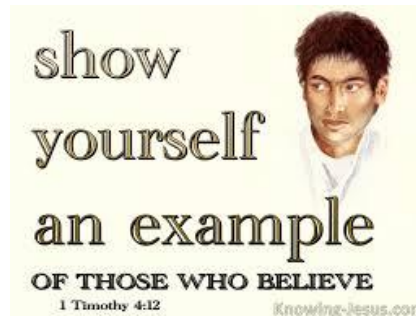
“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)



The Apostle Paul said 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.”

(1 Timothy 4:12)



The way that we live our lives will greatly affect the lives of many others. For this reason it is important that we continually seek to grow stronger in our walk with the Lord, **AND**

- **Finally it is the key to bearing much fruit in our life and to receiving eternal rewards when we appear before Christ to give an account of our life here on earth**
- Continually growing stronger in our walk with the Lord will help us to fulfil God's best plan for our life so that we bear much eternal fruit in our lives
- As Christians we are in continual spiritual warfare as the Devil tries to oppose God's plans and purposes for our life



The Apostle Peter wrote,

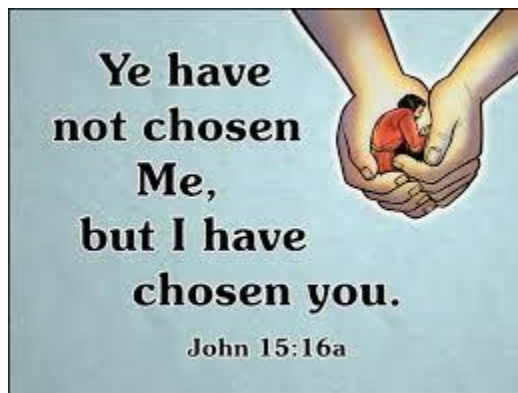
**“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”
(1 Peter 5:8-9)**



Continually growing in our faith enables us to fully appropriate all that God has planned for our lives and to fulfil His destiny for our lives

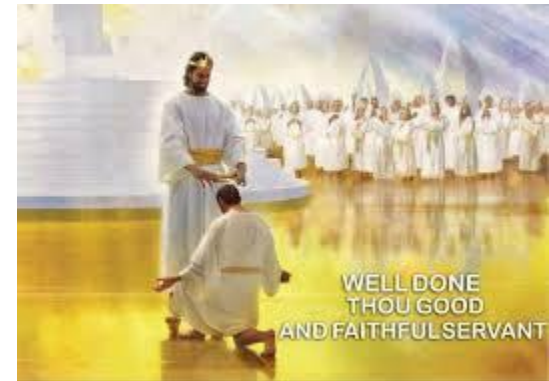
Jesus Himself wrote,

“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)



Jesus also 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)



- **Building strong spiritual foundations in our Christian walk is therefore a great key TO WALKING IN VICTORY and to accomplishing all that God has planned for our lives and to seeing our lives bearing much fruit**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”
(2 Corinthians 2:14)**



As we continue to grow in our faith we can help many others to come to Christ, so that they too can experience the abundant life that God has also planned for them

So what disciplines do we need to have in our life as Christians so that we can continually strengthen the foundations of our faith.

1) We need to spend quality time in God's word on a regular basis. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God

- Continually meditating on the word of God is a great key to growing strong in our walk with the Lord and to fulfilling all that God has planned for our lives



The LORD said to Joshua as 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)



- Consistently meditating on the word of God helps to prevent the spirit of this world from negatively impacting our faith and undermining our character.



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)

- Consistently meditating on the word of God will keep us from developing wrong mindsets and will cause our faith to be continually built up. *There is great power in the word of God to truly set us free* so that we can enjoy the fullness of life that God has planned for us

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)

- Continually meditating on the word of God also helps to convict us of wrong things in our life and helps to give us guidance and direction so that we can make right 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.”

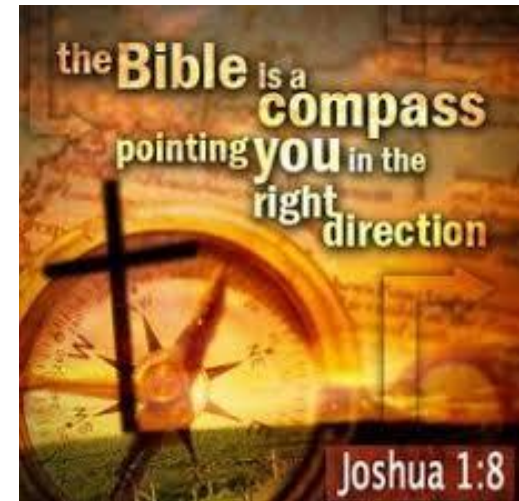
(Hebrews 4:12)



The Psalmist wrote,

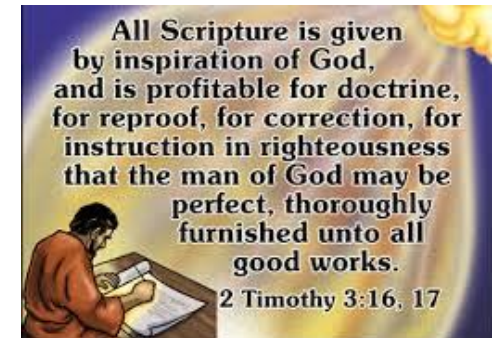
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

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



- Spending quality time in the word of God helps to equip us to fulfil God's plan for our life. God has a unique ministry and plan for every believers life (Ephesians 2:10)

The Apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy,



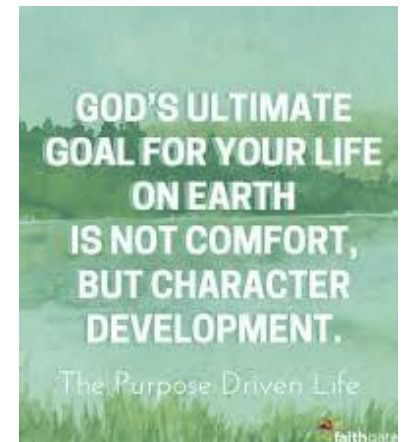
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



- The most important thing is that we are both hearers and doers of God's word



- It is in applying God's word to our life and allowing the word of God to change us that we begin to grow in Christlike character

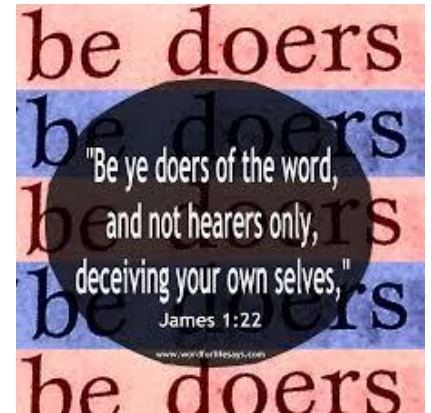


- Being both hearers and doers of God's word is a key to building our lives on a firm foundation and to experiencing God's blessing and favour upon our life



In the book of James we read, “Therefore *lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness*, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” **(James 1:21-25)**

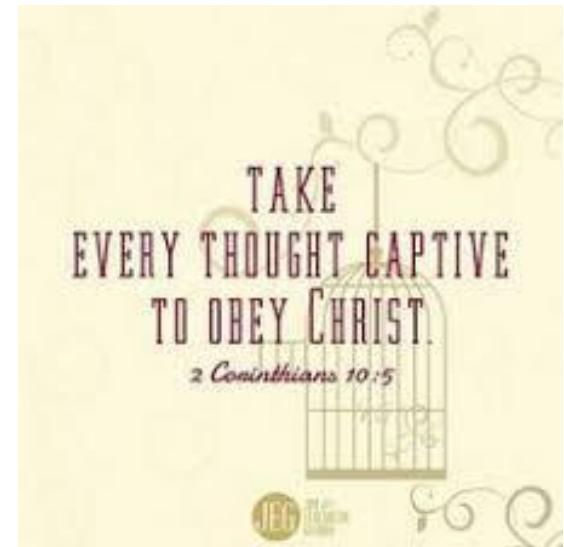


2) We need to be continually disciplined in what we focus on and listen to.

- What we focus on and listen to will greatly impact our thought life.
- Our thought life will then ultimately influence the choices that we make in life, which in turn will determine the end outcome of our life.
- For this reason we need to continually take ALL wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive and replace them with Christ centred thoughts



- This is why the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of only meditating on those things that are good and virtuous and being quick to take all wrong thoughts captive before they begin to negatively affect our faith and character



- It is crucial as believers that we win the battle for the mind and live a disciplined thought life

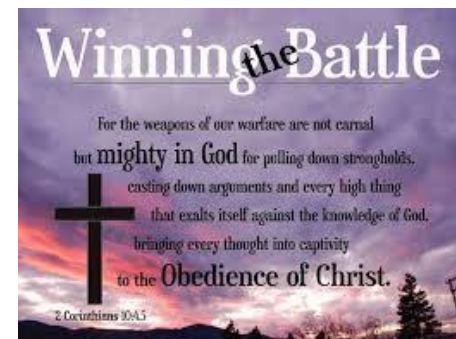
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)



The Apostle Paul also 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)



We need to continually win the battle for the mind if we are to remain strong in our faith and fully embrace all that God has planned for our lives. God has so much in store for our future

3) The importance of being PLANTED in a loving local bible based church.

- Being accountable to other mature Christians is a great key to remaining strong in our faith and to growing in our knowledge of the things of God
- There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors. When we are connected to the life of a healthy local church we can gain wisdom from other mature Christians to help us to make right choices in life
- In a loving fellowship we can also get encouragement from other believers



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)



4) That we cultivate a lifestyle of prayer and worship so that we can get to know God in a real and intimate way

- Prayer is simply communing with God
- Prayer invites God into our circumstances
- In a world full of deception more than ever before we need God's wisdom to continually make right choices in life that are in line with His will for our lives
- Prayerless people are powerless people



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) AND



“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)**



- We have a God who is both willing and able to help us, who both hears and answers all of our prayers that are in line with His will for our life

The Apostle John wrote,

“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)**”



- **Worship helps us to connect with the heart of God and to know His will for our lives**

King David wrote,



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

Worship and prayer go hand in hand. When we worship the Lord we have a greater sensitivity as to what to pray about

- In the book of Acts we see the power of worship and prayer to change our circumstances after Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison after delivering the slave girl with a spirit of divination (See Acts 16:16-24)

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” **(Acts 16:25-26)**



5) That we continually choose right friends in life.

- We become like the company that we keep
- We need to purposely choose friends who will encourage us to become all that God has planned for our life



- It is important that our significant friends are people that encourage us to grow in our walk with the Lord and to live for Him

- **Wrong friends on the other hand have the potential to negatively affect our character and our relationship with the Lord**

**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) “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)



6) We need to be continually filled with the right spirit, the Holy Spirit

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit will empower us to be effective in witnessing to and ministering to others.
- Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit in His ministry here on earth.



In the book of Acts we read,

“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)

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great safeguard against deception entering into our lives. (1 Timothy 4:1) The Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of Truth.



- This is why the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

Jesus Himself said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

(John 16:13)



Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is therefore a great key to remaining strong in our walk with the Lord and to continually flowing in the will of God for our life

7) We need to simply choose to walk in humble obedience to the will of God for our lives.

- This is a great key to maintaining a soft conscience and to continually hearing the small still voice of the Holy Spirit who will continually tell us things to come.
- Walking in continual obedience to the will of God for our life helps us to remain humble and strong in our walk with the Lord
- Humility is also a key to promotion in God's Kingdom



In the book of James we read, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10)

The Apostle Peter wrote, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,

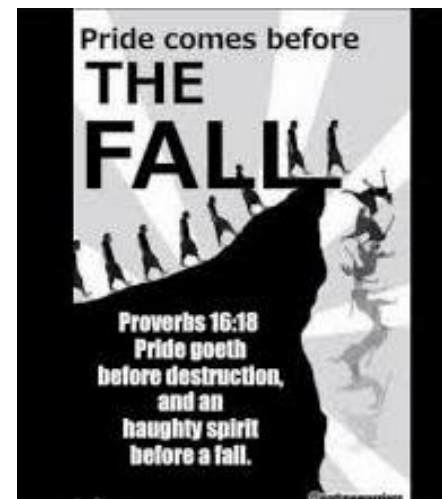
But gives grace to the humble.”



**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,”
(1 Peter 5:5-6)**

- The bible also makes it clear that pride always precedes a fall

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.”
(Proverbs 16:18)**



- It is so important as Christians that we develop a humble dependence on God and always choose to find and follow His will for our lives. This is a great key to building a strong foundation in our walk with the Lord



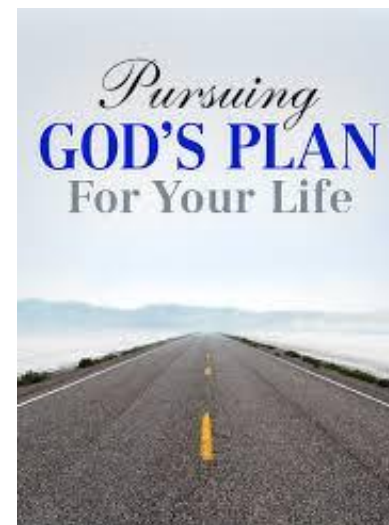
8) We need to stay connected to God's plan for our life

- We have been saved for a purpose

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)**

- There is great purpose and meaning in our Christian walk when we flow in God's unique plan and purpose for our lives



- Jesus came that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly (See John 10:10)
- However without a clear God given vision for our life we will be more easily distracted by the things of this world and invariably struggle in our walk with the Lord
- The bible emphasises the importance of having a clear God given vision for our life



The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,
“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,
that he may run who reads it. 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 2:2-3)**

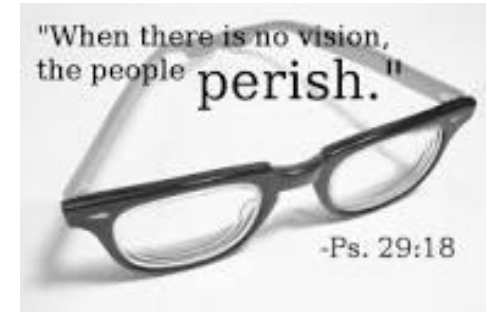
Write down the promise of
God for you, it can be a
prophecy, a declaration, a
revelation you got from the
bible or the word spoken by
the still small voice in you.
It will give you hope and
you will have something to
run with.

*Sabbath's appetizer
Elysablaye.com*



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)



Continually knowing and following God's blueprint for our life is crucial if we are to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. It is having a clear God given vision for our life that helps us to remain disciplined in our walk with the Lord, so that we can finish our Christian walk well

9) The importance of being continually clothed in the armour of God

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” **(Ephesians 6:10-12)**



“Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **(Ephesians 6:13)**”

- We cannot fight the spiritual war in our own strength.
- As Christians we need to be strong in the Lord and live our lives in the power of His might and strength. The Apostle Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” *(Philippians 4:13)*
- That’s why God has given us spiritual armour to defend ourselves from our enemy.



The Apostle Paul described this spiritual armour in the following passage of Scripture,
“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” **(Ephesians 6:14-17)**



I will now briefly look at each piece of armour

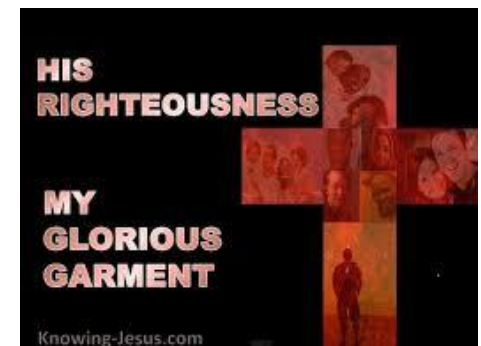
i) The “Belt of Truth”

- The belt of truth holds everything together. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me.” (John 14:6). Jesus is the Truth. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Spirit of Truth.” (John 16:13) Jesus said the Bible is the truth God uses to sanctify us. (John 7:17)
- As we get everything that is untruthful out of our lives, we become more like Jesus and safer from spiritual attack. Without Jesus we are unclothed and unprotected during battle.



ii) The “Breastplate of Righteousness”

- The breastplate of righteousness protects our heart. “This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:22)
- Jesus makes us a new person created to desire Godly things. (2 Corinthians 5:17) (Ephesians 4:22-24)
- But it’s His righteousness, given to us (2 Corinthians 5:21), that we trust in, not our own.



iii) The “Shoes of the Gospel of peace”

- The shoes of the Gospel of peace represent the readiness to preach the Gospel.
- It is important that we understand the truth about Jesus well enough that we can explain it to others and that we are always ready to “go” and to share the gospel with others.



In the book of Isaiah we read, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation...” (Isaiah 52:7)

iv) The “Shield of Faith”



- The shield of faith is our trust in the promises of Jesus. Focusing on God’s faithfulness and all of the promises in His word helps us to block the accusations, doubts, fears and temptations that the enemy attacks us with. (**Ephesians 6:16**)



v) The “Helmet of Salvation”

- The helmet of salvation protects our thoughts. Our enemy falsely accuses us and lies to us. As Christians we are eternally secure in Christ

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8)



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9) **AND**

vi) The “Sword of the Spirit”

- The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, is our only offensive weapon
- The sword of the Spirit can help us to conquer all of our enemies, including the most difficult one of all, which is our own entrenched human weaknesses.
- The truth in God’s word helps to set us free and to bring transformation to our lives.



(John 8:31-32) (Romans 12:2)

- Jesus Himself used the Word of God to defeat Satan. (See Matthew 4:1-11) Christ used scriptural quotes three times when He was being tempted by Satan.



- With all three temptations Jesus brought to mind and *spoke out the scriptures* that dealt with the situation, that showed what He should do and that strengthened His resolve.
- And so we too need to do this when we are confronted with temptations and challenges in our life.

- However our sword will *not stay sharp on its own*. This is why we need to continually sharpen it through regular focused study of the word of God

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

AND

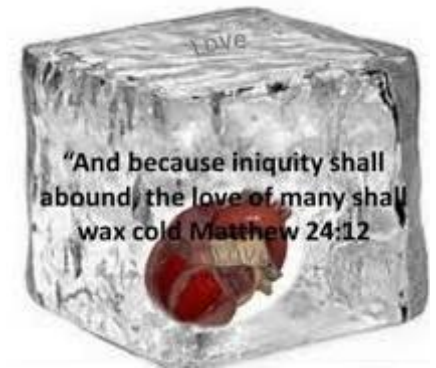


10) We need to live a crucified Christian life

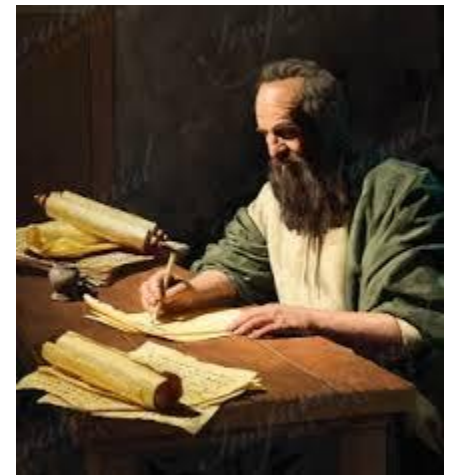
- If we do not purposely fully surrender our lives to Christ on a continual basis, we will invariably be distracted by the things of this world from wholeheartedly pursuing God's plan for our life

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

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

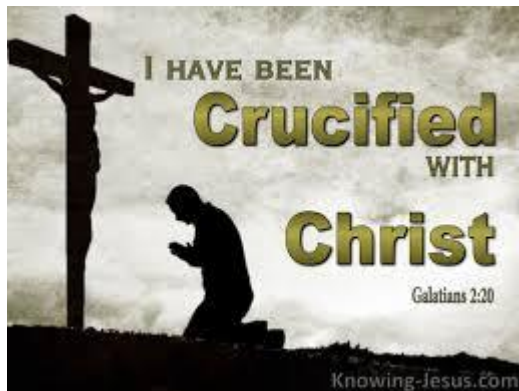


- The Apostle Paul was a great lover of God and not a user of God. His greatest passion was to know Christ and to make Him known to others (Philippians 3:8) (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
- The Apostle Paul achieved much during his time here on earth because he lived a life that was totally consecrated to Christ



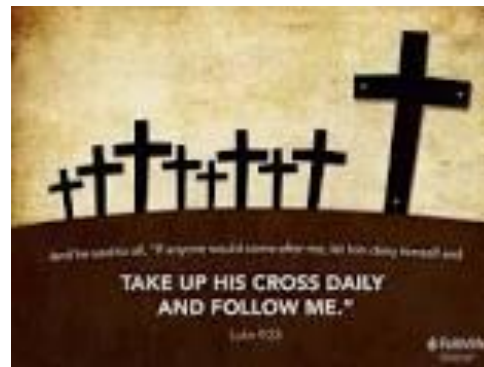
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)



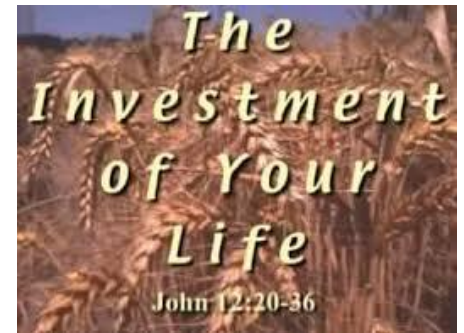
- Jesus Himself also made it very clear what true discipleship involved if we are to fully embrace all that God has planned for our life

Jesus said,



“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” **(Luke 9:23-24)**

Jesus also 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. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.”
(John 12:24-26)



It is only in daily renouncing our self centred ambition and in dying to our selfish desires that our lives will bear much eternal fruit.

- To live the Christian walk is like continually rowing upstream against the current of this world, which will always try and drag us away from the things of God and from having a wholehearted devotion to Christ
- For this reason it is only in daily dying to our own self centred ambitions and plans and by committing our plans to the Lord each day, that we will see all that God has planned for our life coming to pass
- However the more we learn to do this, the easier it becomes as we see God opening up many doors of opportunity for us to make a great difference in our world for eternity



- So in conclusion may I encourage you to apply the keys in this teaching to your own life, so that you will develop a strong spiritual foundation in your walk with the Lord and see all that God has planned for your life coming to pass from this day on.
- **God has so much planned for your future.**

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)

