

Building our lives and Ministries on the Word of God

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our lives on the word of God and being both hearers and doers of the Word.



Jesus Himself said after teaching the multitudes,

“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)

AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN HAVE GREAT STABILITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES IF WE BUILD OUR LIVES CONTINUALLY ON THE WORD OF GOD

But Jesus also 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)

Here Jesus also made it very clear that if we depart from the word of God in the way that we live our lives, there will ALWAYS invariably be negative consequences

As leaders it is so important that we build our lives and ministries on the word of God (the bible). As Pastors and leaders it is crucial that we first nourish our own soul in the words of faith and good doctrine and then teach those in our congregations the essentials of the faith. Our own faith is continually built up when we spend time meditating on and speaking out God's word.

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

Having our faith continually built up is a great key to being always prepared for the trials and disappointments that will invariably come our way in life and ministry

Consistently spending time in the word of God not only builds up our own faith, but helps us to be more effective in ministering into the lives of those that we shepherd and lead in our churches

Spending quality time in the word of God also helps us to get to know God in a real and tangible way as we read about His faithfulness (Psalm 37:3-5) and great love for us (John 3:16) (Psalm 139:17-18)

We are now living in a world that is becoming more and more ungodly and where the word of God has been rejected by many in the secular world. This has been particularly the case in the Western world

For this reason we have seen a breakdown in marriages and families and an increase in lawlessness and violence.

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)**

Jesus Himself also warned of what would happen in the days that we are now living in when we can see the nearness of the Lord’s return, “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)

The writing of the bible was inspired by a God who loves all people with a passion, who knows what is best for us and who has our best interests at heart

Though written by several authors, ALL Scripture has been given by inspiration of God.

The Apostle Paul made this very clear when he 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)

Given the fact that a loving God has given us the bible as a manual for our life we can be assured of the following:

- i. That the BEST wisdom for how to live our life is ALWAYS found in the bible
- ii. That being our Creator, God knows what is best for our life. His ways are higher than our ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9) We just need to apply the word of God to our lives
- iii. That God will speak encouragement and direction into our lives through His word
- iv. That the key to having a life of stability and fruitfulness is to build our lives on the wisdom and promises contained in God's word, and
- v. That applying the instruction and guidance in God's word to our own life is the key to experiencing the highest quality of life here on earth

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

Jesus Himself made it clear that God's heart is that our lives would bear much fruit: That our lives would make a great difference in this world for eternity. EVERY believer has an effective ministry. (Ephesians 2:10)

Jesus Himself said, "By this My Father is glorified, that you *bear much fruit*; so you will be My disciples." **(John 15:8)**

Jesus also 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)**

God's heart is that our lives would make a great difference in this world for eternity. That through our lives and the message that we preach we would help many others to come to Christ. Spending quality time in God's word is a great key to growing strong in our faith and to developing Christ like character.

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)**

In this teaching I will be looking at a few practical considerations in relation to building our lives and ministry on the word of God

1) The importance of consistently MAKING time to spend in God's Word

Given the power of God's word to bring transformation to our lives, the enemy will continually try and prevent us from spending quality time in His word.

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)**

For this reason we must deliberately schedule in times during the day when we can get alone with the Lord and spend time in the word of God. Without this discipline it is easy to be distracted by many things including the busyness of life and ministry that we fail to spend sufficient time in God's word. Having a place where we meet with God on a daily basis helps us to spend quality time in the word of God on a consistent basis.

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)**

2) The importance of never deliberately rejecting what the Word of God instructs us to do, or knowingly compromising in our walk with the Lord

God's word is the truth. It is the truth that sets us free. (John 8:31-32) Going against God's word opens the door to deception entering into a person's life. We must always be committed to being both hearers and doers of God's word and refuse to embrace societal values that are contrary to God's word

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**)

The Apostle Paul also warned that some would fall away from their faith because of deception. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,” (**1 Timothy 4:1**)

It is so important that we continually renew our mind with the truth contained in the word of God so that we always have Kingdom mindsets

3) When we need wisdom for life we need to always seek God with an open bible

God will speak clearly to us through His word. God is always looking at speaking to us to help us to realise our full potential in life. One of the best ways to hear from God is through spending time with Him with an open bible.

In the book of Psalms we read, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (**Psalms 119:105**)

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

4) The Holy Spirit will never instruct us in a way that is contrary to the Word of God

If we believe that we have heard from the Holy Spirit, a safe check and balance is does it line up with the written word of God? Anything that is contrary to or opposed to the word of God is definitely not the Holy Spirit speaking to us

The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, will never lead us astray from the word of God. The Spirit of God is always in absolute agreement with the Son of God – Who is the Word of God – and the Son of God is in absolute agreement with God the Father. They are one.

Not one of them operates or acts independent of the other. The Spirit of God literally cannot contradict the word of God because He inspired through vessels of humanity the written word of God

The complete agreement between the Holy Spirit, the Son or Word of God and God the Father on all things, can be clearly seen in the following three passages of Scripture:

John 12:49-50 New King James Version (NKJV)

“⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 14:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

“¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.¹¹ Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”

In both of the above two passages of Scripture we see that Jesus only spoke what His Father told Him to speak

In the following third passage of Scripture we see that the Holy Spirit only speaks the things that Jesus has spoken and revealed.

John 16:13-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

“¹³However, 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.¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.^[a]

So whatever has been written in the word of God will never be contradicted by the Holy Spirit

5) That spending quality time in the Word of God will help to cleanse us from old habits and to keep us strong in a world full of temptations and ungodly values

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)

6) As Pastors we need to spend quality time in God's Word when preparing our messages, to get fresh insight into what God wants us to share with those in our churches.

We need to always seek God for a word in season that will help to build up and encourage those in our churches. A NOW word.

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)**

God knows what is going on in every person's life. For this reason we need to spend time with the Lord and in His Word to get a message that will speak into the lives of those that we are ministering to.

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)**

God is continually looking at speaking to us through His Word. There is so much wisdom that we can learn from the bible and share with others to help encourage them in their walk with the Lord. As we spend time in God's Word preparing for our messages we also will grow in our own faith and understanding of the things of God

7) That we CONTINUALLY encourage those in our congregations to be both hearers and doers of God's Word so that they build their lives on a firm foundation

We all at times will be tested in many ways. Especially when under pressure people are more prone to making wrong choices in life. Often during our times of testing we can receive carnal advice from others as to what they think we should do. These are the times when our trust in God is truly revealed, especially during the seasons when we see nothing changing in our life for the good, despite the fact that we are faithfully doing the will of God for our life

However no matter what challenges may come our way in life, we must refuse to compromise with the word of God.

The Psalmist wrote, “Many are my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.” **(Psalm 119:157)**

At the appointed time God will always make a way even where there seems no way. It is in faithfully hearing and applying the word of God to our lives at all times, that in the LONG RUN we will experience God's blessings and favour upon our lives.

Jesus Himself said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" **(Luke 11:28)**

In the book of Proverbs we read, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart." **(Psalm 119:1-2)**

Character is developed in our lives when we consistently do the right thing at all times, INCLUDING during the wilderness seasons of our life

It is during the extended wilderness seasons in our lives that God prepares us for great assignments that He has planned for our life. The life of Joseph in the Old Testament is a perfect example of this. **(See Genesis Chapters 37 to 41)** After years of great trials and injustices and after being wrongly imprisoned for many of those years, Joseph was promoted from the prison to the palace in one day

It is the way that we live our lives that will have the greatest impact on those around us and that will position us for promotion in God's Kingdom. For some people we may be the only bible that they read

Being both hearers and doers of the word of God will be reflected and outworked in our lives by the way that:

- i) We are always quick to forgive those who have hurt us
- ii) That we refuse to gossip about others behind their back
- iii) That we have a commitment to arriving at and leaving our workplace on time. That we do not short change our employers
- iv) That we speak the truth at all times and are honest and transparent in the way that we do our business dealings and tax returns
- v) That we abide by the road rules and have respect for those in authority
- vi) That we are faithful and loving in our friendships with others, and
- vii) That we continually do things without murmuring and complaining

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)**

8) We need to encourage all those in our church to develop a private devotional life where they spend time in God's Word and in prayer

Every person on a daily basis needs wisdom to make right choices in life. We need as pastors to encourage all believers to spend quality time in God's Word so that they can receive wisdom and guidance to make right choices in life on a consistent basis

Every believer needs to build their life on the Word of God and prayer, especially given the lawless times that we are now living in.

In the book of Psalms we read,

“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)**

We all as believers need to receive continual encouragement from God and from other believers, especially when we are going through trials and challenges for our faith. (2 Timothy 3:12) It is in meditating on the Word of God that we will receive great encouragement from the LORD.

The Psalmist wrote,

“This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.” **(Psalm 119:50)**

9) The importance of encouraging all believers to become part of a bible study or connect group where they can be encouraged to grow in their knowledge of the Word of God

Being connected to a loving bible study or connect group helps believers to get encouragement from other Christians to grow in their faith and knowledge of God's Word. Especially with new Christians, we need to encourage them to begin building their lives on the wisdom and promises contained in God's Word to help them to become all that God has planned for their lives

Having new believers' classes also helps all new Christians to have a good start in their walk with the Lord. These classes help new believers to immediately gain a clear understanding of the foundations of their faith. (Hebrews 6:1-2)

Studying the bible together with other Christians also helps new believers to develop the habit of reading the Word of God and enables them receive assistance when they may have some questions relating to what they are studying in the bible

Doing life together with other believers is always more enjoyable.

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)

10) We must always have an expectation that God will speak to us through His Word.

God loves to communicate to us and to encourage us in our walk with Him. When we seek to hear from God through His word He will make alive and relevant to us passages of Scripture that speak into our lives and circumstances (Psalm 119:105) (Psalm 119:133)

When we approach our bible reading with this expectation of God speaking to us, (Jeremiah 23:18) our time in God's word will become the best part of our daily agenda as He reveals things to us through His word.

The Psalmist wrote,

“I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”
(Psalm 119:14-16)

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.” **(Psalm 119:33-35)**

God wants to speak into our lives to help us to realise our full potential in life. One rhema word from God as He speaks to us through His word can:

- i) Liberate from our concerns and worries
- ii) Encourage us to keep going on during times of great trials and struggles
- iii) Can give us a key (a word in season from heaven – a God idea) that will turn our circumstances around
- iv) Can give us the wisdom that we need to make right choices when confronted with important decisions in life
- v) Can give us clarity of direction for our future, and
- vi) Give us God's perspective in relation to our circumstances and what promises in His Word that we can stand on

A rhema word is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention which applies to a current situation, or need for direction in either our life or the lives of others. The Holy Spirit will continually highlight passages of Scripture in the bible that are relevant to our lives and circumstances so that we can receive clear direction and encouragement in our walk with the Lord

11) The importance of spending quality time **STUDYING** the Word of God

It is in actively studying the word of God that we begin to become more and more transformed into the image of Christ. In fact the whole Christian walk is one of growing in Christlike character as we allow the Lord to do the work of change in our lives as we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Romans 8:28-29)

The more we immerse ourselves in the word of God the more we will begin to live our lives in a manner that reflects the character of Christ.

This is why 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**)

Studying the Word of God is a key to:

- i) Remaining sound in our Christian doctrine
- ii) Learning more about the love and faithfulness of God
- iii) Gaining Godly wisdom for doing life and family and ministry well
- iv) To knowing God's promises for our lives as believers. As believers we can position ourselves to appropriate all of the promises of God for our own lives. 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**)
- v) To having a clear understanding of God's redemption plan and the basis of our right standing with God.
That it is all about what Jesus did on the cross for us. That God made “...Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)
That Jesus Christ became the once and for all Lamb of God who was slain for the sins of the world, who arose triumphantly from the grave three days later and who offers eternal life to all those who repent and believe in Him.
- vi) That we can gain an understanding of the end time events that are now taking place as we see the nearness of the Lord's return and the rapture of all true believers prior to the great tribulation, and
- vii) So that we can faithfully minister the Word of God to those that God has entrusted into our care as shepherds and pastors, **AND**

12) To be effective in preaching we need to be both full of the Word of God and full of the Holy Spirit

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young Pastor Timothy,

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

In his epistle to the Colossian church the Apostle Paul wrote,

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

The Apostle Paul also wrote to the church in Corinth,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

JESUS HIMSELF (THE WORD OF GOD) MINISTERED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.” (Luke 4:14-15)

So may I encourage you given the lawless times that we are now living in, that you would make the study of the word of God a key part of your life and ministry! Particularly as leaders it is so important that we remain strong in our own walk with the Lord, so that we can continually be an example to those around us. I would also encourage all Christians to grow in their knowledge of the word of God so that they can more effectively minister into the lives of their family, friends and school and work colleagues

It is in spending quality time in God’s word as leaders on a consistent basis, that we will not only remain strong in our own walk with the Lord, but that we will be also empowered to effectively minister into the lives of others that have been entrusted into our care as pastors and shepherds

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)**

I will now just quickly finish with ten promises from God’s Word that can greatly encourage us in our walk with the Lord and in our ministry calling

- i) God promises to meet our every need in life when we put Him first in all that we do in our life and ministry (Matthew 6:31-33)
- ii) God promises to give us the wisdom that we need in life to make right choices if we ask Him for help (James 1:5)
- iii) God both hears and answers (in His perfect timing) all of our prayers that are in line with His will for our life (1 John 5:14-15)
- iv) That God is able to open up doors that no man can close (Revelation 3:7-8)
- v) That when we come to Christ He will never leave nor forsake us. That nothing can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (Hebrews 13:5-6) (Romans 8:38-39)
- vi) That what God begins in our life He promises to finish if we simply remain faithful to what He has called us to do in life (Philippians 1:6) (Psalm 37:3-5) (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- vii) That we are secure in our faith and that nothing can ever happen to us apart from God’s will for our life. (Matthew 10:29-31) When Jesus is truly Lord of our life we can be assured that God is always sovereign in the affairs of our life and that all things that happen to us in life (even the bad experiences) will work together for good in our life (Romans 8:28-29)
- viii) That God has a good plan for our life that is full of purpose and meaning (Ephesians 2:10) (Isaiah 55:8-9) (John 10:10)

- ix) That God is always able to restore broken lives and to turn around impossible situations (Psalm 103:2-4) (Luke 1:37) and
- x) That God will always provide us with everything that we need to fulfil His plan for our life (Philippians 4:19) (2 Corinthians 9:8)

So in conclusion may I encourage you to build your life and ministry based on what God says about your future as a believer! We have a wonderfully faithful God who has so much planned for our lives and ministries.

We need to simply learn to trust the LORD at all times and to allow Him to lead us as we build our lives on the wisdom and promises contained in the word of God. Trust and obey for there is no other way.

I will now finish with three encouraging scriptures from the WORD OF GOD that we can build our lives and ministries on:

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, **to give you a future and a hope**. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” **(Jeremiah 29:11-13)**

The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison,

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

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)**

So may I encourage you today to build your life and ministry on a firm foundation that is based on the wisdom and promises contained in the Word of God! It is only by doing this that we can be assured that our lives and future are built on a rock solid foundation

