

EVANGELISM FIRE WORKSHOP MANUAL



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A) SOME KEYS TO COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL EFFECTIVELY

- 1) The importance of being led by the Holy Spirit when ministering to others (The importance of having Divine Appointments) – Preaching where God directs you to preach and outreaching where He tells you to – Being in the right place at the right time is a key to having effective outreaches**

Jesus 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)**

In Psalm 37 we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” **(Romans 8:14)**

In chapter 4 of the gospel of John we see how Jesus by divine compulsion on His way to Galilee, detoured to pass through the city of Samaria where he would meet a woman from that city at Jacobs well. (John 4:1-7) This woman from Samaria after meeting with Jesus was totally transformed and helped to see many in her city come to Christ (John 4:39-42) – Like Jesus we must be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit

2) Depending on the Holy Spirit to empower us when witnessing to others and preaching

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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 2:3-4)

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” (Luke 21:14-15)

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS TO OTHERS. In the book of Acts we read,

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A KEY TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO OTHERS ON A CONSISTENT BASIS (In season and out of season)

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

In the book of Acts we see that after being threatened for speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus, the disciples turned to God in prayer and were filled afresh by the Holy Spirit. They again began to speak the word of God with boldness.

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

- 3) Living a lifestyle of worship and communion with God (Prayer) - Our heart must be right – (We need God’s compassion when ministering to others) – Intimacy with the Lord helps us to know what to share and when to say things to those that we witness to**

King David wrote,

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

King David was a man after God’s own heart. His continual desire was to be in fellowship with God. In Psalm 63 he 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.” (Psalm 63:1-2)

The more intimate our relationship is with the Lord, the more we gain God’s heart and compassion for those who are lost

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)

“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

- 4) **We need to have a clear understanding of the gospel of grace and be able to communicate it effectively to others – It is in the preaching of the gospel that God’s saving grace comes upon people’s hearts enabling them to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
(Romans 1:16)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**

In this passage of Scripture we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others:

- 1) Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) Christ was buried*
- 3) God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For He 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)**

Every person must make a personal response to the facts of the gospel to receive salvation and the gift of eternal life. When we repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ all of our sins are forgiven and God’s righteousness is imputed to us (that we might become the righteousness of God in Him) – It is based on His righteousness being imputed or attributed to us that we as believers satisfy the entry requirement to get into heaven when we die. (Matthew 5:48) To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord. The bible refers to our personal response to Christ in a number of ways,

i) Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
(Romans 10:13)

ii) Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *(Matt. 11:28)* “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” *(John 6:37b)*

iii) Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. *(John 1:11-13)*, and

iv) Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life”
(John 4:14)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (**Revelations 3:20**)

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS SIMPLY A FREE GIFT THAT WE MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH BY COMING TO CHRIST WITH A REPENTANT AND OPEN HEART. 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**)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR SALVATION HAS TWO COMPONENTS – REPENTANCE AND FAITH TOWARD GOD. In the book of Acts we read the words of Peter,

“Repent therefore and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, so that *times of refreshing* may come from the *presence of the Lord*.” (**Acts 3:19**)

Jesus Himself preached both repentance and faith toward God in His messages. In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (**Mark 1:14-15**)

In the gospel of Luke Jesus clearly emphasised the important of repentance,

“... but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (**Luke 13:3**)

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE MUST BOTH REPENT FROM OUR SINS AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST – THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD (Lord of all)

Without true repentance a person's confession of faith is just an empty confession.

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

1) TRUE REPENTANCE is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (God's saving Grace)

2) TRUE REPENTANCE also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.

We must let go of our old life to embrace the new resurrection life that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Jesus 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)**

“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)**

ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**)

Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (**John 10:9**)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**John 14:6**)

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a **PROPITIATION** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,” (Romans 3:24-25)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT EVERY PERSON FALLS SHORT OF GOD’S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (AND ENTRY REQUIREMENT TO GET INTO HEAVEN) – SINLESS PERFECTION

Jesus said, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” (**Matthew 5:48**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” (**Romans 3:10-12**)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
(**Romans 3:23**)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**)

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT WHICH EVERY PERSON CAN AND MUST RECEIVE BY COMING TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, IF THEY ARE TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS AND GOD'S WRATH

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 6:23)**

In the gospel of John we read,

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” **(John 3:36)**

THE BIBLE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH AND THAT ALL WOULD HAVE AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. IT IS THE LOVE AND KINDNESS OF GOD (“the goodness of God”) THAT LEADS PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:6-9)**

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED ABOUT GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US AND THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL BE SAVED AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE – EVERY PERSON HOWEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN A FREE WILL AND MUST CHOOSE TO COME TO CHRIST

Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” **(John 3:16-21)**

I WILL NOW CONCLUDE THIS SCRIPTURAL LOOK AT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL;

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” **(Romans 3:28)**

WE ARE ALL SAVED BY GRACE AND GRACE ALONE THROUGH OUR FAITH IN CHRIST – Saved for a wonderful plan and purpose

Following is a suggested prayer that can be used to help lead an unbeliever to Christ:

“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name. Amen”

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **(Romans 10:9)**

WE MUST ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO CHANGE OUR COMMUNITIES. In the book of Acts we read,

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:4-8)**

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)** “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**

- 5) We need to be prepared to share the gospel in season and out of season (Sometimes God gives us opportunities to share our faith when it is not necessarily the most convenient time for us)**

The Apostle Paul said 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)**

- 6) The importance of memorising Scriptures to share when witnessing to others. There is great power in ministering the word of God as we witness to others.**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

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)**

In the book of Joshua we read,

“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)**

- 7) We need to know God’s incredible love for the lost and that His desire is that none would perish – Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost – We see this in the parable of the Lost sheep**

JESUS SAID, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which is lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. **(Luke 15:4-7)**

THE APOSTLE PETER WROTE,

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

JESUS HIMSELF SAID,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

- 8) We need to have a genuine interest in the lives of others – first the natural and then the spiritual – We need to have a genuine love and compassion for people**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

- 9) We need to at times face and overcome our fears and just do what Jesus tells us to do. He will then anoint and empower us to effectively witness to others.**

In the book of Act 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)

10) The power of worship to create an atmosphere for people to receive Christ (We need God's presence in our meetings and outreaches)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;”
(1 Peter 2:9)

King David wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11) “But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.” **(Psalm 22:3)** **God lives in an atmosphere of praise.**

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)**

11) The importance of having unity in our ministry team (By our love for one another the world will know that we are His disciples) – As a team we can achieve much – We all need one another

In the book of Acts we read,

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” **(Acts 2:46-47)**

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1-3)**

Jesus Himself said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

- 12) God has uniquely gifted every believer – We are most anointed and most effective when we flow in our own ministry gifts and calling – For some loving acts of kindness and service may be the way that they best help others to come to Christ.**

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)**

“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)**

13) We need to be simply available and prepared to make sacrifices for the gospel's sake

To be truly effective in making a difference in this world for the gospel's sake we must live a crucified life – Otherwise we will be continually sidetracked and distracted from what God has planned for our life and bear little fruit in our life

Jesus Himself 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)**

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)**

We need to be like the prophet Isaiah who wrote,

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

(Isaiah 6:8)

- 14) Prayer and Evangelism go together. We need to both pray and intercede for the lost and then GO and minister the gospel to those that God leads us to. (Praying for the lost helps to give us a greater love and compassion for those who are unsaved)**

In the book of Acts we read,

“And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, **(Acts 4:23-24)**

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’” **(Acts 4:29-30)**

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“... As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” **(Romans 10:15)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

B) PRAYER IS THE KEY TO SEEING OUR NATION EXPERIENCING REVIVAL AND COMING TO CHRIST

All God is looking for are believers who are prepared to stand in the gap for our nation and pray and intercede for God to bring healing and salvation to the lives of those in our nation. When He does we can expect Him to move in a mighty way. All major revivals were preceded by fervent prayer

In the book of Ezekiel we read,

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” (Ezekiel 22:30)

In the book of 2 Chronicles we read,

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God is simply looking for believers to pray for our nation and to seek His face. If we turn our hearts fully to God and cry out for His mercy and healing for our nation, we can believe for our nation to see revival and healing and deliverance to our people as they come to Christ – So many of our young people in Australia need such a touch from heaven – Even one man’s fervent prayers can help to see a nation experience revival. We all need to pray for our nation to be touched by God

C) THE GREATEST IS LOVE

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” **(1 Corinthians 14:1)**

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this** all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

GENUINE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS THE KEY TO UNITY AND KINGDOM POWER

- ***God loves every person in the world (John 3:16)***
- ***Jesus has compassion for the lost, the afflicted and sick***

“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)**

WE ALSO NEED TO HAVE A GENUINE LOVE FOR OTHERS

UNITY BRINGS GOD’S BLESSINGS

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ... It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1 &3) - Many local congregations but one church**

THE FIRST CHURCH WAS UNIFIED AND MOVED IN GREAT POWER

“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.” **(Acts 5:12)**

JESUS HIMSELF SAID THAT A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST A HOUSE FALLS. (Unity is a key to establishing strong churches)

Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.” **(Luke 11:17)**

TRUE AGAPE LOVE HAS THE FOLLOWING ATTRIBUTES:

1) IT IS ALSO PRACTICAL

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked, for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” **(Acts 4:32-35)**

2) IT IS GENUINE

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...” **(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)**

3) IT DEMONSTRATES FORGIVENESS

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” **(Ephesians 4:31-32)**

4) IT IS OTHERS FOCUSED

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” **(Philippians 2:3-4) AND**

5) IT IS SACRIFICIAL (Like Jesus we must choose to lay down our life for others)

Jesus said, “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 20:26-28)**

IT IS ONLY IN LAYING DOWN OUR LIFE FOR OTHERS (BEING A GENUINE DISCIPLE) THAT OUR LIVES WILL BEAR MUCH ETERNAL FRUIT.

If we do not make a committed choice each day of our life to follow God’s plan for our life, we will be more easily sidetracked by the cares, riches, temptations and pleasures of this life, and bring no or little fruit to maturity in our life here on earth. (Luke 8:14)

Jesus 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.” **(John 12:24)**

<p>ANY CHRISTIAN WHO IS <u>DEVOTED</u> TO SERVING GOD AND <u>COMMITTED TO LOVING OTHERS</u> WILL DO GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS FOR GOD’S KINGDOM</p>
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WE ALL HAVE THE ABILITY AS BELIEVERS TO LOVE OTHERS UNCONDITIONALLY

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **(Romans 5:5)**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control...” **(Galatians 5:22-23)**

WHAT CAN STOP THIS LOVE FROM FLOWING OUT OF BELIEVERS LIVES

1) **A LACK OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS**

- i) We must continually abide in His love. (**John 15:4-5**)
- ii) We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**)
- iii) We need to lead a lifestyle of worship (**John 4:23-24**) and prayer (involving God in all areas of our life) **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

2) **OUR ATTITUDES (Walking in the flesh)**

- i) Being critical or judgemental of others (**Matthew 7:1-5**)
- ii) Being envious or jealous of others (**James 3:14-16**)
- iii) Having selfish ambition (**Philippians 2:3**)
- iv) Having pride in our life (**Proverbs 13:10**) (**Colossians 3:12 & 4:6**)

3) **HAVING A FEAR OF MAN (A fear of being rejected)**

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."
(**1 John 4:18**)

CONCLUSION

- Where there is love and unity God's power can be seen (**Acts 4:32-33**)
- We all need to choose to love others (**1 John 4:7 & 11**)
- Jesus even commanded us to love one another (**John 13:34**)
- If we do not abide in Christ, our lives will bear no fruit (**John 15:4-5**)
- When we have intimacy with Jesus, we begin to have His compassion for the lost and hurting in this world (**Psalms 37:4**)
- **If we have His compassion and love for others, our lives will make a great difference in this world and help many to receive the gift of eternal life** (**John 14:12**)

D) KINGDOM POWER (Receiving the Holy Spirit)

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 8*) and Ministry Manual (*Teaching No. 9*) combined

- **When we become Christians we become joint heirs with Jesus Christ**
“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:15-17)

- **As Believers we have been called to reign with Jesus Christ here on earth**
“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)

As a royal priesthood the saints (all believers) reign *now* with Christ on the earth by their worship, their prayers, and their witness in word and deed.

- **WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST’S AMBASSADORS HERE ON EARTH**
AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN GOD’S STRENGTH AND POWER
The word of the Lord to Zerubbabel was, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the Lord of Hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

THE FIRST CHURCH MOVED IN GOD’S POWER (Even the shadow of Peter healed people, such was God’s power working through him)

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.**” (Acts 5:14-16)

JESUS HIMSELF ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIANS OPERATING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending to Heaven: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID AS HE WAS BAPTISING PEOPLE WITH WATER,

“I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” **(Luke 3:16)**

IT IS JESUS HIMSELF WHO BAPTISES BELIEVERS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THIS POWER WAS RECEIVED BY THE DISCIPLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1-4)**

THIS EXPERIENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES

They turned from being a group of disciples full of character flaws, who had just fled following the arrest of Jesus, to a group of disciples who turned the world upside down with the gospel

THE APOSTLE PAUL HIMSELF PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESUS THAT THEY WOULD:

“know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” **AND** “that they would be filled with all the fullness of God” **(Ephesians 3:19)**

I WILL NOW SHARE ABOUT A NUMBER OF AREAS RELATING TO KINGDOM POWER

1) GOD’S WORD

“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)**

- *God’s Word will not return void*

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” **(Isaiah 55:11)**

- *There is power in the preached word*

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

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of *the gospel* of Christ, for it is the *power of God* to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (**Romans 1:16**)

“So the **word** of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (**Acts 19:20**)

- *Abiding in God’s word sets people free*

Jesus 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**)

- **HOWEVER, DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD IS A “RESISTER” TO GOD’S POWER OPERATING FULLY IN OUR LIFE**

2) GOD’S POWER FLOWS THROUGH US (We are like a tap. When we begin to preach the tap is turned on and God’s power flows through us)

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.” (**2 Corinthians 3:5**)

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (**Philippians 4:13**)

GOD ANOINTS US AND EMPOWERS US FOR EVERY TASK HE GIVES US TO DO. THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID TO THOSE 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**)

3) GOD’S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” (**2 Corinthians 4:7**)

The Lord said to Apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)

4) THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO SAVE

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **(Romans 1:16) AND**

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 1:18)**

HOWEVER THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The apostle Paul wrote, “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” **(1 Thessalonians 1:5)**

AND TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

“For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. 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,” **(1 Corinthians 2:2-4)**

WHEN PHILIP THE EVANGELIST PREACHED IN SAMARIA MULTITUDES BECAME CHRISTIANS

HEALINGS AND DELIVERANCES ACCOMPANIED THE PREACHING OF THE WORD

THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and **seeing the miracles** which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” **(Acts 8:4-8)**

5) THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

WHEN PAUL AND SILAS WERE THROWN IN JAIL AFTER RECEIVING MANY STRIPES, THEY BEGAN TO PRAY AND SING HYMNS

“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)

**THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER AND HIS HOUSEHOLD WERE ALL THEN SAVED
God inhabits the praises of His People. SEE Psalm 22:3**

6) JESUS EMPOWERS AND GIVES AUTHORITY TO BELIEVERS TO OPERATE IN KINGDOM POWER WHEN WE USE HIS NAME

“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)

WE MUST LEARN TO CONTINUALLY ABIDE IN HIM.

(Jesus must always be our first love) {John 15:4-5}

THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS (The Name above all Names) As Christ’s representatives Here on earth we have great authority in His Name. Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18) “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons;...” (Mark 16:17)

Jesus also said to his disciples “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than 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)

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS. We can plead the Blood of Jesus Christ over our possessions and our lives and finances. We can plead the blood of Jesus around the boundaries of our homes and churches. There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious Blood of the Lamb. The Blood of Jesus Christ resists the powers of darkness that would try and war against us. There is life in the Blood of Jesus. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

THE FIRST DISCIPLES TARRYED IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Then they began to operate and minister in power as they preached the gospel.

As believers it is so important that we live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continually be filled with the Holy Spirit and with His power.

Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit to fulfil His ministry here on earth.

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)**

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)**

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

(The baptism in the Holy Spirit)

John the Baptist spoke about the greater Baptist to come (Jesus Christ) when he was baptizing people in the Jordan River.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” **(Matthew 3:11)**

The first disciples had their born again experience on Resurrection Sunday when they were commissioned by Jesus

There are two requirements for receiving New Testament Salvation:

“If you *confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus* and believe in your heart that God *has raised Him from the dead*, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Prior to resurrection Sunday the apostles had already confessed Jesus as their Lord. **(Mark 8:29 and John 6:67-69)**

IN JOHN 6:67-69 WE READ,

“Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **(John 6:67-69)**

But now on resurrection Sunday, for the first time, they also believed that God raised Him from the dead. Thus their salvation was completed. This was the point at which they experienced the new birth. The Holy Spirit, breathed into them by Jesus, imparted to them a totally new kind of life - eternal life - which had triumphed over sin and Satan, over death and the grave.

THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH. We see this in John chapter 20 and verses 21 and 22

“After appearing to the disciples on resurrection Sunday, Jesus said to them: **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; “Receive the Holy Spirit.”** (John 20:21-22)

HOWEVER AFTER THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, JESUS MADE IT PLAIN TO THE APOSTLES, THAT ***THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS STILL INCOMPLETE***

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..” (Acts 1:8)

THE PROMISE OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR ALL BELIEVERS

The Feast of Tabernacles was a joyous celebration which was observed by the priests who brought water (which was symbolic of the water supplied from the rock in Exodus Chapter 17) to the temple from the pool of Siloam in a gold pitcher

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)

Those who are satisfied by Jesus will themselves become channels of spiritual refreshment for others. **The fountain of water in John 4:14 refers to the New Birth**, whilst the **rivers of living water referred to in John 7:38, represents the overflowing fullness** of the Spirit-filled life which comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

“But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” **(John 7:39)**

ON *RESURRECTION SUNDAY* THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE

THE TERM “TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT” ***FROM PENTECOST SUNDAY*** ONWARDS ***ONLY*** EVER REFERS TO THE ***BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPERIENCE***. *In chapter one of the book of Acts we read,*

“And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;” “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **(Acts 1:4-5)**

THIS HAPPENED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:4)**

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS FOR THE LORD AND MAKES THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (BEING BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

WHEN CHRIST WAS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

i) Multitudes in that city were born again,

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” (Acts 8:5-6)

ii) Then Water Baptized, and

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, ***both men and women were baptized.***” (Acts 8:12)

iii) Finally Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Received the Holy Spirit)

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might ***receive the Holy Spirit.*** For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they ***received the Holy Spirit.***” (Acts 8:14-17)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit a believer must simply ask their heavenly Father for the special gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said,

“If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:13)

Like the gift of salvation it is to be received – By Grace – Through Faith – Not of Works. 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)

A believer must simply receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by FAITH

“...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
(Galatians 3:14)

**FAITH IS HOWEVER NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE.
TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS MANIFESTED IN OBEDIENCE.**

The apostle Peter focused on the obedience aspect of genuine faith in his defence to the Jewish council. “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32)

SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH TO HELP BELIEVERS TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) & 2) Repentance and being Baptized

The first two steps are stated by the Apostle Peter. These are genuine repentance and being water baptized upon becoming a believer.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

3) Being Hungry and thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

4) Asking our Heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father *give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*” (Luke 11:13)

5) We must receive the Holy Spirit (DRINK)

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

“Drinking” represents an active process of receiving. The infilling of the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a negative or passive attitude, just as no one can drink with a closed mouth. The Lord says, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10) *God cannot fill a closed mouth. We must open our mouth to receive the fullness of the Spirit*

6) We must “yield” ourselves to God

The apostle Paul speaks to Christians of a two- fold surrender to God:

“But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:13)

- The first surrender is the “surrender of the will and the personality”
YOURSELVES
- The second surrender involves the surrender of our PHYSICAL MEMBERS
 - In surrendering our physical members, we can no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of us.
 - We must simply hand over unreserved control of our physical members and allow God to use them according to His own will and purpose without demanding to understand what God is doing or why He is doing it.
 - The particular member that He must takes full control of is that unruly member which no man can tame – the tongue.
 - Thus the yielding of our tongue to the Spirit represents the ultimate surrender of one’s members and by this we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - **The above six Scriptural steps of obedience and faith are not always fulfilled when some believers receive the Holy Spirit, but they are important steps to be taught to those believers desiring to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

E) THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (**Romans 6:23b**)

“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)

BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT NOR DO WE DESERVE IT

The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.” (**Ephesians 2:8c-9**)

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT, NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

EVERYONE HAS SINNED

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10a)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6a)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; ...” (Jer. 17:9)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust** are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**)

WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the mark and fall short of God's standard of absolute perfection.

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."
(Matthew 5:48)

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10)

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.

Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works." (Psalm 145:8-9)

"For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." (Psalm 100:5) **"For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm."** (Joel 2:13c)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

In fact the bible says, "... for God is love" (1 John 4:8)

HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN

God's love does not overrule His justice.

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” (**Deuteronomy 32:3b-4**)

“**For I will not justify the wicked.**” (Exodus 23:7c)

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” (**Isaiah 13:11**) “**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.**” (Hebrews 9:27)

IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23a)

HOWEVER GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (**John 1:1&14**)

“**Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,**” which is translated, “**God with us.**” (Matthew 1:23)

JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD'S JUSTICE

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God's justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers. (Refer to Romans 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 1:17-24, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:20 and Acts 8:4-8) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:8)**

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER INCLUDES YOU!**

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH

“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)**

Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. *Faith in Jesus Christ* is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (**Acts 3:19**)

REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction*
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and*
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY*

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD’S WAY IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF OUR LIFE

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**)

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.

Jesus 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**)

FULLNESS OF LIFE ONLY COMES WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIFE HIS WAY.

Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;...” (**John 14:23**)

GOD'S SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) GIVES EVERY BELIEVER THE POWER TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES DOING SOME NEW THINGS IN OUR LIFE AND DOING SOME THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND AS WE READ IT, GOD WILL SPEAK THROUGH IT (Psalm 119:133) TO ENCOURAGE US (Psalm 119:107) AND TO GIVE US CLEAR DIRECTION IN LIFE. (Psalm 119:105) (The bible is God's love letter to us) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus 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 8:31a-32)**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS, (ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), *LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD WILL BE EVIDENCE OF YOUR NEW LIFE* AS A BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT *JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF YOUR LIFE*

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO ALL BELIEVERS

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO ENABLES AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS TO WALK IN VICTORY. BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE AS A BELIEVER.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **(John 3:6)** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." **(Romans 8:11)**

THE NEW LIFE THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT MEANS THAT WE ARE NOW PART OF A NEW FAMILY

ALL BELIEVERS BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name;" (John 1:12)

Reading the bible, praying to God and finding a church home are all keys to help you to live a victorious life as a believer (Christian). Being part of a vibrant church fellowship will help you to become established in your faith.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing," **(Ps. 92:13-14)**

F) SIGNS AND WONDERS AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL

Healings are a great way in which the power of God is displayed, and will support the Gospel message that we preach.

Jesus told his disciples to go and preach the gospel and to heal the sick.

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” **(Matthew 10:7-8)**

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick.” **(Luke 9:1-2)**

The Apostles also prayed:

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.” **(Acts 4:29-30)**

There are a number of key principles, which we need to apply in our own lives if we are to preach the gospel with power and healings being a consistent part of our ministry to others

1) WE NEED TO HAVE COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

(This comes from Jesus being our *FIRST LOVE*)

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” **(Matthew 14:14)**

“And 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)**

2) WE NEED TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS

“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)

- **Anointing comes from our relationship with Jesus**
- **Prayers need to be inspired by the Holy Spirit**
- **God sets up divine appointments (We need to be led by the Holy Spirit)**

“And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked.” (Acts 14:8-10)
- **We need to involve Jesus in all of our life and commune with Him always**
- **We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit** (Ephesians 5:18)
- **We need to learn to listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus said,
“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)
- **We should seek to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth** (John 4:23-24)

3) WE ALL NEED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES AND GIVE GLORY TO GOD

- **The apostle Peter gave all the glory to God when he healed the lame man**

“Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our power or godliness we had made this man walk?...His Name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:11, 12 &16)

- **We must always give ALL the glory to God**

The apostle Paul said, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- **As Christians we descend to greatness. God’s Kingdom is an upside down Kingdom. The more we humble ourselves the more God can raise us up to do great things for Him**

Jesus said, “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:11-12)

4) WE NEED TO MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURES RELATING TO HEALINGS AND MIRACLES (We need to get them into our spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

5) DON’T ALLOW YOURSELF TO SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SCEPTICS AND SPEAK AGAINST HEALINGS (They will quench the fire in your belly and dilute your faith)

In Psalm One 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 MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHICH PEOPLE SPEAK INTO OUR LIFE

6) BE ASSURED THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN ALL BELIEVERS THE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO HEAL PEOPLE AND TO DELIVER PEOPLE FROM STRONGHOLDS IN HIS NAME

- *Just as Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel and to heal and deliver people (Luke 9:1-2), so has He commissioned all believers*

“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)

7) OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD IS ALSO A KEY TO GOD’S POWER OPERATING IN OUR LIFE

- We must be faithful in the little things
- Our obedience helps us to continually hear the Lord’s voice clearly
- Partial obedience is disobedience
- Delayed obedience is disobedience
- Doing the Lord’s will but murmuring is also disobedience
- **God is looking for an army of Christians who will be radically obedient to His call on their lives, and who will be men and women of faith**
- We need to have a childlike faith and dependency on God
- God will only pour out His Glory through Holy Vessels. (People who are disciplined in both their actions and thought life.) We must aspire to be Holy and Christlike. This comes through obedience as we walk in the Spirit. This does not mean legalism, but freedom in the Spirit as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our lives. Having a repentant heart and short accounts with the Lord is the key to walking a victorious Christian life.

**8) THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Refer to Receiving the Holy Spirit and Kingdom Power Teaching)**

9) **SIGNS AND WONDERS WITH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL**

AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL WE CAN ALSO EXPECT SIGNS AND WONDERS TO FOLLOW THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

In the gospel of Mark we read,

“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)**

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**

In the book of Acts we see the signs and wonders that accompanied Philip’s preaching in the city of Samaria,

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY.**” **(Acts 8:5-8)**

Jesus went about healing everywhere,

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)**

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.” **(Matthew 9:35)**

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)**

F) AN EXAMPLE OF PREACHING POINTS FROM A BIBLE TEXT

Jesus comes to Zacchaeus' house

“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.”

“So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your home.”

“So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

“Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

“And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” **(Luke 19:1-10)**

- **Zacchaeus was rich but he knew that there was more to life**
- **Being a chief tax collector Zacchaeus would have been both a social and religious outcast, being seen as siding with the Roman occupational government**
- **Jesus will never reject anyone who comes to Him**
- **Zacchaeus wanted to meet with Jesus. He knew that there was more to life than just making money and ripping people off**
- **Only Jesus Christ can truly satisfy us in life**
- **Because Zacchaeus was of short stature he could not see Jesus because of the crowd**

- **Maybe you may think that you are small in God's eyes but God loves you with a passion.** He longs to have a relationship with you
- Sometimes the crowd (peer group pressure) can stop people from coming to Christ
- But Zacchaeus wanted to meet with Jesus so he ran ahead to climb a Sycamore tree. He wanted to have a change in his life
- **God knows where you are. He knows your every need in life**
- When Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was, He looked up and told him to come down so that He could stay at his place. If you seek the LORD with all your heart you will find Him. Jesus' desire is that all would come to Him to be saved
- When Zacchaeus had this encounter with Jesus, it totally transformed his life and he experienced great joy. True joy and purpose can only ever be experienced when we come to Christ
- Even though the religious people complained about Jesus spending time with sinners, Jesus openly received Zacchaeus. **Jesus never rejects any person who comes to Him.**
- Jesus chose to come into this world to give His life as a ransom for us and to die for our sins, not to condemn us.
- With this encounter with Jesus Christ, Zacchaeus had a change of heart. Upon receiving Jesus, Zacchaeus said, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (*Luke 19:8*)
- When we come to Christ all of our sins are forgiven and our heart of stone is replaced with a heart of flesh and we are born again into God's family

- **When we enter into a personal relationship with Jesus we become a new creation in Christ and have a change of heart. Zacchaeus now had a desire to give and to restore what he had stolen. Zacchaeus now had a newfound purpose for his life. Jesus 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)**
- **God has a unique and special plan for every person’s life which begins the moment they come to Christ. 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)**
- **Jesus made it clear that He came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8)**

- **Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins but death could not hold Him down. On the third day He arose triumphantly from the grave and is now back in Heaven. Today Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart**

- **Jesus will never reject you if you come to Him**
- **Zacchaeus though rich was still empty. He knew that there was more to life, that he needed Jesus in His life. Even though he had been a chief tax collector and had ripped many people off, Jesus in no way rejected Zacchaeus when he wanted to meet with Him**
- **Jesus will never reject you if you come to Him today**
- **Today like Zacchaeus, you can experience the joy that he experienced by also giving your life to Jesus Christ**
- **TODAY JESUS IS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART. TODAY WHY NOT OPEN UP YOUR HEART AND LET JESUS CHRIST COME INTO YOUR HEART AND LIFE TO BE YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR**

G) WHY 90% OF CHRISTIANS NEVER LEAD ANYONE TO THE LORD

- a) LACK OF TEACHING IN THE CHURCH BY EVANGELISTS TO EQUIP AND EMPOWER BELIEVERS TO WITNESS (Ephesians 4:11-12)**
- b) FEAR OF MAN (Luke 12:4)**
- c) MORE WORRIED ABOUT MAN'S APPROVAL, OR WHAT MAN THINKS, THAN GOD'S APPROVAL (Matthew 10:32-33)**
- d) CAUGHT UP WITH THINGS OF THE WORLD**

Status, Looks, Image (James 4:4)

The cares of this world

Compromise values: TV, videos, films, magazines

Worldly Possessions (Matthew 16:26)

Ambition (Work, Sport)

NO REAL SENSE OF ETERNAL PRIORITIES

Jesus 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)**

e) HAVE LOST CONTACT / RELEVANCE WITH UNSAVED WORLD

Christianize (We need to be naturally spiritual)

No unchurched friends

All social activities are in the church

Us Verses Them Mentality (We need to have compassion for the lost)

The Apostle Paul said, “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, ...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.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

**f) DISCOURAGED BY PAST FAILURES AT SHARING OUR FAITH
(Philippians 3:12-14)**

**g) A FAILURE TO COMPREHEND THAT HELL WILL BE A REALITY FOR
MANY OF OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS IF THEY ARE
NOT BORN AGAIN**

h) LACK OF LOVE FOR HUMANITY (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

i) A RELUCTANCE TO COUNT THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Apostle Paul, who lived whole heartedly for the Lord wrote,
“Are they ministers of Christ? I speak as a fool. I am more: in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.” (2 Corinthians 11:23-30)

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)

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

JOHN HARPER (A true hero of the faith)

- John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29th, 1872
- On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life
- Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ
- As John Harper's life unfolded he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God
- After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.
- This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members
- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14th of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in
- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six year old daughter Nana
- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat
- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved

- However this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man
- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ
- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- **HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE,**
"Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,

"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)

"...And he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30)