

COMMITMENT

Commitment is a great key to us fulfilling our God given destiny. It is so important that we are continually committed to:

1) Growing in our walk with the Lord and to developing Christ like character

Having a commitment to studying the word of God (2 Timothy 2:15) will help us to grow in our faith and to become more Christ-like and help us to build our lives on a firm foundation

The Apostle Paul 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)**

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

The LORD also said to Joshua before he was about to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land,

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." **(Joshua 1:8)**

Listening to good teachings and reading books written by other mature Christians is also a great key to growing in our faith – As leaders we need to be teachable and open to learning from others

We need to be continually committed to allowing Christ to do the work of change in our lives so that we grow in Christ-like character.

The Apostle Peter wrote,

"In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith-the salvation of your souls. **(1 Peter 1:6-9)**

In the book of James we read,

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

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God first develops our character before He gives us a ministry

As Christian leaders it is important that we model what it is to live the Christian life to those that we are shepherding.

Our actions speak louder than our words. The way that we live our life will have the greatest impact on those that we are mentoring and shepherding.

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." **(1 Timothy 4:12)**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." **(1 Peter 5:1-4)**

2) Helping to maintain unity in our families, churches and workplaces

The bible makes it clear that maintaining unity is a great key to experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives and churches

In Psalm 133 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 also warned of the damaging consequences of disunity. If the devil can sow strife and discord into our families and churches, he has the ability to destroy homes and church fellowships. This is why it is imperative that we strive to maintain the unity.

Jesus emphasised the consequences of disunity when he said,

"Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand." **(Matthew 12:25)**

The bible makes it clear that God is very much against the practice of sowing discord and strife into our church fellowships.

In the book of Proverbs we read,

"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren." **(Proverbs 6:16-19)**

3) Doing the will of God for our life and to fulfilling God's plan for our life

God has a unique plan for every believer's life that unfolds over time.

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)**

In the book of Psalms we read,

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

Nehemiah was committed to finishing what God had put on his heart to do. To see the wall around Jerusalem rebuilt. **(Nehemiah 6:3)** As a result of his commitment the wall around Jerusalem was rebuilt in just 52 days. **(Nehemiah 6:15)**

In fulfilling God's plan for our life others will be impacted for eternity

It is in daily following God's plan for our life that our lives make a great difference in this world for eternity. This is why it is crucial to know the will of God for our life in every season of our life.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." **(Ephesians 5:17)**

We need to continually have a commitment to living for the Kingdom Cause and to doing the work of the Lord so that we store up treasures in heaven **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

4) A life of obedience

King David was a man after God's own heart and was committed to doing the will of God for his life. He became Israel's greatest King.

In the book of Acts we read,

"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' **(Acts 13:22)**

It is important that we continually commit our plans to the Lord and remain committed to just doing what Jesus tells us to do. Obedience helps us to experience God's blessings

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

5) A lifestyle of prayer (Learning to involve God in all that we do in life)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

We need to continually make time to seek God for His ongoing guidance and direction for our life – We need continually God's wisdom to make good choices in life

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote, "pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

We have a God who is always both willing and able to help us in time of need

The Apostle John wrote,

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **(1 John 5:14-15)**

Jesus Himself said,

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." **(John 16:24)**

6) Being faithful in the little things

David began to enter into his God given destiny to ultimately become King over all of Israel, by simply delivering loaves of bread and cheeses to his brothers in obedience to his father's request. **(1 Samuel 17:15-20)**

It was in doing this that David connected with the next part of his God given destiny as he took on and defeated Goliath. **(1 Samuel 17:26-51)**

This launched David into the next season of his life as God continued to prepare him to become the greatest King of Israel. (1 Samuel 17:55 - 1 Samuel 18:5)

Jesus Himself said,

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much." **(Luke 16:10)**

"And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? **(Luke 16:12)**

7) Trusting God at all times

God knows what is best for our life

God is both willing and able to help us at all times

"For with God nothing will be impossible" **(Luke 1:37)**

When we trust God we will be continually prepared to take steps of faith and to wholeheartedly following His plan for our life and to let Him lead

Trusting God is also a key to continually maintaining our peace and to experiencing God's ongoing favour and blessing upon our lives. **(Jeremiah 17:7-8)**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength." **(Isaiah 26:3-4)**

8) Quickly forgiving others and maintaining an offence free heart

Jesus Himself said that many would be offended in the days that we are now living in

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

"And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **(Matthew 24:10-11)**

The enemy will continually try and disconnect us from those that God has connected us with, to stop us from fulfilling our God given destiny – God's destiny and plan for our life will always be outworked in connection with others that God brings into our lives. As a team we can achieve much.

To survive in ministry and to finish our Christian walk strongly, we must always be quick to forgive those who have hurt us. Especially in ministry we will at times be unfairly treated and at times not appreciated by others that we have helped. The enemy will continually try and get us offended towards others to discourage us and to negatively affect our heart attitudes. If the devil can succeed in this way it will negatively affect our ability to minister to others. **We must therefore be committed to keeping our heart with all diligence and to maintaining a soft heart. (Proverbs 4:23)**

This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of quickly forgiving all those who hurt us

Jesus Himself said,

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." **(Mark 11:25-26)**

9) Always doing things with a right motivation - To glorify God

Like Jesus we need to always have a heart to live for and to serve others and to glorify God in all that we do in life and ministry

Jesus Himself said,

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

Jesus Himself also said when praying to His Father in heaven near the end of His time here on earth,

"I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." **(John 17:3-4)**

Especially when we begin to see success in our lives and ministry, we need to continually give all the glory to God who has enabled us to succeed

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

10) Being planted in a local church fellowship - This is a great key to our lives bearing much fruit

Being connected and accountable to other mature Christians is a great key to growing in our faith and to seeing God's plan for our life unfolding

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)**

In the book of Psalms we read,

"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." **(Psalm 92:13-14)**

11) Never giving up on what God has called us to do in life AND to becoming the best that we can be in our God given calling

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." **(Philippians 3:12)**

Towards the end of His life here on earth that Apostle Paul wrote,

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

There is no greater cause than living for the Lord. For this reason it is good to give our best to what God has called us to do in life. That we seek to become the best in doing what God has called us to do in life. Learning from others, studying the word of God, reading books and gaining training in our area of gifting will all help us to have a greater impact on the lives of others

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

12) Faithfully completing all that God has called us to do in each season of our life

We must learn to complete tasks. It is always easy to start something but it takes courage and commitment to complete things

Jesus was committed to fulfilling His Father's will for His life here on earth. We see this in the gospel of John.

Near the beginning of His ministry here on earth Jesus said,

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

Towards the end of His time here on earth Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven,

"I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." **(John 17:4)**

It is crucial that we keep persevering in what God has called us to do in life until we receive our next instruction

13) Operating in our own unique gifts and calling.

God created each of us uniquely different and has a unique plan for each of our lives.

We are all one-off models.

We are most anointed and most fruitful when we flow in what God has called US to do in life. We are also the greatest blessing to others when we faithfully do what God has called us to do in life.

We must refuse to compare ourselves with others and try and emulate others.

We must simply be the best at what God has called us to do in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, ..." **(Romans 12:3-6)**

14) Always being prepared to step out to do the new things that God has planned for our life and to fully embrace new doors of opportunity

God will never allow us to get too comfortable and will often stretch us by getting us to do new things that will cause us to depend on Him in a greater way

We need to be always willing to step through new doors of opportunity and to embrace new God given opportunities that come our way in life

God has so much planned for our future

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)**

We can be assured that whatever God calls us to do in life, that He will empower us to complete the tasks.

We must simply refuse to procrastinate when God given opportunities come our way in life, but simply step out and do what God is calling us to do

It is as we step out to embrace these new opportunities that God begins to direct our steps

15) Always listening to the right voice (Being guided by the Holy Spirit)

We must learn to hear and be guided by the voice of the Holy Spirit rather than the opinions of men.

The Holy Spirit will tell us things to come

Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit is a great key to staying in the will of God for our life and to making right choices in life that will help us to avoid unnecessary pain

Jesus Himself said,

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." **(John 16:13)**

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

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

In Chapter 27 of the book of Acts we see how the Holy Spirit warned the Apostle Paul of the danger of the ship that he was sailing on being shipwrecked if they were to sail from the harbour that they were docked at. But the majority of the voices deemed it safe to sail out of the harbour, contrary to Paul's warnings. A short while later the ship was indeed shipwrecked.

How we must always be committed to being guided by the Holy Spirit rather than being influenced by the opinions of men

16) Using our time wisely

Prayerfully making plans helps us to use our time wisely.

The enemy loves to waste our time so that we are not effective in doing what God has called us to do in life. The devil will continually try and get us to focus on things that are unrelated to God's plan for our life.

People can often come to us with what are seemingly urgent needs that have the potential to take our focus off completing the important things that God has planned for our life.

Being focused on the big rocks in our life, which are the most important things that God has called us to do in life, helps us to use our time wisely.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

AND

17) Always doing things with a motivation of LOVE

It is crucial that all that we do in life is undergirded by genuine love

As Christians we have the ability to love others unconditionally

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"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)**

People do not care how much we know, but they do want to know how much we care

We live in a very self centred and materialistic world where employees are often just seen as employment numbers. There are many people who are now isolated and lonely in life.

The world is crying out for genuine love. As Christians we can make a great difference in our world

Our commitment to loving and encouraging others will help us to shine in our world and to make a difference in the lives of those around us

The Apostle Paul clearly emphasised the importance of all that we do in life being motivated by genuine love

I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,

"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)**