

# CHURCH OF HOPE

## EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

### TEACHINGS – Weeks 1 to 5

(All teachings can be individually downloaded from the  
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Notes compiled by Pastor Conrad Fenton

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## **Week One Related Teachings**

### **Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 30*)**

## **SOME KEYS TO ANSWERED PRAYER**

### **(The “ASK formula” based on a message by John Hagee)**

Jesus Himself said much about the importance of prayer and for the need to ask for those things that are needed in life. Asking God for His direction in our life and His help in meeting our needs demonstrates our dependence on and trust in Him. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.” (**Jeremiah 17:7**)

Jesus said to His disciples, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (**John 16:23-24**)

Jesus also said, “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 14:13-14**)

The book of James also says, “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” (**James 4:2**)

As Christians we need to have a childlike dependency on God, with prayer being an integral part of our everyday life. I will now look at nine keys which are mentioned in the bible in relation to prayer.

## **NINE BIBLICAL KEYS THAT RELATE TO PRAYER AND WHICH HELP TO SEE OUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED:**

### **1) Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus**

**(John 16:23-24) (John 15:16)**

As Believers we have power and authority when using the Name of Jesus. (**Mark 16:17-18**) (**Mark 14:14**)

### **2) Pray with praise and thanksgiving**

**(Psalm 100:4) (Matthew 21:15-16) (Philippians 4:6) (Psalm 34:1)**

### **3) Pray without any known sin in your life (1 Timothy 2:8)**

- 4) We must pray **BELIEVING** that God will answer our prayers (**Mark 11:23-24**) (**Matthew 21:21-22**)
- **Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** (Romans 10:17)
  - **The importance of meditating on and speaking out God's promises in His Word** (Joshua 1:8)
  - **Not allowing the negative things of this world to undermine our faith** (Psalm 1:1-3) (Philippians 4:8) (Colossians 3:16)
- 5) Pray with the right motive (For God's glory) That the Father may be glorified in the Son (**John 14:13**) (**2 Corinthians 1:20**)
- 6) Right relationships (walking in forgiveness towards others (**Mark 11:25**) (**1 Peter 3:7**) and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**)) Jesus emphasised the importance of continually walking in love. (**John 13:34**)
- 7) Our prayers should be directed by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:26-27**)
- 8) Praying according to God's Word and will for our life (**Isaiah 55:11**) (**Luke 1:38**) (**1 John 1:14**)
- "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**)
- 9) The Prayer of agreement (Matthew 18:19)

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH KEYS

### KEY NO. 2 - HAVING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

In the second of our Christian Growth studies we are looking at the importance of leading a lifestyle of pray. It is so important that we involve God in all of our life and that we do not only wait until we have problems or great needs before we begin to pray. God has a unique plan for every believer's life (**Ephesians 2:10**) and it is so important that we allow Him to guide and direct our steps in life.

Prayer must always be relational and never just develop into a daily religious routine. I will now share 7 points in relation to why we need to make prayer an important part of our daily lifestyle (**Points 1-3**) AND how we should pray (**Points 4-7**) To assist Christians in growing in their prayer life, the following points can be studied and meditated upon one at a time on a daily basis over the period of a week. (**One point each day**)

- 1) IT HELPS TO INVOLVE GOD IN ALL THAT WE ARE DOING IN LIFE** (God wants to see every person leading a life that is full of purpose and meaning. God knows what is best for us in every area of our life and His plan for our life. Having a dependence on God is the key to being blessed and prosperous in life). (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**)

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**)

**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**)

- 2) IT HELPS US NOT TO BE ANXIOUS IN LIFE**

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

- 3) IT HELPS US TO REMAIN STRONG WHEN GOING THROUGH TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS** (At times we are confronted with temptations in life as the devil tries to destroy our lives and prevent us from fulfilling God's plan for our life. (**1 Peter 5:8-9**) During these times we need to ask God for His help and strength to overcome the trials and temptations that are coming our way).

**Jesus Himself said to His disciples**, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (**Matthew 26:41**)

- 4) **WE MUST LEARN TO STAND ON GOD'S PROMISE THAT HE WILL ANSWER ALL OF OUR PRAYERS THAT ARE IN LINE WITH HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE.** IF WE PRAY IN LINE WITH WHAT GOD IS PUTTING ON OUR HEART TO PRAY (BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT), WE WILL PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE.

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

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

- 5) **HAVING THE BIBLE OPEN WHEN SEEKING GOD FOR ANSWERS AND DIRECTION**

(Every day we have needs and decisions to make in life. The choices that we make each day will ultimately determine our destiny in life. Each day we face new challenges which require God's wisdom and direction. God speaks to us through His Word. Praying with God's Word in front of us enables God to speak to us through His Word to give us clear direction in life and to prevent us from stumbling in our Christian walk).

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

- 6) **PRAYING IN FAITH BELIEVING FOR THE ANSWERED PRAYER** (Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) Without faith it is impossible to please God ... but He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) The bible makes it clear that God is able to do the impossible in our life. It is important that we always pray in faith believing for the answered prayer as we pray)

**Jesus said,** “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” “**Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**” (Mark 11:22-24)

- 7) **BE PERSISTENT IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE.** (Keep praying until you experience the breakthrough in your circumstances. God's timing is always perfect and He knows what is best for us. God's delays and even denials are always for our own good when our lives are totally surrendered to him.) **STUDY Luke 18:1-8, James 5:16-18 and Luke 11:9-13**

## **Week Two Related Teachings**

### **Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Introduction*)**

## **Building your life on the Word of God**

As Christians we live in a world which is full of ungodly influences and at times even hostility to the things of God. The Bible has much to say on the importance of all believers being overcomers in this life. (**Revelation 21:7**) (**Revelation 2:11, 17, 26**) (**Revelation 3:5, 10-12, 21**)

Jesus in His life here on earth said many things to His disciples to encourage them. Jesus said to His disciples, “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (**John 16:33**)

### **Jesus said as He began talking about the end of this age,**

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

### **The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,**

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (**2 Timothy 3:12**)

In this world there are both people who are under the sway of the Kingdom of Darkness (the sons of this world) (**Ephesians 2:1-3**) and people who belong to the Kingdom of God (those born again believers who belong to God’s family). (**1 Peter 2:9**) (**Ephesians 2:4-6**) As Christians we need to live in this world but not be of this world. (**1 John 2:15-17**) We need to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**) and not allow the spirit of this world to draw us away from our love for the things of God.

Jesus shared in his parable of the Wheat and the Tares that in this life here on earth we will be living both with those who love God (believers) and those who reject the things of God. (**Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43**) God has given us His Word to help us in this life to remain strong in our faith.

Building our life on the Word of God is the key to remaining strong in our Christian walk and in fulfilling our God given destiny. God has a unique plan and purpose for every Believer’s life (**Ephesians 2:10**) (**John 15:16**)

***Meditating on the Word of God helps Believers to fulfil their God given destiny.***

### **Before leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, the Lord said to Joshua,**

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

## **Psalm one also emphasises the importance of meditating on God's Word.**

“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)

**Building our lives on the Word of God will also help us to remain strong during those times when we experience great trials or challenges in life.**

### ***Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our life on the rock.***

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

**The words “whoever” and “everyone” emphasise the absolute importance of building our life on the Word of God. The entire Bible is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16) and contains all that we need to live a life of fruitfulness here on earth. Jesus made it clear that all those who build their life on His teachings and wisdom will not fall when they go through times of trials and challenges.**

**What can also be seen in this passage of Scripture is that we will all at some time experience challenges and trials in our life. Both the wise man and the foolish man experienced storms (challenges) in their life.**

**This passage of Scripture also makes it clear that for those who disregard the teachings of Jesus and who do not build their life on the Word of God, when the trials and disappointments of life come upon them, they will be inadequately prepared and equipped to handle them.**

***The Word of God also helps us to be prepared and thoroughly equipped for all that God has planned for our life.***

**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)**

***When we become Christians we need to replace our wrong mindsets with the truth that is contained in God's Word.***

**Jesus Himself said, “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING OUR MINDS RENEWED WHEN WE BECOME A BELIEVER.**

**“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)**



**THE APOSTLE PAUL ALSO WROTE,**

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

**WHEN WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN WE BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST** (2 Corinthians 5:17), **A CHILD OF GOD** (John 1:12) **AND WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY.** (Romans 8:15-17)

***AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN WE NEED TO GAIN A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INHERITANCE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST AND HOW WE CAN FULFIL OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST AS WE LEARN HOW TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD. (Romans 12:9-21) THE APOSTLE PAUL PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESES, THAT THEY WOULD GAIN GREATER REVELATION IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. (Ephesians 1:15-23)***

When we begin to meditate on the Word of God we start to embrace God’s Kingdom values and attitudes in our life. For those who have come from abusive backgrounds or who have been raised up in other religious traditions, meditating on the Word of God will greatly empower them to have a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ and healthier relationships with others.

***MANY BENEFITS ARE EXPERIENCED BY A BELIEVER WHEN THEY MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD. SOME OF THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE:***

- **Receiving clear direction for our lives**

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

- **Gaining Revelation from God’s Word**

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:129-130)

- **Maintaining peace during the storms of life**

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” (Psalm 119:165) “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)

- **We are assured of God’s great love for us**

The Bible says much about God’s great love for us. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

- **Gaining wisdom for everyday life**

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.”  
(Psalm 119:97-98)

- **Being purified and cleansed from our old habits**

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:9-11)

- **Having our faith encouraged and uplifted**

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

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

**THE WORD OF GOD IS FULL OF MANY PROMISES WHICH NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED BY FAITH** (Hebrews 11:1)

- **Receiving encouragement as God speaks through His Word a word in season (Rhema Word)**

“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” (Proverbs 15:23)

**God can speak a Rhema word to us as we read the Word of God. When we are praying for help or His direction in life, the Holy Spirit will often make a Scripture or passage of Scripture stand out (*a word in season*) to encourage us or to give us direction in life.**

- **Being equipped and prepared for ministry**

“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)

- **Receiving correction to help us avoid unwanted pitfalls**

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

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

- **Being blessed and prosperous in life,**

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart.”  
(Psalm 119:1)

- **Gaining Prophetic insight into what is to come as we draw near to the end of this age.** *The gospels, some of the epistles and the books of the minor and major prophets such as Daniel and Ezekiel and the book of Revelation contain much content in relation to what is still to come as we approach the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Millennial reign here on earth.*
- **Preventing us from drifting off into wrong doctrine**  
 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) and
- **Bringing revival into our lives as the Word fills our heart**  
 “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” (Psalm 119:33-38, 40)

# SOME KEYS TO EFFECTIVELY PREACHING THE GOSPEL

There are multitudes in the valley of decision today all around the world who do not yet know Christ. As Christians we have been given the wonderful privilege of helping to lead others to Christ. Street outreaches have the potential to impact many lives and a good street preacher has the capability of helping many to come to Christ. On the other hand a bad street preacher has the potential to push many people away from coming to Christ if they are legalistic and harsh in their preaching, or if they preach wrong doctrine. The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of preaching the pure gospel message. **(Galatians 1:6-9)** Today I want to share some keys to being effective in preaching the word of God and in particular the gospel message in the streets

## 1) THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDY AND PREPARATION DURING THE WEEK

Becoming excellent in the communication of the gospel – As we do not have notes when street preaching, preparation is vitally important – A good preacher will spend much time thinking of messages to share and ways to share the gospel when they next preach – Spending much time in the Word of God **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)** helps to prepare us to preach in a powerful and life giving way **(Hebrews 4:12)** – preaching the truth in God's Word helps to set people free **(John 8:31-32)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“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)**

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” **(1 Timothy 4:12-16)**

## 2) MEMORISING SCRIPTURES AND PARABLES

Memorising key gospel scriptures helps us to preach more effectively. The more scriptures we have memorised and have in our heart the more we can flow in the preaching of the Word when we are ministering in the streets – Just one scripture memorised each week is 52 per year – There are many PARABLES that are also good to learn and to share when preaching the gospel such as the Parable of the Lost Sheep **(Luke 15:3-7)**, The Parable of the Lost Coin **(Luke 15:8-10)**, the Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) son **(Luke 15:11-32)** and the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector **(Luke 18:9-14)**.

Studying and preaching about passages of Scripture such as, **Jesus coming to the house of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)** and the **Samaritan Woman meeting her Messiah at Jacob's Well (John 4:1-42)** help us to communicate the message of the gospel to others in a more effective way, as we share about the life changing encounters that others had with Jesus Christ in the Bible.

**Just a few important passages of Scripture to memorise in relation to the preaching of the gospel are: John 3:3, John 3:5, John 1:12, John 3:16-21, Romans 3:10-12, Romans 3:20-25, (Particularly Romans 3:23), Romans 6:23, John 14:6, Romans 5:6-9, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 7:25, Matthew 11:28-30, Isaiah 1:18 and Revelation 3:20.**

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

### **3) UNDERSTANDING HUMANITY**

A key to effectively preaching to the lost is to have a clear understanding of Humanity. In the book of Jeremiah we read,

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

BECAUSE OF SIN AND THE FALL OF MAN AND THE CONTINUAL EFFORTS OF THE DEVIL AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS TO DESTROY PEOPLE'S LIVES, MANY PEOPLE LIVE FAR BENEATH THEIR GOD GIVEN DESIGN AND POTENTIAL AND OFTEN SUFFER IN MANY WAYS

I will now look at some of the features of humanity that we need to understand if we are to be effective in our preaching

- i) That without Christ we all have a God shaped vacuum that nothing else can fill. We were made to worship God
- ii) People suffer from many fears (Fear of man, fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of lack, fear of death and hundreds of other fears)
- iii) Because of the breakdown of families many people carry deep hurts and suffer from rejection. Jesus will reject no person who comes to Him.
- iv) All people have a need to be loved and accepted and will even stay in dysfunctional relationships out of a fear of being alone. Hence peer group pressure can cause people to make wrong choices in life because of their fear of being rejected

- v) That without the Lord, people worry about many things and are anxious about many things. Only putting our entire trust in the Lord can give us true peace
- vi) That people need to have a purpose in life. Where there is no revelation people cast of restraint. God created us for a unique plan and purpose
- vii) That many people have a wrong concept of God,
- viii) That many people see no hope or future in life (many of the youth), and
- ix) That people cope with the emptiness of life without Christ in many dysfunctional ways: Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling, Ungodly Relationships, Work holism, Buying things, Partying, Living for pleasure, etc

#### 4) JESUS IS THE ANSWER

There are many blessing that we receive when we come to Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (**Ephesians 1:3**)

- In Christ we have been Chosen (**Ephesians 1:4**), we are Accepted, (**Ephesians 1:6**) we have been Forgiven and we have been adopted into the family of God (**Ephesians 1:5**)
- JESUS is the lover of our soul
- He is the Prince of peace (**Isaiah 9:6**) (**Isaiah 26:3-4**)
- He is the Healer (**Isaiah 53:5**) (**Psalms 103:3**)
- He is the Deliverer
- He binds up and heals the broken hearted (**Luke 4:18**)
- He sets at liberty those oppressed by the Devil (**Luke 4:18**)
- He will never leave nor forsake us, (**Hebrews 13:5**)
- He has a plan for our life that is full of purpose, (**Ephesians 2:10**) and
- When we put Christ first in our life we can be assured that God promises to meet our ever need in life (**Matthew 6:31-33**)

All that we need is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ

## 5) PREPARING OUR HEART TO PREACH THE MESSAGE (Praying for the lost)

Once we have prepared the message we need to then PREPARE OUR HEART to preach the message. We need to get to know the Jesus we are preaching about. **(Ephesians 3:17-19)** Having HUMILITY is a key to being used mightily of God. Our heart needs to be soft towards God and full of His love and compassion for people. As we spend time in God's presence we gain a clearer understanding of what to preach on and to focus on. When we worship the Lord we also connect with God's heart and have a greater sense of what to share. Worship helps to prepare our heart to preach.

## 6) ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SPEAK THROUGH US BEFORE WE BEGIN PREACHING (That the Holy Spirit takes over our mouth and that every word that we speak would be the Holy Spirit speaking through us a word in season. The Holy Spirit knows the heart of every person that we are preaching to.)

We must learn to let go and to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us when we are preaching.

In Luke 21:14-15 Jesus 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."

Our preparation leading up to preaching the message is crucial, BUT once we begin preaching the message we need to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us – Only the Holy Spirit can convict people of their sin and enable them to respond to the gospel message **(John 16:7-11)**

ONE MAJOR KEY TO EFFECTIVELY PREACHING IN OUTREACHES WITHOUT NOTES IS WAITING FOR GOD TO PUT A MESSAGE OR THEME ON OUR HEART TO SHARE ABOUT. For example the Lord may put on our heart to share about the importance of putting our past failures behind us, so that we can embrace all that God has planned for our future.

When we preach what God puts on our heart to share, the messages flow easily out of our heart and mouth. (For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – See Luke 6:45) – For this reason continually maintaining a right heart as a preacher is crucial. That we choose to maintain a heart that is forgiving, non judgmental and full of God's word. In the book of Proverbs we read,

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."  
**(Proverbs 4:23)**

## 7) PREACHING THE PURE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Having a clear understanding of the gospel message and preaching it in the power of the Holy Spirit is the key to seeing people being saved.

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 1:16-17)**

“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)**

“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)**

## 8) SEEKING THE LORD FOR A TOPIC TO PREACH ON AND SOME KEY POINTS (AROUND THREE OR FOUR) TO PREACH ON BEFORE PREACHING THE GOSPEL – When we have a street church we need to feed those who attend our meetings weekly with the Word of God to help them to GROW in their walk with the Lord

I.e. The importance of continually putting our trust in the Lord

- i) God knows what is best for us
- ii) God has a unique plan for our life which is full of purpose and meaning
- iii) God is both willing and able to help us (For with God nothing will be impossible)
- iv) When we continually trust the Lord one day at a time God promises to meet our every need in life

THEN CONCLUDE WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND AN INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST



## 9) MINISTERING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”  
**(1 Corinthians 2:1-2)**

“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)**

“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)**

**The Apostle Peter wrote,**

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” **(1 Peter 4:11)**

## 10) THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP TO OPEN UP THE HEAVENS AND TO PREPARE PEOPLE’S HEARTS TO RECEIVE THE PREACHED MESSAGE

In Psalm 22:3 we read, “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel”

God inhabits the praises of His people. Worship changes the atmosphere and opens up the heavens to make the preaching of the gospel easier and more effective.

Worship music also helps to touch the hearts of people. Many of the Christian songs also have a gospel message within them. These Worship songs help to prepare and soften people’s hearts to be more receptive to the preaching of the gospel and in helping them to receive Christ

Worship also helps to prepare the heart of the preacher prior to preaching and helps them to connect with God’s heart of compassion. This is a great key to preaching powerful gospel messages that help to impact many lives and to lead many to Christ. When we have God’s heart of compassion we preach with great passion.

**11) AFTER SHARING THE MESSAGE WE NEED TO THEN POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AND GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY OF OPENING UP THEIR HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIM** – While people’s hearts are soft it is good to give them the opportunity of inviting Jesus Christ into their hearts. For example after sharing the message per my outline (in key eight) “The importance of continually trusting in the Lord” I could for example conclude this message in the following way:

- Today you can depend on God’s faithfulness. God has a great love for all people
- God desires to have a relationship with all people and to see all people living a life that is full of purpose and meaning. Jesus will reject no person who comes to Him
- However God has given us all a free will. We have a choice whether to put our trust in the Lord and to live for Him, or to live our life independently of Him
- God knows what is best for us and is both willing and able to help us. Only Jesus Christ can give us true peace and joy in our hearts in a world which is becoming more and more difficult to live in. For with God nothing will be impossible
- It is our sins however that separate us from a Holy and loving God. The bible makes it clear that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- However God’s desire is that none would perish and has made a way for all people to be reconciled to Him. 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. **(John 3:16)**
- Because of God’s great love for all people and Jesus Christ’s willingness to lay down His life as a ransom for us, dying on the cross for our sins, every person can choose to have their sins forgiven by entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The bible makes it clear that whoever calls on the Name of the LORD shall be saved.
- Only Jesus Christ can save people from their sins.
- Because Jesus Christ conquered the grave and arose from the dead three days later we all have a hope for the future, both in this life and the life to come which begins the moment that we come to Christ
- Today Jesus Christ is reaching out to you. He will never reject any person who comes to Him. Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart
- Today you can turn from your sins and open your heart to Him and receive the free gift of eternal life. Today you can call on the Name of the LORD and be saved (Say sinners prayer)

**ONE EXAMPLE OF A SINNERS PRAYER**

Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and live to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on, Amen

## 12) EXPECTING SIGNS AND WONDERS TO FOLLOW THE PREACHING OF

**THE WORD** - Signs and wonders and healings are often the means by which people come to Christ. As Christians we have great authority in the Name of Jesus. As we preach the word of God and the gospel message we will have opportunities to pray for the sick and to see miracles occurring

**We must believe what the Word of God says.** 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 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)**

## 13) ALL THAT WE DO AND SAY NEEDS TO BE MOTIVATED BY A LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

Jesus is our role model. 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)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE, “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)**

“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)**

**THERE IS A SAYING THAT PEOPLE DO NOT CARE HOW MUCH WE KNOW, BUT THEY DO WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE CARE**

## **14) WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY ALLOW THE LORD TO DO A WORK OF CHANGE IN OUR LIVES (That we become more and more like Christ)**

**For some people we are the only bible that they will ever read.**

**We do not want to see the way that we live our life disqualify our witness for the Lord**

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.*” (Romans 8:28-29)

**We need to continually yield to the refining work of the Holy Spirit so that we continue to grow in Christ-like character (Especially given the lawless days that we are now living in – Matthew 24:12-13)**

**We need to live the life that we preach, that our life and way of living attracts people to come to Christ.**

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

## **15) AS A TEAM WE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH**

Working together as a team we can achieve much more. We all relate better to certain people. So as a team we can more effectively reach out to more people in our community. We all have different gifts and callings that complement and work together with other believer’s gifts and callings. If we can work together in unity with other believers we will continually see God’s commanded blessing over our efforts. Jesus Himself said, by our love for one another the world would know that we are His disciples.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY**

## Week Three Related Teachings

### THE GREATEST IS LOVE

- Today I want to share a few thoughts on the greatest is love
- In a world with much hate and strife where we are seeing more and more radical acts of terrorism, we both as a body of believers and individually can make a great difference in this world at this time in history through our agape love for others
- **Jesus Himself said,**  
“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:16**)
- **It is the agape unconditional love of Christ flowing out of our lives as believers that has the potential to change the lives of those around us**
- **I will begin by looking at three Scriptures in relation to love**
- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**  
“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**) **All that we do in life must be motivated by love – Loveless Christianity will have no real affect on the lives of unbelievers**
- **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**) **It is our love for one another as believers that is our greatest witness to the world that we are Christ’s disciples**
- **Jesus made it clear what was most important for us when one of the scribes asked Him “which is the first commandment of all?” Jesus said,**  
“‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” (**Mark 12:30**) “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (**Mark 12:31**)

- **Our ability to love others unconditionally flows out of our own love for the Lord (The first commandment)**
- **The closer we get to the Lord the more we are able to love people the way Jesus did, even our enemies. Jesus Himself said, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:44-45)**
- **In the book of Romans 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)**
- **Because God’s love has been poured out in our heart by the Holy Spirit we have the potential to freely love others**
- **After two years as a new believer in the nineties trying to work out what it was to live as a Christian the Lord spoke very clearly and simply to me, that it was simply “to love Him and to love others”**
- **After hearing many messages and teachings over the past 22 years I realise more than ever that right NOW what matters most is still that “I simply love the Lord and love others”**
- **AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD BE DIFFERENT TO THOSE IN THE WORLD – That we are in the world but not of it**
- **As Christians we are pilgrims in this world, Christ’s ambassadors, called to help reconcile people to Christ and that true joy and purpose for a believer only flows out of having intimate fellowship with the Lord and in pursuing His plan for our life**
- **The moment I came to Christ I had a complete change of heart and new desires**

- **WHEN WE HAVE A GENUINE LOVE FOR THE LORD AND FOR OTHERS IT AFFECTS THE WAY WE LIVE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS**
  - i) **We have a greater sensitivity to the needs of OTHERS (life becomes about helping and encouraging others)**  
**The Apostle Paul wrote,**  
 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” **(Philippians 2:3)**
  - ii) **We begin to live with eternity in mind (focussing more on storing up treasures in heaven)**  
**Jesus Himself 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)**
  - iii) **We have a real heart to help lead others to Christ (We have a great awareness of how precious every soul is to God),**  
**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “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 9:22) and**
  - iv) **We are prepared to make sacrifices and to reach out into the world of others to help point them to Christ**  
**The Apostle Paul wrote,**  
 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” **(2 Corinthians 8:9)**  
**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)**

### **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)

**The Apostle Paul not only preached the gospel to people, but also got involved in the lives of others as he demonstrated God’s love for them**

- **AS BELIEVERS WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD – TO BE A SHINING LIGHT IN THIS WORLD**

- **However as believers we are ALSO in a very real spiritual contest.**

### **The Apostle Peter wrote,**

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

- **The enemy will continually try and discourage us and distract us from living for the Lord and for OTHERS**

- **The enemy will try and steal our intimacy with the Lord and to get us consumed again with our own life and problem**

- **Everything in our life as a Christian flows out of our intimacy with the Lord**

- **Jesus Himself said,**

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)

- **SO WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT CAN BEGIN TO STEAL OUR AFFECTIONS FOR THE LORD AND TO STOP US REACHING OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF CHRIST**



**i) Being too busy with our own agenda's**

**(People must take precedence of Projects and Programs) — Allowing the busyness of life to steal our time with the LORD**

**In the gospel of Luke we see an example of this:**

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42)

**ii) Allowing the things of this world and the cares of this world to crowd into our heart**

**Jesus Himself said in His Explanation of the Parable of the Sower,**

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” (Mark 4:14-20)

**iii) Allowing critical and judgemental attitudes to develop in our heart**  
**Jesus Himself said,**

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Matthew 7:1-5)

**iv) Our choice of friends and who we spend time with**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

**v) Our fears and fear of being rejected by others**

**The Apostle John wrote,**

“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)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” **(2 Timothy 1:7)**

**vi) NOT PROCESSING OFFENCES QUICKLY,**

**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)**

**In the book of Hebrews**

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” **(Hebrews 12:14-15)**

**We must be continually vigilant to not allow any offences to enter into our heart, lest any root of bitterness spring up in us and defile us.**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Be angry, and do not sin”; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” **(Ephesians 4:26-27)**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” **(Proverbs 4:23)**

**We must be quick to forgive all people that hurt us and let us down**

**If we do not quickly process offences in our life we will invariably open ourselves up to allowing things to enter into our heart. Jesus also warned that in the last days many would be offended. Jesus said,**

“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)**

**What is in our heart will affect our attitudes and what we speak, because out of the abundance of our heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45) We must simply CHOOSE to be quick to forgive others**

## **vii) Not winning the battle for the mind**

**(We must QUICKLY take captive all wrong thoughts and bring them in line with the Word of God)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)**

**The real battle ground is the mind**

**The Devil will always try and divide and conquer by putting wrong thoughts in people’s minds, especially when they are feeling tired or discouraged, to cause them to make wrong and rash choices in life and to stir up strife. The Devil is continually trying to bring division into families and churches and to break up friendships to destabilize the lives of all people, but particularly Christians.**

**We must simply continually choose to look for the best in others.**

**We must refuse to allow negative, critical, judgemental and wrong thoughts to stay in our mind. We must continually take all wrong thoughts captive and bring them into line with what God says in His Word and choose to love people as best we can. The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.**

**Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21)**

**We must also learn to quickly take captive all ungodly and worldly thoughts that the Devil would try and continually put in our mind to pull our affections away from the Lord. We must be continually vigilant in leading a disciplined thought life**

**Jesus Himself said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:3-13)**

# SO QUICKLY HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR PASSION FOR THE LORD AND A FERVENT LOVE FOR OTHERS

- 1) **We need to focus our effort on getting to know Jesus more and more (That Jesus is our first love) – WE MUST PURPOSELY MAKE TIME TO SPEND WITH THE LORD (It's about Relationship with the Lord not religion and tradition)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

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

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

**King David wrote,**

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” (Psalm 63:1-3)

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

- 2) **That we continually renew our mind with the Word of God (That we develop Kingdom attitudes and mindsets)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

**As we live in a very ungodly world we need to continually renew our mind with the Word of God to maintain godly mindsets and heart attitudes**

**As we are constantly bombarded by ungodly influences in this world more than ever before we need to be continually feeding our minds with the word of God**

**What the Apostle Paul wrote is now more than ever true of the times that we are living in now. The Apostle Paul wrote,**

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

**We need to also heed the counsel that the LORD gave 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)

**3) That we are quick to deal with offences and to FORGIVE those who hurt us. This helps us to have a healthy and loving heart**

**We must also allow the Lord to remove the hurts from the past from our heart, because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – We must ensure that are hearts are always full of God’s love and that we do not allow any offences or past hurts to remain in our heart so as to poison our attitudes**

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.” (Proverbs 23:7)**

#### **4) We must have healthy friendships and be connected to other believers**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.” **(Proverbs 22:24-25)**

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” **(Proverbs 12:26)**

**WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT OUR SIGNIFICANT FRIENDS IN LIFE ARE GODLY AND LOVING PEOPLE. WE BECOME LIKE THE COMPANY THAT WE KEEP**

**HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS IS A KEY TO GROWING IN LOVE AND CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER AS A CHRISTIAN**

**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)**

#### **5) WE MUST SIMPLY CHOOSE TO LOVE OTHERS – The feelings will follow**

**The Apostle Peter wrote,**

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

**I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,**

“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. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us...” **(Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:1-2)**

**WE MUST SIMPLY JUST CHOOSE TO LOVE OTHERS**

## **6) FINALLY THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

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

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

**As Christians we can go through many challenges and disappointments in life**

**How important it is that we are continually FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**The Disciples were all baptised in the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost and their lives were transformed**

“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)

**Then Peter prayed for the lame man at the gate of the temple called beautiful and the man was miraculously healed (We see this in Chapter three of the book of Acts)**

**They then experienced great persecution for their faith, so much so that they went to prayer to seek God for boldness and for the miracles to continue**

**We see this in chapter four of the book of Acts:**

“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)

**AFTER PRAYING FOR BOLDNESS THEY WERE AGAIN FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – How important it is that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit to enable us to continually keep loving, those who would even try and persecute us**

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH KEYS

### KEY NO. 26 – THE GREATEST IS LOVE

The Bible makes it clear that love is the most important thing that we should pursue in life as believers, with our love for Jesus being our highest priority. In the book of James we read, “If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself,” you do well.” **(James 2:8)** Jesus shared about the incredible love of God when He 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.” **(John 3:16)** The Apostle Paul wrote, “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” **(1 Corinthians 13:13)**

Having a genuine love for others is actually one of the indicators of a person having a relationship with the Lord. The Apostle John wrote, “In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” **(1 John 3:10)** The bible is full of references to the importance of people having a genuine love for God and for others. **(Mark 12:30-31)**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)** The Apostle Paul also wrote, “**Pursue love**, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” **(1 Corinthians 14:1)** *Love always sees the best in others, helps to bring out the best in others, heals broken relationships and helps to build a happy home.*

**Jesus Himself also 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)** **Jesus in His life here on earth showed what God’s love was through His compassion for the marginalised and less advantaged in society. Jesus had great compassion for the lost, the afflicted and sick and for those who had been rejected by society such as the lepers.**

*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)**

**Compassion is a word that is only ever associated with God and those who demonstrate God’s love. God’s agape love is unconditional. JUST AS GOD LOVES EVERY PERSON WE TOO ALSO NEED TO HAVE A GENUINE LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE. Having a genuine love for one another is a key to maintaining unity in all of our relationships. UNITY BRINGS GOD’S BLESSINGS. In a world full of hate and strife and many broken relationships, the one defining characteristic of Christians should be that they stand out in this world because of their genuine love for others. Jesus said**, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:16)** **HAVING A GENUINE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS A KEY TO UNITY AND TO SEEING GOD’S KINGDOM POWER OPERATING IN OUR LIFE.** 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 dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1 &3)**

**THE FIRST CHURCH WAS UNIFIED AND MOVED IN GREAT POWER**



**In the book of Acts we read, “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 EMPHASISED THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISUNITY.**

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

**In this Growth key I will be sharing seven thoughts in relation to having a genuine love for others.**

**TRUE AGAPE LOVE HAS THE FOLLOWING ATTRIBUTES:**

**1) IT IS ALSO PRACTICAL**

**In the book of Acts we read, “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 AND DEMONSTRATES FORGIVENESS**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)**

**“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)**

**3) IT IS OTHERS FOCUSED**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “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**

**4) 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)**

<b>WE ALL HAVE THE ABILITY AS BELIEVERS TO LOVE OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY BECAUSE GOD’S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>
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**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)**

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

## # WHAT CAN HOWEVER STOP THIS LOVE FROM FLOWING OUT OF THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS??

I will now conclude this Growth key by sharing three major factors which can prevent Christians from loving others unconditionally. These are:

- 5) **A LACK OF INTIMACY IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD** (*We must not allow the cares of this world to take our focus off the LORD. We must purposely make time each day to spend with the LORD*)
  - 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 (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**) (*Involving God in all areas of our life*) (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) (**Psalms 37:4**)
- 6) **OUR ATTITUDES** (*Walking in the flesh*)
  - a. Being critical or judgemental of others (**Matthew 7:1-5**)
  - b. Being envious or jealous of others (**James 3:14-16**)
  - c. Having selfish ambition (**Philippians 2:3**)
  - d. Having pride in our life (**Colossians 3:12 & 4:6**) (**James 4:1-10**)
- 7) **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**)

***In conclusion, the key to consistently loving others is to put Jesus Christ first place in our life. That self no longer has any place on the throne of our heart, but that Jesus Christ is truly Lord of all. 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) It is only when we live a life that is set apart for God and for others that we consistently begin to love others unconditionally and see our lives bearing much fruit. 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.” (John 12:24)***

## **Week Four Related Teachings**

### **TOPIC 1 SELECTED TEACHINGS**

#### **Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 1*)**

#### **EVERY GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADER HAS A CLEAR VISION FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH**

The LORD said to Habakkuk, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." (Habakkuk 2:2)

**A CLEAR VISION FROM GOD HELPS TO KEEP A LEADER FOCUSED AND DISCIPLINED. A God given vision will help a leader to live a life of fruitfulness.**

The book of Proverbs says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law." (Proverbs 29:18) NKJV

The King James Version says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18)

**GOD HAS UNIQUELY CREATED EVERY PERSON (Psalm 139:13-16) AND HAS A UNIQUE PLAN AND DESTINY FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE.** 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)

**AS EVERY BELIEVER FINDS AND FOLLOWS GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE, THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST IS BENEFITTED AND BEGINS TO GROW.** The Apostle Paul wrote, "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE." (Ephesians 4:16)

**FOR THIS REASON IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERY BELIEVER KNOWS THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR THEIR LIFE AND OPERATES IN THEIR GIFTS AND CALLING (Romans 12:3-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) – Gifts of the Spirit. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A MINISTRY AND A CALLING**

**As we find and follow God's plan for our life and church, others will be impacted in two ways:**

- 1) Unbelievers will come to Christ through our life and testimony and church meetings, and
- 2) We will help to encourage other believers to fulfil their God given destiny

It is important that we use our gifts both on a personal level (witnessing to others and encouraging others in our day to day life) and on a corporate level (being connected to the ministries flowing from our church)

***Given the ungodly times that we now live in and the imminent return of the Lord, it is imperative that every believer knows the will of God for their life and that all Christian leaders and pastors (those in the five-fold ministry) know the will of God for both their own life and churches. 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)***

**EVERY CHURCH LEADER MUST ENSURE THAT THE CHURCH THEY ARE SHEPHERDING HAS A VISION FOR BOTH REACHING THE LOST AND MAKING DISCIPLES, AS WELL AS HAVING A CLEAR VISION AND FOCUS FOR THEIR OWN LIFE**

Every leader is uniquely gifted by God. For this reason every leader needs to have a clear vision for both their own life and for their church or ministry. Having a clear vision for their own lives enables church leaders to continually operate in their gifts and calling. In this way they best serve and benefit the church as a whole in all that they do with their life. All great church leaders are good at delegating areas that they are not strong in to others who are more gifted in those areas. Having a clear vision for our church helps our meetings never just to become routine.

**All healthy churches need to have a clear overall vision and PURPOSE for all of their meetings:**

- 1) To bring the love of God into their communities,
- 2) To evangelise and win people to Christ, and
- 3) To make disciples who will disciple others (to help develop loving Christian communities)

**A GOD GIVEN VISION ALSO HELPS LEADERS TO LIVE A DISCIPLINED AND GODLY LIFE. PEOPLE WITHOUT A VISION CAN EASILY MAKE WRONG CHOICES AND HAVE THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS DESTROYED.**  
(1 Peter 5:8) (John 10:10)

**ALL CHURCH LEADERS SHOULD HAVE AN ONGOING FOCUS AND VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (Luke 15:1-7)**

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." **(John 3:16)**

**Having a clearly defined vision for our life is a key to preventing the devil from sidetracking us from God's best plan for our life.**

**HAVING A CLEAR VISION FOR OUR LIFE ALSO HELPS US TO GET THROUGH THOSE TIMES IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING EITHER DISCOURAGEMENT OR GREAT TRIALS AND TRIBULATION.**

**EVERY GOD GIVEN VISION WILL INVOLVE HELPING OTHERS TO FULFILL THEIR OWN GOD GIVEN DESTINY**

**Jesus Himself said,** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." **(Mark 10:45)**

**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." **(John 12:24)**

**GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE IS FAR GREATER THAN WE COULD EVER THINK OR IMAGINE. (Ephesians 3:20) WE MUST COMMIT OUR PLANS TO THE LORD (Proverbs 16:3) AND SEEK HIS VISION FOR OUR LIFE AND CHURCH.**

**A LEADER OF VISION IS COMMITTED TO FINDING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH**

**WITH A VISION > LEADERS CAN PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD FOR HIS PLANS AND STRATEGIES > AND THEN STEP OUT IN FAITH TO ACT UPON HIS GUIDANCE > RESULTING IN SOULS BEING SAVED AND MATURE DISCIPLES BEING RAISED UP WHO ARE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED FOR MINISTRY**

**AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS**

(Selected readings from this teaching)

**1) Having a vision to reach the lost**

**Jesus said**, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for the harvest.

“And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps’” (**John 4:35-37**)

**WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE HARVESTING OF LOST SOULS**

**Every soul is precious to God. Every church should have a clear vision and plan for reaching the lost**

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

**2) Having a vision for equipping leaders** (Building the Kingdom of God focus)

**Every leader must invest time in helping to develop the next group of leaders. Mentoring and discipling future leaders will ensure the ongoing expansion of God’s Kingdom**

*The apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy*, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (**2 Timothy 2:1-2**)

**3) Mobilising all Christians in their ministry gifts**

*Every Believer has a ministry and mission field*. (**Ephesians 2:10**)

“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, 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 12:4-8**)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

## **THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAYS**

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

It is important that all Christians are equipped and **encouraged to use their ministry gifts and shown how to effectively share their faith with unbelievers.**

## **ALL CHURCH LEADERS NEED TO HAVE A VISION TO HELP MOBILISE ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**(Running regular Spiritual Gifts workshops is a great starting point)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

## **4) The importance of making disciples** (Feeding the sheep)

All Pastors have a responsibility for looking after those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them. (Acts 20:28)

**As part of this responsibility, pastors should be teaching and shepherding their flock to ensure that all the members in the church are given the opportunity to grow strong in their faith.**

Every pastor should also be aware of the importance of their own lives being a role model to those who have been entrusted to their care.

**The apostle Peter wrote,** “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 5:2-5)

**Jesus Himself said,** “Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Jesus gave the apostle Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to His sheep when He restored Peter.**

“Feed My lambs”,

“Tend My sheep”, and

“Feed My sheep” (*John 21:15-17*)

Having small groups is a great way of connecting new Christians to the life of a church and to help all Christians to grow in their faith and to be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts.

## APPENDIX K

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING GOALS

### ***EIGHT PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY***

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

People who set goals accomplish much more than people of equal education and ability who don't. With this in mind, it is important to build the following eight principles into our lives.

#### **1) Seek God for His plan for your life**

God has a unique plan for our life. **(Ephesians 2:10)** The book of Proverbs says, “There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel – that will stand.” **(Proverbs 19:21)** As we seek God for His plan for our life we must firstly commit our ways to Him. “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

#### **2) Put His plan down on paper**

We must learn to commit our plans to paper. We need to write down our God given goals. Writing down God's plan for our life on paper gives it a sense of permanency and helps to energise us to set goals to see this vision come to pass. The Lord said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” **(Habakkuk 2:2)**

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity...” **(Proverbs 21:5 NLT)** Having wishy-washy objectives will never get us anywhere. Having a clearly defined vision and clear goals for our life helps us not to deviate off track. It is so important that we redeem the time for the days are evil and that we know the will of God for our life. **(Ephesians 5:17)** The book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**

***Having our goals clearly written down helps us to stay focussed in life.***

#### **3) Establish a deadline**

We must establish deadlines to see our goals come to pass. We need to establish a starting date when we are to begin what God has planned for us to do and a completion date for each goal to be achieved. Without a definite beginning and ending it is easy to procrastinate and get nowhere.



#### **4) Make a list of what you have to do. Keep it before you all the time**

To see the completion of our goals, we need to list what must be done in order to see those goals achieved. We must keep that list before us at all times to help us to stay focussed and on track. This list will help us to accomplish all that is required to see our Vision and goals being fulfilled.

#### **5) Convert your list to a plan**

It is then important to convert the “to do” list to an action plan. It is important to decide what needs to be done first and what can be done later. An organised plan is always better than trying to carry things around in our head. To help achieve our goals it is good to have a longer term plan, weekly plan and a daily plan to ensure that we stay focussed on our goal and make the most out of each day.

#### **6) Act immediately (Do not procrastinate)**

The hardest thing to do is to make a start on a new thing. A key to achieving our goals is that we act immediately. The apostle Paul wrote, “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...” **(Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)** Do something! A mediocre plan that’s implemented beats a brilliant one that’s not. When we step out by faith to start something new, God is then able to guide our steps and even redirect our step as He begins to more fully unfold His plan for our lives. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

#### **7) Do something every day to help move forward to achieving God’s plan for your life.**

Every day we should do something to help us move closer to achieving God’s plan for our life. Scheduling in times of rest is also important to help us to stay sharp and focussed. Daily schedules help us to achieve our goals and to fulfil our God given destiny.

#### **8) Know your calling in life. Be willing to devote your life to fulfilling God’s plan for your life.**

God has a unique plan for every Christian’s life. It is important that we seek God to find His plan for our life. We need to have a goal which we are willing to devote our life to. We must be prepared to give our life totally to seeing God’s plan and destiny for our life coming to pass. Once we find out what God’s plan for our life is, we need to keep our eyes on that plan at all times. “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” **(Psalm 90:12)**

# **BLACKTOWN MISSIONS CHURCH**

## ***VISION STATEMENT***

### **OVERALL VISION**

“To be an evangelism outreach, disciple making, training and sending focused church which has a heart to see the community transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.”

### **CORE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To bring hope to those who live in the Blacktown community
- 2) To help bring Kingdom values into the community
- 3) To impact the community with the good news of the gospel
- 4) To provide a place of fellowship and belonging in which people can grow in their Christian faith
- 5) To make mature disciples who will help to transform the community with the love of God
- 6) To be a missions focused church, both locally and abroad, and
- 7) To be a training and sending church

## **BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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

*The Apostle Paul wrote,*

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

*Jesus Himself 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**

**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) But now, 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**

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***

“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***

“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 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 He 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.**

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH KEYS

### KEY NO. 20 – THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FILLED WITH (BAPTISED IN) THE HOLY SPIRIT

**INTRODUCTION:** Once a person becomes a Christian, God has another wonderful gift for them - the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is known as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks much about this experience. John the Baptist spoke of it, and revealed that Jesus Christ is the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit. John himself said, *“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 APOSTLES HAD THEIR NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY

After appearing to His 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)

This was the New Birth experience for His disciples. The Apostle Paul outlined in the book of Romans that there were 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) But now, 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.

**However, just before Jesus ascended back to Heaven He told His disciples that there was still a fuller experience of the Holy Spirit to come. Jesus said to His disciples,** “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) “For John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:5) and

“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)

#### THE DISCIPLES WERE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT 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)

Before a person can receive the Holy Spirit, they must be first saved (Born Again). (Acts 19:2a)

**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the submerging of the whole being into the Spirit of God.** It is being filled with the Holy Spirit Who Himself is a living person.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit should not be just a one-time experience but an ongoing practice. As we give out to others we must continually be filled ourselves. The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

*The distinction between the Born Again experience (John 4:14) and the overflowing fullness of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit experience (John 7:37-39) which all those in the Upper Room experienced on the Day of Pentecost, can also be clearly seen in the book of Acts where Philip preached the gospel in the city of Samaria.* (Acts 8:4-17)

#### WHEN CHRIST WAS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

**1) 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)

**2) 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)

**3) 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)

The Holy Spirit empowers us to minister to others. Jesus promised His disciples that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they would receive power to be His witnesses. (**Act 1:8**) After receiving the Holy Spirit, all the disciples become powerful preachers. Being Baptised in the Holy Spirit enables all believers to witness with greater joy and freedom, and with much more boldness when sharing with others who Jesus is, and what He has done for them. It also helps believers to enter into a richer spiritual awareness of the Lord.

God has given a lasting sign as evidence that we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit. That sign is speaking in tongues, or praying in the Spirit. (**Mark 16:17 & Acts 2:4**) The language that you receive when baptised in the Holy Spirit, is not one that you have learnt with the mind. However, you must use your own mouth and tongue to speak the words that God will give you.

**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**

“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**)

**HOWEVER FAITH IS 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**)

#### **SEVEN THINGS TO CONSIDER IN RELATION TO RECEIVING (BEING BAPTISED IN) THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1a) Maintaining a humble heart as you operate in the gifts of the Spirit. Whatever we do in life must always be done to glorify God and to serve others.** (1 Corinthians 10:31) (1 Corinthians 12:7) (1 Corinthians 12:11)

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

- 1b) & 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. 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**)
- 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.” (**Psalms 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 twofold 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**
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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. The particular member He 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.**



## **Week Five Related Teachings**

### **INTIMACY WITH THE LORD**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

**And to the Christians in Ephesus he wrote,**

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL BOTH KNEW THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN A VERY INTIMATE WAY AND SHARED WITH OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD**

**HAVING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD IS A KEY**

- i) TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN MINISTRY**
- ii) IN KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD FOR PEOPLE**
- iii) TO STAYING IN THE CENTRE OF GOD’S WILL FOR OUR LIFE**
- iv) TO MAINTAINING OUR JOY DURING THE TOUGH TIMES THAT WE WILL ALL GO THROUGH IN MINISTRY AND IN LIFE IN GENERAL,**
- v) TO GROWING AND REMAINING STRONG IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, AND**
- vi) IN RENEWING OUR STRENGTH WHEN WE ARE BECOMING WEARY**

**The Bible makes it clear that in His presence is fullness of joy and that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength.**

## I WILL NOW SHARE ON A NUMBER OF AREAS IN RELATION TO HAVING INTIMACY WITH THE LORD

### i) **Having a lifestyle of prayer**

- Involving the Lord in every area of our life

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, “pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” **(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)**

- We must learn to commit all of our cares and needs to the Lord

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 4:6-7)**

- We can be assured that God answers our prayers (we must not continually speak about the mountains in our life)

“Jesus said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” **(Mark 9:23)**

### **JESUS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE CAN PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM WHO ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS**

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

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

### **THE APOSTLE JOHN ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE**

“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**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

**WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO PREVENT US FROM STEPPING INTO ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE. AS WE PRAY AND SEEK HIS FACE WE WILL SEE THE MIRACLES IN OUR LIFE**

**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)

**ii) Continually keeping our first love for Jesus alive**

- **Jesus rebuked the loveless Church in Ephesus which was full of good works**

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: “I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand for its place-unless you repent.” (Revelation 2:1-5)

- **Jesus said that because of lawlessness abounding in the last days, the love of many would grow cold**

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

- **As Christians we need to have Christ’s compassion**

“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)

- **With His compassion we preach with passion and have a great desire to see the lost come to Christ**

*Jesus came “... to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)*

- **Whatever we do for the LORD must always be motivated by love.**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “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)**

- **It is only as we learn to continually abide in Him that our lives begin to bear much fruit**

**Jesus Himself said,** “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” **(John 15:4-5)**

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

#### **TRUE WORSHIP HELPS US TO GAIN THE HEART OF THE FATHER AND HIS LOVE FOR THE LOST**

**Jesus 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)**

### **iii) Knowing and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit**

- **It helps us to follow God’s unique plan for our life**

“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)**

- **Trusting the Lord and obeying the still small voice of the Holy Spirit is the key to fulfilling God’s plan for our life**

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

**Jesus Himself 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)** “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)**

- **Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it**  
**“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.”**  
(Psalm 127:1)
- **God’s ways are often so different to our ways but they are far higher than our ways**  
“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- **His plan for our life is far greater than we could imagine**  
**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 must continually stay close to the Lord so that His plan for our life progressively unfolds as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps. 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)

#### iv) **Building our lives on the Word of God**

- **A key to having stability in our lives**  
“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.  
But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

#### **IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS WE READ**

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever with me.”  
(Psalm 119:97-98)

- **God speaks to us through His word to give us direction in our life**  
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)  
“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.”  
(Psalm 119:133)

- **Meditating on the Word of God builds up our faith**

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

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

**BEFORE JOSHUA LED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND THE LORD SAID TO HIM**

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **(Joshua 1:7)**

“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)**

- **We need to have our minds continually renewed by meditating on the Word of God so that we build our lives on Godly principles and His promises for our life.**

- **We must not allow the ungodly things in this world and the negativity in the world to undermine our faith in the LORD**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

**Jesus Himself said,** “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” **(John 8:31-32)**

- **Meditating on the Word of God is a key to seeing revival in our lives**

**The Book of Proverbs says,** “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” **(Proverbs 4:23)**

**The Psalmist wrote,** “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” **(Psalm 119:33-38, 40)**

## **THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT WHAT IS IN OUR HEART WILL COME OUT OF OUR MOUTH**

**Jesus Himself said**, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (**Luke 6:45**)

**For this reason it is imperative that we also guard our eyes and ears in terms of what we look at and listen to. The Apostle Paul said,**

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.” (**Philippians 4:8**)

**The book of James also gives clear warning of guarding our hearts from ungodly influences:** “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” (**James 1:12-16**)

### **v) Having a repentant heart helps us to maintain intimate fellowship with the LORD**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**)

### **vi) The importance of setting aside time to spend alone with the LORD. While here on earth Jesus frequently withdrew to spend time in prayer with His Father in Heaven**

“So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” (**Luke 5:16**)  
**After spending all night ministering to the sick and demon possessed,** (**Mark 1:32-34**) “... in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” (**Mark 1:35**)

### **vii) When we spend time with the LORD we grow in boldness**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (**Acts 4:13**)

**viii) The importance of keeping ourselves continually in the presence of God and building ourselves up by praying in the Spirit. This is a key to helping us to walk in the Spirit**

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” **(Jude 20 and 21)**

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” **(Galatians 5:16-18)**

**ix) The importance of making Jesus Christ Lord of all of our life. That to know Him intimately is our greatest priority and need in life**

**Jesus said**, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” **(John 15:4-5)**

**Jesus also said**, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” **(John 8:36)**

**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)**

**I will finish with the words of Jesus to the Lukewarm church in Laodicea**, “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.” **(Revelation 3:20)**



# GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST

- It is so important as Pastors and Christian Leaders that we have a passion for seeing the lost come to Christ
- **Evangelism is more caught than taught.** If a Pastor has a passion for seeing his community coming to Christ, it will have a positive effect on encouraging the whole church to have a vision for reaching the lost.
- Every church must have *both an outreach and discipleship focus*. It is so important that as a church we have a ***love for our community***. The apostle Paul wrote:  
**“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14)**
- **Jesus was our example.** He reached out to the Tax Collectors and sinners and ate with them. He attended the wedding where he turned the water into wine. He spent time at the house of a chief tax collector called Zacchaeus.” When people complained Jesus said,  
**“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Matthew 9:12-13)**
- EVERY HEALTHY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE AN OUTWARD FOCUS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH
- It is so important that we ***reach out into our community*** with the love of Christ (**Church in the streets**)
- We also need to look for God given opportunities of ***serving the community*** (**Church of Hope**)

**Jesus said,** “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

**“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (John 13:13-17)**

<p><b>AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE EXAMPLES TO OUR CHURCH MEMBERS OF WHAT TRUE SERVANTHOOD IS. IF A PASTOR HAS A SERVANT HEART IT WILL PERMEATE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHOM HE SHEPHERDS</b></p>
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- AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS WE NEED TO HAVE A VISION AND A BURDEN TO REACH THE LOST AND THE HURTING.

- **IT BEGINS BY SEEKING GOD FOR HIS COMPASSION FOR LOST SOULS.** *The compassion which caused Jesus Christ to lay down His life as a ransom for many.*

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. “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 9:36-38)

**JESUS THEN CALLED HIS TWELVE DISCIPLES AND BESTOWED UPON THEM THE DELEGATED POWER AND AUTHORITY THAT HE HAD, AND SENT THEM OUT TO FIND THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL.**

As pastors we also need to be equipping and encouraging our church members to actively reach out to the lost and hurting, as we lead by EXAMPLE.

- **INTIMACY WITH JESUS IS THE KEY TO SEEING HIS HEART FOR THE LOST BECOMING A GREATER REALITY IN OUR OWN LIFE.**
- Our **love for our community** and commitment to reaching the lost grows as we make our relationship with Jesus Christ our first priority. (We cannot allow the busyness of ministry life to rob us of our time with the Lord)

- 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)

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

AS WE PRAY FOR THE LOST AND SEEK HIS FACE WE BEGIN TO GAIN GOD’S HEART FOR THE LOST

“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)

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

**JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU AND ME. HE LAID IT DOWN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD**

- JESUS HIMSELF SHARED MUCH ABOUT GOD’S LOVE FOR THE LOST. HE 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 was lost!’**

**I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”** (Luke 15:17) AND

**AND IN THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, HOW WHEN THE FATHER SAW HIS PRODIGAL SON IN THE DISTANCE RETURNING HOME HE,**

**“...had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)**

**AND RESTORED HIM TO FULL SONSHIP AND HAD A GREAT PARTY TO CELEBRATE HIS RETURN, SAYING,**

**“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:24)**

- When we have Christ’s compassion for the lost we begin to have a passion to reach the lost
- THE APOSTLE PAUL was not ashamed of the gospel.

**“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)**

- He knew the importance of seeing souls saved and **ALSO** encouraging others to be active in the area of Evangelism. He said to the young Pastor Timothy who was his spiritual son,

**“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with long suffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2)**

**“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW THE HEART OF GOD FOR LOST SOULS BECAUSE HIS PASSION WAS TO KNOW CHRIST**

### **The Apostle Paul wrote:**

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

- THIS LOVE FOR CHRIST compelled the Apostle Paul to preach the gospel and to share his faith in Christ.

**“Now while Paul waited for them in Athens (that was for Silas and Timothy), his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.” (Acts 17:16-17)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

**“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16)**

- THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW GOD’S HEART FOR EVERY SOUL.  
(He became all things to all men that he might by all means save some).
- The great revivalist John Wesley also wrote:  
“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”
- **WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH GOD HE WILL GIVE US HIS VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST** (His heart to reach the lost)

- Ministry is all about people. Evangelism is all about bringing a message of hope to the lost

- “The face of a killer started David Wilkerson (The founder of Teen Challenge) on his lonely crusade. One night in his country parsonage (his ministry living quarters) David picked up a Life magazine and saw the tormented face of a teenage gang member accused with six others of brutally murdering another teenager. **And David Wilkerson had to help.**
- EVERY VISION MUST LEAD TO STEPS OF ACTION TO SEE IT COME TO PASS
- **Armed only with the gospel, David Wilkerson went into the slums – and the miracles happened. Crime hardened gang leaders knelt in the streets to pray, frightened children sobbed out their loneliness and anger, and heroin addicts found the courage to break their addiction**
- **WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH THE LOST**

*The Apostle Paul wrote:*

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? 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 10:14-15)

- **AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS WE ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF HELPING TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP ALL OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH. (So that all can share the love and hope that we have in Christ with the lost and hurting).**

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- **We all have a part to play in seeing God’s Kingdom being established here on earth**

- WE MUST NEVER DOUBT THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO TRANSFORM OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES

- As we pray and intercede for our cities and villages we will have a compulsion to go into the harvest field to share the good news of the gospel, **speaking the truth in love**. THE HARVEST IS RIPE NOW

**Jesus said**, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (**John 4:35**)

- After a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; they were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- Therefore those who were scattered WENT EVERYWHERE PREACHING THE WORD (**Acts 8:4**)

- Sometimes the trials that we experience help us to refocus on God or to shake us up if we have become too settled in our comfort zones. God always has more planned for our life and church

- PHILIP THE EVANGELIST WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS SCATTERED

“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 8:5-8**)

- The gospel is good news. It is the only hope for humanity. Only Jesus can save and set the captives free. He who the Son sets free is free indeed.

**Jesus Himself said**, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul.” (**Matthew 16:26**)

- Backed by prayer and intercession, the gospel has the power to transform our cities. The city of Samaria was transformed by the gospel
- As we spend time in His presence, God will give us his strategy and heart for the lost in our cities and villages

- Like Gideon who defeated an army of 135,000 with just 300 men as he followed the LORD's instructions, we too will experience success as we follow God's strategy for reaching the lost in our communities.
- The Lord promises to be with us always, so we can step out in this confidence as we follow His vision for reaching our communities and preach the gospel.

- HOW WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST TO HELP SEE OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES COME TO CHRIST

- WE ARE A TEAM (We are all on the stage of redemption reaching out to an audience of lost souls)
- The first church moved in power and souls were added to the church daily

- **THEY WERE ALL OF ONE ACCORD** AND THEY HAD FAVOUR WITH ALL PEOPLE

“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)

- PSALM 133 says how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

### **UNITY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD**

- Jesus fervently prayed to His Father that His followers would be brought to complete unity. (John 17:6-23)

- Jesus Himself said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another” (John 13:35)

- TODAY THERE IS A WORLD FULL OF LOST SOULS. In Europe only a small percentage of people are now believers. In India over one billion people do not know the love of Christ personally
- Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creatures. If we love our community we will respond to this call.

- The word of the Lord came to Jonah for him to **arise** and go to Nineveh, that great city, and to preach a message calling that city to repentance

- Jonah initially disregarded this call to preach to those in Nineveh and arose to flee to Tarshish
- i) Whether it was because of fear*
- ii) Whether it was because he had no real concern for the lost in Nineveh (which was most likely the case as he later became angry when God showed mercy on Nineveh), or*
- iii) Whether it was because he had his own agenda*

THE SIMPLE FACT WAS THAT JONAH WAS RUNNING FROM THE LORD'S CALL FOR HIM TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO WERE IN DANGER OF PERISHING IN NINEVEH

- ***All people were impacted by his decision not to preach at Nineveh***

- His life was in turmoil
- Those on the ship that he was travelling in were in danger of being destroyed, and
- Nineveh was about to be judged and destroyed

- How we must all respond to the call to reach the lost

- GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE AND HIS DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH
- There are now countless millions of precious souls that are heading down the broad path that is leading to hell and destruction (blinded by the little god of this world)
- Countless millions of youth are having their lives destroyed through drugs and alcohol as they try to live in world full of pain and suffering
- JONAH BEGAN PRAYING IN THE BELLY OF THE WHALE. After three days and three nights the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land
- After spending much time in prayer Jonah responded to the Lord's second call to go to Nineveh to preach to them the message of the Lord
- The people from Nineveh turned from their evil ways and were saved as God relented from bringing upon them the disaster that he had planned to bring
- THERE ARE COUNTLESS MILLIONS IN NEED OF SALVATION. People that Jesus Christ bled and died for.

- **AS PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

- i) We need to have a love for our community
- ii) We need to draw close to Jesus to get His heart and His compassion for the lost
- iii) We need to seek God for His vision and strategy to reach the lost in our city
- iv) We must believe in the power of the gospel to change lives and encourage all those in our church to share their faith
- v) We must seek to encourage other Pastors and believers as we strive to maintain unity within the Body of Christ. A key to experiencing God's favour and blessings, and
- vi) We must simply just step out in obedience and "Go" into all the world and share the gospel beginning with our own community

- **JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST**

- He gave His life for this cause
- The Harvest is ripe. There are multitudes in the valley of decision
- So too must we give our life to seeing those bound up by the devil being set free and becoming part of the family of God
- He who wins souls is wise, and
- Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever



## YOU ARE SPECIAL

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

- No person is ever a mistake
- You were not just born by chance (God knew of you)
- There is a unique plan and purpose for your life
- No situation is ever impossible with God
- God is the God of second chances  
(Who redeems lives from destruction)
- God has the best plan for your life
- God's plan includes the gift of eternal life

### GOD'S PLAN LEADS TO ABUNDANT 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) **HOWEVER**

### NARROW IS THE GATE THAT LEADS TO LIFE

*Jesus said*, "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life." To follow Jesus involves turning from your sin and own agenda, to following His plan for your life. *Jesus also said*, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Only God's plan for our life will truly fulfil us, even though at times being very challenging. However for those who love Jesus Christ, there is also a wonderful future promise of having an eternal home with Him in a place where "there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying." (Matthew 7:14, Matthew 16:25-26, John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:3-4)

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**ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "...The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23) **JESUS CHRIST CHOSE TO LEAVE HEAVEN FOR 33 YEARS TO RECONCILE US BACK TO GOD. HE DIED ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS,** but three days later He arose triumphantly from the dead. **Jesus is alive and back in Heaven and is coming back soon.**

#### WHAT IF I REJECT JESUS?

No one except Jesus Christ has ever led a sinless life. We all have lied at some time in our life, lusted after other people, or gossiped about others. None of us have or can keep God's standard of sinless perfection ALL the time. **That is why we must all personally turn from our sin and come to Jesus Christ with a humble heart to receive His forgiveness and His righteousness.** Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, (A Believer) he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3) **All** who reject Jesus will be accountable for their own sins when they are resurrected in the body to face God at the final judgement. The final **destiny for all unbelievers** is the Lake of fire into which the Devil, the False Prophet the Anti-Christ and other fallen angels are also cast. (Revelation. 20:10-15) **THIS IS NOT GOD'S DESIRE.**

Jesus loves you with a passion and gave His life for you. Today He stands knocking at the door of your heart. Today the sinless blood that He shed on the cross at Calvary can wash *all of your sins away.* **Today will you turn from your sins and open your heart to Jesus and accept His gift of eternal life?**

"Dear God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus 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, Amen"

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No one except Jesus Christ has ever led a sinless life. We all have lied at some time in our life, lusted after other people, or gossiped about others. None of us have or can keep God's standard of sinless perfection ALL the time. **That is why we must all personally turn from our sin and come to Jesus Christ with a humble heart to receive His forgiveness and His righteousness.** Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, (A Believer) he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3) **All** who reject Jesus will be accountable for their own sins when they are resurrected in the body to face God at the final judgement. The final **destiny for all unbelievers** is the Lake of fire into which the Devil, the False Prophet the Anti-Christ and other fallen angels are also cast. (Revelation. 20:10-15) **THIS IS NOT GOD'S DESIRE.**

Jesus loves you with a passion and gave His life for you. Today He stands knocking at the door of your heart. Today the sinless blood that He shed on the cross at Calvary can wash *all of your sins away.* **Today will you turn from your sins and open your heart to Jesus and accept His gift of eternal life?**

"Dear God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus 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, Amen"

**WHAT NEXT:** Get a bible (it's full of wisdom) - Connect with other believers - Talk to God. Check out our website: [www.coh.org.au](http://www.coh.org.au) (Contacts & resource materials)

**HOW DO WE OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE?** Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) He also said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live.** And whoever lives and believes in Me **shall never die...**" (John 11:25-26) "For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin *for us*, that we might become the *righteousness of God in Him.*" (2 Corinthians 5:21) **Only Jesus can forgive our sins.**

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#### WHEN WE GIVE OUR HEART TO JESUS CHRIST WE:

##### 1) ***Can enjoy God's peace even during the trials of life***

"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)

##### 2) ***We can live a life that is full of purpose and meaning***

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)

##### 3) ***We can be assured of God's provision in our life***

Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33)

##### 4) ***We can tap into all of God's promises in the bible***

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

##### 5) ***We can be assured of God's protection (Psalm 91)***

##### 6) ***Nothing is able to separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39) He is with us always (Matthew 28:20), and***

##### 7) ***God will empower us to do great things for Him***

"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)

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(All Scriptures are from the New King James Bible)

#### HELL IS REAL BUT HEAVEN IS GREAT



We all have one lifetime in which to choose our ultimate eternal destiny – Where we will spend eternity following our life here on earth

The bible makes it clear that this life is just a dress rehearsal for the next. This life is fleeting but where we spend eternity is forever. Because of God's great love for all people we can all have a hope and future not only in this life but also beyond the grave. 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." (John 3:16)

**For those who believe in Jesus Christ the Bible makes it clear that we also have a glorious future beyond the grave and that to be absent from our earthly body is to be with Jesus Christ forever. The Apostle Paul wrote,**

"But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

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The bible makes it clear that there are two diverging destinies beyond the grave and that each person must make a choice in this life as to where they will ultimately spend eternity. For this reason this is the most important choice that we will ever make in life. For those who believe in Jesus Christ, the best is yet to come. In the book of Revelation we read, “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” **(Revelation 21:3-4)**



However God has created each one of us with a free will to decide where we will spend eternity. Those who choose to reject the love of Jesus Christ and to not open their hearts to Him will spend an eternity separated from God’s love. In the book of Revelation we read what the final destiny is for all those who reject Jesus Christ and His offer of forgiveness and eternal life, “But the **cowardly, unbelieving,** abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” **(Revelation 21:8)**

*This is not God’s desire but many people have made this choice.*

The GOOD news is that *God desires to have a relationship with all people, no matter how many mistakes (sins) a person may have made in the past.* Because of God’s great love for us and Jesus Christ’s willingness to die on the cross for our sins, we can receive God’s forgiveness by coming to Christ, so that we have eternal life and a future full of purpose and meaning. 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.” **(Romans 5:6-8)** “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)**



Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bled and died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins. But death could not hold Him down.

Three days later Jesus Christ arose triumphantly from the dead and then forty days later He ascended back to Heaven.

Today Jesus Christ is knocking on the door of your heart. Today you can open your heart to Him and receive the free gift of eternal life

**Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that 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 to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Amen**

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