

Depending on God's Ability and His Enabling Power in all that we do in life

- God has so much more planned for each of our lives
- The bible makes it clear that God's ways are higher than our ways.



In the book of Isaiah we read,

**“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)**

However, so often we can limit what God wants to do in our life by:

- i) Looking at our circumstances
- ii) Comparing ourselves with others
- iii) **Allowing our emotions and how we feel to dictate our choices**
- iv) Allowing the opinions and negative reports of others to stop us from embracing God given opportunities that come our way in life, and
- iv) **Allowing fear to stop us from stepping out to do the things that God is putting on our heart to do**



- TODAY I want to encourage you that it is not about your ability but simply your availability that will determine what God will do in and through your life



- As we step out and do what God calls us to do in life, He will EMPOWER us to accomplish the tasks that He gives us to do
- Our sufficiency comes from what God can do in and through our lives. **The bible makes this very clear**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

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



The Apostle Paul also 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)



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)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

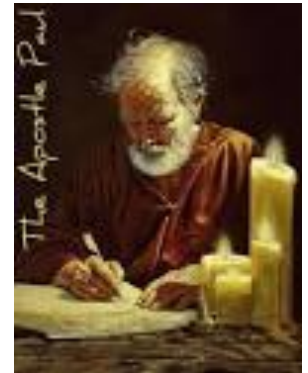
“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **(2 Corinthians 12:7-9)**

**GOD’S STRENGTH IS MADE
PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS**



The Apostle Paul as much as anyone knew the importance of continually depending on God's strength and enabling power to do what God had called Him to do in life. In addition to his deep concern for all the churches the Apostle Paul also:

- Received five times from the Jews 39 stripes
- He was beaten three times with rods
- He was once stoned with rocks
- Three times he was ship wrecked
- A night and a day he was in the deep
- He was often in weariness and toil and without sleep and he knew hunger and thirst and what it was like to suffer from the cold (See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28)



King David wrote,

“Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.” **(Psalm 37:34)**



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.” **(Isaiah 55:12)**

- So as we now rapidly approach another new year I would like to encourage you to fully embrace all that God has planned for your life in 2017 AND to learn to depend on His enabling power to accomplish all that He has planned for your life next year



- The bible also makes it clear that as we wholeheartedly pursue God's plan for our life that we can be assured that ALL that we NEED in life shall be added to us

Jesus Himself made this very clear when He 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)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, *always having all sufficiency in all things*, may have an abundance for every good work.” **(2 Corinthians 9:8)**



Today I want to share some keys that can help us to live a life of fruitfulness as we learn to depend on God's promises and enabling power in all that we do in life



1)The importance of continually building up our faith by Meditating on God's promises in His Word and on what God has done for others in the past

The bible is full of accounts of how God has supernaturally helped AND empowered ordinary people to do great things for His glory in the past

We see this in the life of Gideon



- Gideon with an army of just 300 and with God's help defeated the Midianite enemy army which numbered 135,000
- We see this in Judges Chapters 6 to 8
- When God calls us to do something He will empower us to accomplish it

The LORD promised to be with Gideon when He raised him up to bring deliverance to his people

“Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. I have sent you.” (Judges 6:14)

“And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” (Judges 6:16)



We too can depend on God’s faithfulness to help us to accomplish all that He has planned for our life

**In the book of Hebrews we read,
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,
today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)**



- So just as God has empowered people in the past to do great things for Him, so too today He continues to empower Christians to do great things for His glory
- **We serve a miracle working God in whom nothing is impossible. The bible makes this very clear**



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. **(Hebrews 11:8-10)**

- “BY FAITH Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.” **(Hebrews 11:11)**
- “Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude - innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.” **(Hebrews 11:12)**
- “BY FAITH they (the children of Israel) passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.” **(Hebrews 11:29)**
- “BY FAITH the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.” **(Hebrews 11:30)**



Jesus Himself said to His disciples,

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

- God has so much in store for our lives as believers
- All God needs is our availability and our willingness to let Him lead and to let Him direct our steps in life



- Consistently meditating on the Word of God is a key to continually feeding our spirit and to maintaining a strong faith. WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY HAVE A HEART THAT IS FULL OF FAITH AND GOD'S PROMISES FROM HIS WORD

- We need to build our lives based on the authority of God's Word and all the promises in the Word of God.

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



- **The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

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

2) We need to associate with CAN DO people

People of faith who believe what the Bible says that, "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37)

- We all need to have people of Godly vision and faith in our life – People who will help encourage us to realise our full potential in Christ



- The role models that we have in life *will greatly determine the degree* to which we are willing to step out by faith to do what God calls us to do and to TRUST and DEPEND on His enabling power

- We see the affect that people of faith and vision can have on others when we look at the life of King David.



- King David's mighty men of war were initially people who were rejected by society. Outcasts
- But due to King David's great example their lives were transformed

We see where King David's mighty men of war originated from in the following passage of Scripture:



“David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.” **(1 Samuel 22:1-2)**

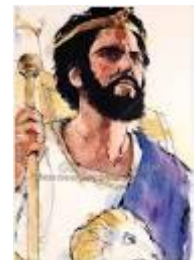
We see some of their exploits later on in the following passages of Scripture due to David's leadership and influence on their lives:

⁸ These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth^[a] the Tachmonite, chief among the captains.^[b] He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. ⁹ And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo,^[c] the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated. **(2 Samuel 23:8-9)**



¹⁰ He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder. ¹¹ And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. ¹² But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. **(2 Samuel 23:10-12)**

**We all need good role models
in our life**



In the book of Proverbs we read,

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



3) We need to learn to do things God's way and in His timing.



- God anoints and empowers us for the tasks that He gives us to do in life. For this reason continually knowing and following the will of God for our life is crucial (For me this is a daily priority)
- God will often call us to do things *when it is not necessarily convenient for us to do so.*
- It is at these times when we respond in faith and obedience that we often see the greatest miracles and breakthroughs in our life

We see this in the following bible account:

“So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” (Luke 5:1-5)



“And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid, from now on you will catch men.” **(Luke 5:6-10)**



- **Doing what God has called us to do in life His way and in His perfect timing will always produce great results and cause our lives to be fruitful**



- God knows the best way to do all things. God will continually give us wisdom as to how to best do things – FOR THIS REASON WE NEED TO LEARN TO BE FLEXIBLE IN LIFE

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

4) We need to guard our heart from developing critical and unforgiving attitudes AND refuse to allow the cares of this world to enter our heart and to steal our joy and strength



Jesus in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower said, “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 4:18-20)

Sin, unforgiving and judgemental attitudes and fear will all hinder and limit what God wants to do in and through our lives – For this reason we need to keep short accounts with God and others

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)



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.” (Mark 11:25)

The way we live our life matters to God and will influence the degree to which we see God's favour and blessing upon our lives – Unconfessed sin will always hinder our prayer life



The Psalmist wrote,

**“I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.”
(Psalm 66:17-19)**

- **So maintaining a right heart is a great key to consistently experiencing God's power in our life and His ongoing favour and blessing upon our lives**

5) We need to learn to be continually led by the Holy Spirit

- Being at the right place at the right time is a great key to seeing God opening up doors of opportunity and connecting us with the right people in life.
- For this reason having a lifestyle of prayer and communion with God is crucial



King David wrote,

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

Being continually led by the Holy Spirit is a great key to seeing all that God has planned for our life coming to pass and always being at the right place at the right time. IT ALSO HELPS US TO AVOID A LOT OF FRUSTRATION AND WASTED TIME IN LIFE that results from making poor choices



Jesus Himself said,

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

6) Having regular times of intimate fellowship with the Lord is a great key to being continually refreshed and strengthened in our Christian Walk.

- Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. We all need to be continually refreshed in the LORD



- Jesus Himself regularly withdrew to solitary places to pray to His Father in Heaven.

In the gospel of Luke we read, “So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” (Luke 5:16)

Jesus emphasised the importance of spending time in His presence. In the gospel of Luke we read,

“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)**



7) The importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit - We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to do all that God calls us to do in life – Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit to fulfil His ministry here on earth



In the book of Acts we read,

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”

(Ephesians 5:18)

**BE
FILLED
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT**



“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)**

8) The power of prayer

(Prayer less people are powerless)



- When we involve God in our plans we consistently see breakthroughs and open doors of opportunity.
Prayer helps us to be God dependent
- **The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)**

- Prayer is crucial to seeing God's plan for our life coming to pass



- Prayer helps to involve God in our circumstances and opens up the way for Him to perform miracles in and through our life



Jesus Himself 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)**