

FAMILY CAMP – MOUNT EVELYN

Introductory KEY Thought:

It is so important that we continually maintain our passion for Jesus Christ in the times that we are now living in. It is closing time

In the book of Daniel we read,

“... but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” **(Daniel 11:32)**

As I prayed about this weekend, I really sensed the Lord put upon my heart to encourage everyone to NOT limit what God wants to do in and through your lives in the coming days. A SEASON FOR HARVESTING LOST SOULS

I want to begin session two with three important truths in relation to the times that we are now living in (Given that the theme of this camp is walking in truth):

1) The importance of remaining strong in our own Christian walk in the ungodly times that we are now living in

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

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

2) That we are saved for a God given purpose in 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)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

(2 Corinthians 5:18-20) And

3) That only Jesus Christ can truly satisfy us and give us a life of great purpose and meaning if we are prepared to fully surrender our lives to Him

Jesus Himself 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)**

Session 2)

Some barriers or hindrances to growing in our spiritual walk

I want to first begin by sharing the great potential that every believer has if they are prepared to live a life that is fully surrendered to Jesus Christ

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)

The LORD said to the Prophet Jeremiah,

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

I will now look at some Barriers or hindrances to spiritual growth

(What are some of the things that can prevent us from realising our full potential in Christ and making a great difference in this world for eternity)

1) Not cultivating intimacy in our Christian walk

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)

- To continually grow in Christlike character, we need to maintain ongoing intimate fellowship with the Lord
- We are now living in a world full of distractions, with in particular the smart phone being such a great hindrance to so many people spending quality time with the Lord
- Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in and because life is becoming more and more challenging for so many people, spending quality time each day with the Lord is crucial to maintaining our peace and perspective for life
- Daily we need God’s guidance to do life well and to remain connected to His will and plan for our lives

In the gospel of Luke, we see the importance of making our relationship with the Lord our greatest priority in life,

“Now it happened as they went that He (that is Jesus) 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.” **(Luke 10:38-39)**

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 10:40-42)

- **Like Martha, if we fail to spend quality time with the Lord, we will be more prone to becoming troubled and frustrated about many things in life**
- **Starting the day with the Lord is such a great key to seeing our day run smoothly as we gain His perspective for our day and are filled with His joy and peace**

2) Having wrong influences in our inner circle of friends. People who are materialistically minded

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

- One pastor said, “Show me your friends and I will show you your future.”
- We become like the company that we keep
- Having friends who are more focused on the temporal things of this life rather than the eternal things can be subtle influences that can draw our hearts away from a whole hearted commitment to Christ
- It is so important that we have people of godly character and vision in our inner circle of friends who will encourage us to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ

3) Not being able to win the battle for the mind

- THE REAL BATTLE IS FOR THE MIND
- The Devil will continually try and take our focus off the bigness of God onto our problems and circumstances
- These fiery darts of the enemy are designed to distract and discourage us from living wholeheartedly for the Lord
- We must learn to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive
- LEARNING TO LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME IS SUCH A GREAT KEY TO WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND
- God will always give us the grace to handle today's problems

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” **(Matthew 6:34)**

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)**

4) Being overly concerned about what others think and living our lives to receive recognition from others (Keeping up with the Jones') Jesus Himself made Himself of no reputation. WHERE DO WE GET OUR SENSE OF SELF WORTH FROM?

- Being overly concerned about what others think can also be a barrier to growing in our spiritual walk

- It is so important that our sense of self-worth always comes from being part of God's family and who we are in Christ
- Peer group pressure and the expectations of others can subtly draw us away from God's will and plan for our lives if we are not careful
- As Christians we are meant to be in the world but not of it
- True purpose and meaning in life and living a life of fruitfulness can only be found in continually pursuing the will of God for our lives

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

- It is so important that we are always more concerned about pleasing God with our lives than receiving acceptance and recognition from others
- We will always be the most fulfilled in life being the best at what God has called us to do in life

5) Not building our life on the word of God

- In my recent missions trip the Lord spoke clearly to me how important it is in the times that we are now living in, that all Christians get back to building their lives on the word of God

In the book of Habakkuk we read,

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

- In a world full of secular and ungodly values it is so important that we continually make time to meditate on the word of God and to build our lives on the wisdom and promises contained in His word

Jesus Himself said,

“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)**

Jesus also 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)**

- Getting too busy to spend quality time in God’s word will weaken our faith and make us more prone to embracing wrong mindsets in a world that has so many voices speaking into the lives of people
- IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL CHRISTIANS SIMPLY GET BACK TO BUILDING THEIR LIVES ON THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF THE WORD OF GOD
- We must simply make spending quality time in God’s word a great priority in our lives given the lawless times that we are now living in

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)**

6) Continually worrying about things and not trusting the Lord in every area of our lives. We need to learn to instinctively give our problems to the Lord in prayer

- FEAR IS THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH
- Worrying about things is simply not trusting God with our lives and future
- We need to learn to continually CHOOSE to cast our cares to the Lord in prayer

- NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

The Apostle Peter wrote, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” **(1 Peter 5:7)**

- Continually focusing on the cares of the world will negatively affect our walk with the Lord and steal our spiritual vitality

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 4:18-20)**

- The simple fact is that worrying achieves nothing
- The bible also makes it clear that we do not have to worry about the everyday things in life

Jesus Himself 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 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**)

7) Having an inability to separate ourselves from the things of this world (That we spend our lives on pursuing the things of this world rather than investing our lives in storing up treasures in heaven)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (**Colossians 3:1-4**)

The Apostle John wrote,

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (**1 John 2:15-17**)

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)

Jesus also said,

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

- **The simple fact is that the Christian walk is always about rowing upstream against the tide of this world that would cause people to live for themselves and the temporary things of this life**
- Without a daily commitment to living wholeheartedly for the Lord, it is so easy for people to be influenced by the things of this world away from living for the things of God
- All YouTube adds are designed to get people caught up in living for the temporal things of this life, or in getting caught up with their own personal appearances
- This is why Jesus said, “... narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life ...” (Matthew 7:14)

This is why the Apostle Paul also 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)

8) Receiving wrong counsel from others

- Receiving wrong counsel from others can greatly complicate our lives and negatively affect our walk with the Lord

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)**

- So, receiving counsel from the right people is crucial to consistently making right choices in life
- The choices that we make in life will greatly determine the outcome of our life
- It is so important that the counsel we receive is always from mature Christians who have our best interests at heart
- It is so important when receiving counsel from others that it also sits right with our spirit. We must always allow the peace of God to be our umpire
- The best counsel that we can receive is from the Holy Spirit and from people who are guided by the Holy Spirit in the counsel that they give
- We must of course always reject all counsel that goes against the word of God

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)**

9) Neglecting our prayer life (Life is full of important choices. We continually need God's wisdom to do life well and to stay connected with His plan for our lives)

- **LIFE IS FULL OF IMPORTANT CHOICES**

- Wrong choices have the potential to cause us to experience great challenges in life
- God's ways are higher than our ways
- Without a lifestyle of prayer, we will invariably make more wrong choices in life

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

- Given the fact that we have a very real adversary, the Devil, who is out to destroy our lives, having a lifestyle of prayer is such a great key to consistently making right choices in life

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 simple fact is that we are not meant to do life alone, but in relationship with our Creator. He is a very present help in time of trouble**

The Psalmist wrote,

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

10) Drifting out of fellowship with other believers

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)**

- The simple fact is that we cannot do the Christian walk alone
- Our God given destiny will always be outworked in connection with other believers
- Especially given the challenging and lawless times that we are now living in, we need the ongoing encouragement and accountability that comes from being planted in a local church fellowship

The Apostle John wrote, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” **(1 John 1:7)**

- Out of fellowship it is easy to quickly lose our fire and passion for the things of God
- Especially given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, being planted in a local church fellowship is crucial

And

11) Not being prepared to live sacrificially for the Lord

Jesus Himself said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

Jesus Himself also said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” **(Luke 9:23-24)**

SO, IN CONCLUSION:

- **At a time when so many people are looking for genuine hope, what a time now to make ourselves fully available for the Cause of Christ by allowing Him to be truly sovereign in our lives and plans in the days to come**

I will now finish by again quickly recapping the things that can be barriers and hindrances to us growing in our spiritual walk

- 1) Not cultivating intimacy in our Christian walk**
- 2) Having wrong influences in our inner circle of friends. People who are materialistically minded**
- 3) Not being able to win the battle for the mind**
- 4) Being overly concerned about what others think and living our lives to receive recognition from others (Keeping up with the Jones')**

- 5)** Not building our life on the word of God
- 6)** Continually worrying about things and not trusting the Lord in every area of our lives
- 7)** Having an inability to separate ourselves from the things of this world (That we spend our lives on pursuing the things of this world rather than investing our lives in storing up treasures in heaven)
- 8)** Receiving wrong counsel from others
- 9)** Neglecting our prayer life (Life is full of important choices. We continually need God's wisdom to do life well and to stay connected with His plan for our lives)
- 10)** Drifting out of fellowship with other believers, AND
- 11)** Not being prepared to live sacrificially for the Lord

Session 3)

Keys to walking in truth and victory as believers

EVERY BELIEVER HAS AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY

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)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”
(2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

So how do we fully embrace all that God has planned for our lives at a time when Jesus said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12)

1) We need to build our life on the foundation of the word of God. The truth will set us free (It is time to get back to building our lives on the word of God)

- It is so important that we continually seek to grow in Christlike character by living a life of simple obedience to God’s word

- **Character is a key to promotion in God's Kingdom and to finishing our Christian walk well**
- It is so important in the times that we are now living in that we remain steadfast in our faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” **(Hebrews 12:1)**

- Just before I left India the Holy Spirit spoke clearly to me that we must all get back to the bible and the importance of grounding our lives on the word of God

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)**

- In a world full of deception and worldly philosophies it is so important that we allow the word of God to shape our thinking

In the book of Hosea we read, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” **(Hosea 4:6)**

- **For this reason, consistently meditating on the word of God is crucial to building our lives on a firm foundation**
- Spending quality time in God's word helps to protect us against the lies and deception in our world

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)**

- **God's word is God's wisdom for doing life well**
- **For some people we may be the only bible that they read**
- For this reason, we need to allow Christ to be formed in our life as we spend time meditating on the word of God
- It is so important that we continually feed our spirit with the word of God
- Just as in the natural we could not remain physically healthy and strong on just one meal a week, so too, we cannot remain spiritually strong and healthy on just one message a week from the word of God
- As believers it is so important that we develop our own personal devotional life and continually feed upon the word of God so that our faith is continually built up

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)**

- **Consistently meditating on God’s word is a great key to having our faith continually built up.**

If we are continually built up in our faith we will;

- i. Be more able to handle all the storms and challenges that come our way in life, and
- ii. We will be prepared to take steps of faith and do new things as the Lord opens up new doors of opportunity for us in the days to come

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

- **God is also more concerned about our character being right, than what we do for Him**
- **Consistently meditating on and applying the word of God to our lives is a great key to growing in Christlike character**
- The way that we live our life will always have the greatest impact on the lives of others, especially our children and grandchildren

- Spending quality time in God’s word also helps to prepare us for the assignments that God has planned for our life

The Apostle Paul also 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)

- **Consistently spending quality time in God’s word helps us to grow in Christlike character and to be equipped for the ministry that God has called us to**
- **AGAIN, EVERY BELIEVER HAS AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY**
- God always has fresh revelation for us when we spend time in His word. We need to always read God’s word with an expectation that He will speak to us through His word
- God will give us guidance and direction through His word as the Holy Spirit highlights particular passages of Scripture that are relevant to our lives and circumstances
- We continually need God’s wisdom and guidance to do life well

In the book of Psalms we read,

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

- It is in both hearing and applying the word of God to our lives, that we can build our lives on a firm foundation

- Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in, spending time in God's word and applying the wisdom in His word to our lives, will help us to live an overcoming and victorious Christian life even in the challenging times that we are now living in
- The bible is also full of many promises for all believers that we can build our life on
- The key however is that we are both hearers and doers of God's word
- **Especially given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, how important it is that we build our lives on the foundation of the word of God in the lawless times that we are now living in**

Jesus Himself said,

“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)

2) WE NEED TO MAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST OUR GREATEST PRIORITY IN LIFE (The importance of cultivating intimacy in our walk with the Lord and that we have a lifestyle of prayer. That Jesus Christ truly is our best friend. This is a great key to having stability in our lives)

- IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUALLY MAKE TIME TO SPEND TIME WITH THE LORD ALONE
- Without this commitment it is easy to get too busy in life to spend quality time alone with the LORD
- It is also good to have a special place where you meet with the Lord. For me it is in my van at a nearby park

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)

- **When we spend quality time with the LORD, we gain His heart for people and a clearer understanding of His will for our life**

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

- **Our love for Christ must always be our greatest priority in life**

Jesus Himself 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)

- It is in the secret place alone with God that we grow in our love for Him
- It is our love for Christ that will keep us strong during the trials and challenges that we all experience in life

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)**

- **The Apostle Paul experienced much persecution for his faith during his time here on earth**

However, because of his incredible love for Christ, he was able to write from within the confines of a prison cell,
“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.”
(Philippians 4:4)

- **For this reason, we must never get too busy so that we do not spend quality time at the feet of Jesus**
- **LIFE IS ALSO FULL OF IMPORTANT CHOICES**
- In a world full of temptations and deception how important it is that we have a lifestyle of prayer and continually seek God for His wisdom when making choices in life
- **God always knows what is best for us and has our best interests at heart**

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

3) The importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and being continually guided by the Holy Spirit (The Spirit of Truth) in all that we do.

- Jesus Himself depended upon the Holy Spirit during 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)

- **LIVING A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE IS SUCH A GREAT KEY TO WALKING IN TRUTH AND TO LIVING AN OVERCOMING AND VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE**

This is why 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 Apostle Paul also 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. 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 3:17-20)

- **IN A WORLD FULL OF DECEPTION HOW WE NEED TO BE CONTINUALLY GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IN ALL THAT WE DO IN LIFE**

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)**

- **BEING CONTINUALLY GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GREAT KEY TO BEING ALWAYS AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME DOING THE RIGHT THING**

- As we give out to others it is so important that we are always continually filled afresh by the Holy Spirit ourselves
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit also helps us to consistently walk in the Spirit which is a great key to living an overcoming and victorious Christian life

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” **(Galatians 5:14-15)**

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” **(Galatians 5:16)**

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit helps us to consistently live our life under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit so that we reflect the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. **THIS IS SUCH A GREAT KEY TO ENHANCING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)**

- It is in being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and walking in the Spirit, that we can enjoy healthy relationships with others, which is a great key to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10
- **IT IS ALSO SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ALLOW THE PEACE OF GOD TO BE OUR UMPIRE WHEN MAKING DECISIONS IN LIFE**
- **Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit helps to give us greater sensitivity as to what is right and what is wrong when making decisions in life**
- Being baptised in the Holy Spirit and continually filled with the Holy Spirit is also such a great key to being effective in sharing our faith with others

Jesus Himself said,

“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)**

4) Keeping short accounts with God and others. Being continually quick to repent of any known sin in our lives and being quick to forgive those who hurt us (We will have many opportunities to forgive others)

In the book of Hebrews we read, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**

- **We must simply choose to be quick to always repent of any known sin in our lives so that we can maintain a soft and sensitive conscience**

The Apostle John wrote,

“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)**

- Having a repentant heart is also a great key to maintaining an open pipeline of communication with God and to hearing His voice clearly

The Psalmist wrote, “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 66:18-19)**

- **We will have many opportunities to forgive others who hurt us or mistreat us**

Jesus Himself said,

“It is impossible that no offenses should come....” **(Luke 17:1)**

- **The simple fact is that we are all imperfect beings and we will all at times not intentionally hurt others. SO HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE ARE ALWAYS QUICK TO FORGIVE OTHERS WHO HURT US**

Jesus also said in relation to the times that we are now living in, “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” **(Matthew 24:10-11)**

- **We must simply choose to not take on offences by being always quick to forgive those who hurt or betray us**

Jesus also emphasized the importance of always forgiving others when He 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)

5) Being disciplined in what we allow into our ear and eye gates

- Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in it is crucial that we are disciplined in what we allow into our ear and eye gates
- With the smart phone now containing so much content and because it is continually in reach of people, there are now so many opportunities for people to look at things that can negatively affect their walk with the Lord
- **What we focus on will eventually affect our ability to remain strong in our walk with the Lord**

In the book of James we read, “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)**

- **For this reason, it is so important that we maintain a right heart by being careful about what we allow into our ear and eye gates**

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)

The Apostle Paul gave us great counsel on what we should meditate on as believers,

“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)**

6) Continually surrounding ourselves with the right friends

- **One well known pastor said, “Show me your friends and I will show you your future.”**
- Who we allow into our inner circle of friends will greatly determine the outcome of our lives and our ability to fulfil God’s destiny for our lives
- Being part of a healthy bible-based church helps us to connect with the right people in our lives

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)

- **WE ALL NEED THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT THAT COMES FROM FELLOWSHIPING WITH OTHER MATURE CHRISTIANS**
- **On the other hand, allowing wrong people into our inner circle of friends will negatively affect our lives and ability to live whole heartedly for Christ**
- The Holy Spirit will always caution us when wrong people are trying to enter into our inner circle of friends
- It is always wise to heed this cautioning before problems begin to arise

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

“A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.” **(Proverbs 16:28)**

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

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

- **CHOOSING RIGHT FRIENDS IS THEREFORE CRUCIAL TO SEEING ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIVES COMING TO PASS**
- It is so important that we always have people of godly character and who are passionate for the things of God in our inner circle of friends

7) Continually committing our plans to the Lord and involving God in all that we do (Not my will, but Thy will be done) and having the courage to take steps of faith

- This needs to be a continual daily choice

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

- God’s plan for our life is so much greater than our plan for our life AND will require us to face and overcome our fears to see all that He has planned for our lives come to pass

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)**

- As we continually choose to commit our plans to the Lord we can be assured that all that He has planned for our life will come to pass
- I really sensed to encourage everyone today to have the COURAGE to take STEPS OF FAITH as the Lord directs in 2026
- PERSONALLY, I HAD TO OVERCOME THE FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING IN 1999. A fear that had gripped me for years
- Like Jesus we need to be simply committed to following God’s will for our life

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

Jesus Himself also said,

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” **(Luke 9:23-24)**

- Without a clear-cut commitment to living wholeheartedly for the Lord, it is so much easier to simply drift off track in our walk with the Lord when faced with discouragement, or opposition for our faith, or through the distractions of life
- **WE MUST SIMPLY BE COMMITTED TO CONTINUALLY TRUSTING GOD AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO ALLOWING HIM TO BE SOVEREIGN IN ALL OF OUR PLANS**

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)**

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord.” **(Jeremiah 17:7)**

King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” **(Psalm 37:3-5)**

8) Maintaining integrity in all of our relationships. It is so important that we value all of our significant relationships

I will just share a few thoughts in relation to maintaining healthy relationships with others:

- i. We need to always look for the good in others rather than focusing on the faults in others (The Devil will always magnify the faults in others)
 - ii. We need to be good forgivers (We all make mistakes in life)
 - iii. The importance of openly appreciating the people in our lives and looking for opportunities to encourage others
 - iv. We need to be thankful when others do things for us. It is so important that we do not take people for granted and always acknowledge what others do for us, and
 - v. It is so important that we have an understanding of other people's love languages and what makes them feel loved and appreciated. Dr Gary Chapman shared that there are five basic love languages:
 - Words of Affirmation
 - Quality Time
 - Physical Touch
 - Acts of Service, and
 - Receiving Gifts
- **Having healthy relationships is one of the keys to enjoying the abundant life that Jesus spoke of**
 - **ESPECIALLY given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers how important it is that we maintain STABILITY in our significant relationships and in particular our family members, AND**

9) FINALLY, and most importantly, being continually committed to following God's will and plan for our life and to living a crucified life. No longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me

- **God has a unique destiny and plan for EVERY believer's life that begins the moment they come to Christ**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

- **God never looks at our ABILITY, only our AVAILABILITY**
- **Are we prepared to break open our lives fully for Him**
- **Without a commitment to doing so, the things of this world will invariably pull us away from fulfilling our God given assignment here on earth**
- **With a world in need of genuine hope, what a time now to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ and to flow in His will and plan for our lives**

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

In the book of Isaiah, we read the words of the prophet Isaiah,

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

“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

(Isaiah 6:8)

How we too like the prophet Isaiah need to respond to God’s call upon our lives by also saying, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

GROUP DISCUSSION SESSION

THEME: Walking in Truth

I will begin with the words of the Apostle Paul,

“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 to the young pastor Timothy,

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

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**

“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” **(Hebrews 5:13-14)**

- **HOW IMPORTANT IT IS IN THE TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THAT WE CONTINUALLY HAVE A COMMITMENT TO WALKING IN TRUTH**
- In this session we will have the opportunity to examine our hearts as we look at a number of things to consider in relation to walking in truth
- The whole purpose of this session is to give us the opportunity for BOTH honest reflection ourselves and to offer mutual encouragement to one another (which is best in small groups)

- Before we commence this time of reflection and our small group discussions, I will look at the words of King David who was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart.

King David wrote in Psalm 139,

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.”

(Psalm 139:23-24)

Following are some prompts to help you in relation to opening up some dialogue in relation to walking in truth:

- Where is self-deception easiest for us at this stage of life?
- What are some of the doorways that can cause deception to enter into our lives?
 - Refusing to forgive people
 - Disobedience to God's word
 - Ignoring the promptings and conviction of the Holy Spirit
 - Having an independent and unteachable spirit
 - Having the wrong influences in our life
- What voices most compete with God's truth?
- What practices help us remain spiritually alert and discerning so that we can continually walk in truth?
- How can we encourage one another to walk in truth?

- What are the greatest challenges to walking in truth?
- Do I have godly mentors speaking into my life?
- Do I spend enough time in God's word to allow it to bring transformation to my way of living and thinking?

Sunday Morning

Message: Living our lives with eternity in mind