

FINISHING OUR CHRISTIAN WALK WELL



- The most important thing is that we finish our Christian walk well.

Towards the end of his time here on earth the Apostle Paul wrote,

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

- Being a good finisher is also crucial to succeeding in every aspect of our life and in accomplishing all that God has called us to do during our time here on earth. God has a unique unfolding plan 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)

- It is always easy to start something but it takes discipline and commitment and integrity to continually finish things well.
- Particularly in our important relationships it takes commitment and integrity (loyalty) to see them continually flourish and last the distance. Our life is greatly enriched when we have good and lasting friendships.
- God is more concerned about our character than what we achieve. Our greatest witness is the life that we live. That people can depend on us.
- It is as we are faithful in completing the little tasks that God assigns to us, that God then begins to entrust to us greater responsibilities. Jesus emphasised this principle in the Parable of the Talents. (We can see this in Matthew 25:14-23)
- The bible makes it clear that we need to let our yes be yes and our no, no. That people can depend on us when we make commitments to do things for them.

- Jesus Himself said,
“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.” (**Matthew 5:37**)

- As pastors and leaders we have the potential to influence many people. So for this reason we will be judged more strictly when we appear before the Lord to give an account of our life here on earth and to receive our rewards from Him for our life here on earth.

In the book of James we read,

“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” (**James 3:1**)

- For this reason it is important that we finish well in our ministry callings. That we do not compromise and make poor choices at the end of our life that discredits all that we have done for God’s Kingdom

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (**1 Corinthians 9:27**)

- Like Billy Graham we want to finish our ministry assignment here on earth well.

- A great key to experiencing true fulfilment in life is to complete things. To see the final outcome of all of our efforts.

- People that continually give up on things will never really experience the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of, nor fulfil their God given destiny.

- Jesus Himself finished the work that His Father gave Him to do in His time here on earth.

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

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

Near the end of His time on earth Jesus prayed to His Father, “I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” (**John 17:4**)

- Because of Jesus' commitment to fulfilling all that His Father gave Him to do in His time here on earth and to laying down His life as a ransom on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, we now as believers have eternal life.

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“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**)

- For the rest of this teaching I will be focusing on the importance of finishing our Christian walk well.
- Our faith is the most precious thing that we have and it is eternal.

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.

Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. (**1 Peter 1:3-9**)

- We are now living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about in 2 Timothy.

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**)

- Jesus also made it clear that in the increasingly lawless days that we are now living in, that the love of many would grow cold

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 24:12-13**)

- The Apostle Paul also wrote that in the times that we are now living in that some would even depart from the faith because of deception

(See 1 Timothy 4:1)

- Given all of these warnings in the bible regarding the times that we are now living in, I will now be sharing in this teaching some Christian keys and disciplines that can help us to finish our walk with the Lord well and to keep us always ready and prepared for the imminent rapture of all true believers. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

This event will precede the great tribulation and then second coming of Jesus Christ back to earth.

So how can we finish our Christian walk well!

1) We must not continually accumulate emotional baggage if we are to remain strong in our walk with the Lord.

- We will have plenty of opportunities to be hurt in our Christian walk. We have a very real adversary, the Devil, who will continually try and get us offended both with others and with God.
- The Devil will do all that He can to destroy our faith if we let him. He does this best by getting believers, and particularly new believers offended with other Christians to drive them out of fellowship.

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**)

- Jesus warned that many would be offended in the last days and end up having a hatred for others.

Jesus Himself 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)

- We must THEREFORE be always quick to forgive others that have hurt us and refuse to take on critical and judgmental attitudes. This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of being quick to forgive others.

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)

- The Devil is always good at pointing out the flaws in others. This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of not judging others.

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)**

- It is important that we continually keep short accounts with others and are always quick to forgive others. We must also always look for the best in others. In doing this we will continually maintain a sweet spirit and enjoy ongoing intimacy in our own walk with the LORD.
- We must simply refuse at all times to take on emotional baggage by harbouring offences and critical and judgemental attitudes towards others. This is a great key to continually remaining strong in our walk with the LORD

2) We must continually keep our focus on the eternal things.

- 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.” (**Colossians 3:1-2**)

- As believers we are to be in this world but not of it. That we do not live our life earth bound where we try and get our fulfilment from the things of this world. As Christians our citizenship is in heaven.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (**Philippians 3:20-21**)

- We will only ever as Christians be truly satisfied from above as we maintain an intimate relationship with the Lord and live for the Kingdom Cause.
- There are many distractions in this world that can pull the hearts of believers away from the things of God.
- Jesus Himself made this very clear in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower.

Jesus Himself 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.” (**Mark 4:18-19**)

Jesus also 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**)

“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**)

- As Christians we need to daily commit our plans to the LORD so that His will for our life continues to unfold.
- We need to continually live our lives with eternity in mind knowing that one day we will be standing before the Lord to give an account of our life here on earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (**2 Corinthians 5:9-10**)

- The simple fact is that we come into this world with nothing and are lowered into the ground in weakness taking nothing with us at the end of our time here on earth.
- It is only what we have done for the Kingdom Cause that will remain at the end of our life here on earth. That one day Jesus will reward us for what we have done here on earth for His Kingdom

Jesus Himself said,

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (**Matthew 16:27**)

- With this in mind we need to be continually focused on fully investing our life in what God has called us to do and that we flow in God’s unique plan for our life, the “... good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- Given the relatively short time that we have in this life here on earth to store up treasures in heaven, it is crucial that we continually keep our focus on things above.

3) The importance of continually having a clear God given vision for our life

- When people do not have a clear God given focus for their life, they are more likely to squander much of their time on social activities and engagements and in chasing more money to acquire more material things, as they try and seek fulfilment from the things of this world rather than being satisfied from above.

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

- Whilst we are alive on this earth the Devil will continually endeavour to get our focus back on the things of this world to prevent us from becoming all that God has planned for lives.
- Having a clear God given vision for our life and ministry helps us to be more focused and disciplined in our walk with the Lord.
- Having a clear God given focus for our life is a great key to using our time wisely and bearing much fruit in our life and helps us to continually remain in the will of *God for our life*.

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)**

The LORD said to the Prophet Habakkuk,

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

- Having a clear God given vision and focus for our life helps us to remain strong and focused during the winter seasons of our life when nothing seems to be happening in our life or ministry.

- God promises however that what He has planned for our life will come to pass in due time. "Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2:3)
- Having a clear understanding of God's will for our life in each season of our life is therefore a great key to bearing much fruit in our life and to finishing our Christian walk well

4) **We need to be continually committed to using our spiritual gifts and to operating in our own unique God given calling**

- As Christians we have been saved for a unique plan and purpose for our lives. We as believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation and have a unique God given blueprint for our lives.
- We can see this clearly in the following two passages of Scripture.

The Apostle Paul 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)**

The Apostle Paul also 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)**

- We are must fulfilled being who God called us to be. It is as we flow in our own unique gifts and calling out of our love for Jesus Christ and actively share our faith with others, that we experience true fulfilment in life. Jesus Himself said, "... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." **(John 10:10)**
- It is in fully utilising our gifts and talents for the cause of Christ and in helping others to come to Christ, that we experience great purpose and meaning in our Christian walk. We were saved for a purpose.

- Jesus Himself said,
“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)
- What energised and motivated Jesus during His time here on earth was His commitment to fulfilling His Father’s plan for His life here on earth out of His great love for humanity. (Matthew 9:36)
- So too in our own lives, what will give us continual meaning and purpose in our life as believers will be to flow in our own unique God given gifts and calling as we seek to reach out to others with the love of Christ.
- It is when Christians stop focusing on what God has called them to do in life that they are more likely to be sidetracked by the things of this world and lose their passion for the things of God.
- We see a clear example of this with King David who made several wrong choices when he came off the front line of battle and neglected his duties and responsibilities as King of Israel. (2 Samuel 11:1)
- As a result of not being with his men on the battle field and now having much idle time, King David ended up having an affair with Bathsheba before then having her husband Uriah killed on the front line of battle to cover up things. (2 Samuel 11:2-26)
- As a result of these wrong choices King David experienced much grief and challenges over the remainder of his life with even his own son Absalom being killed as he conspired to overthrow King David and to become King of Israel himself. The sword was never to depart from King David’s house. (2 Samuel 12:9-12)
- When you look at the great men and women of God like Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Reinherd Bonke, Marilyn Hickey and Joyce Myer, they have all fully invested their lives in using their spiritual gifts to be a great blessing to many others. They have all remained strong and fervent in their walk with the Lord.

- As Pastors and leaders we need to be actively encouraging all believers to use their spiritual gifts so that they will be both a great blessing to the wider body of Christ and personally experience the joy and purpose that comes from living wholeheartedly for the Lord.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)**

5) We need to continually CHOOSE our friends wisely. We need to have people in our life who love God and who have a heart for the things of God

- Godly friends will help us to grow in our faith. The people that we associate with will greatly determine the degree to which we wholeheartedly live for the Lord.
- For this reason the enemy will continually try and bring across our path friends that will draw us away from having a wholehearted commitment to living for the LORD.
- Every committed Christian has the potential to make a great difference in this world for eternity.
- God has so much planned for our Christian walk. With this in mind we need to be continually selective in the choice of our significant friends. We need to always ask ourselves whether the friends that we have in our life are adding value to our lives or dragging us away from God’s best plan for our lives
- The bible says much about the importance of choosing our friends wisely.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” **(1 Corinthians 15:33)**

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)**

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

“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)**

- Our choice of friends will greatly determine the outcome of our lives. So may I encourage you to choose your friends wisely so that you can see all that God has planned for your life coming to pass!
- As believers we have so much potential to make a great difference in this world for eternity.

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)**

6) We need to be continually disciplined in our thought life and in the lifestyle choices that we make.

- We must refuse to allow the things of this world to draw our affections away from the Lord
- The real battle ground is the mind. What we allow to remain in our mind will greatly determine the way that we live our lives and the choices that we make in life
- The enemy will continually put wrong and ungodly thoughts in our mind to get our focus off the things of the Kingdom.
- The enemy will also sow thoughts of discouragement and condemnation into our mind to try and steal our joy and peace and to stop us from wholeheartedly living for the LORD

- It is crucial that we learn to immediately take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive and to replace them with Christ centred thoughts

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)**

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote**, “Sow a thought and you reap an action: Sow an act and you reap a habit; Sow a habit and you reap a character; Sow a character and you reap a destiny”

- Continually winning the battle for the mind is a key to remaining strong in our faith and to accomplishing God’s destiny for our life

- **What we focus on will greatly determine our lifestyle choices.** The Apostle Paul made it clear what we should focus on as believers.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)**

- Being continually disciplined in our lifestyle choices helps us to remain in the centre of God’s will for our life and to avoid much unnecessary heartache and pain

- Continually persevering in ungodly lifestyle choices will also greatly undermine our faith and take us away from the best that God has planned for our life

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)**

7) We must be always quick to heed the cautioning of the Holy Spirit.

- When we do not feel right in our spirit about a course of action, we must never go against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit as there will invariably always be negative consequences if we pursue that course of action
- In the book of Acts we see an example of what happens when the cautioning of the Holy Spirit is ignored

“Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.”

“Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbour of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.

When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.” (Acts 27:9-14)

Shipwrecked on Malta

“When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.” (Acts 27:39-41)

- In the above passage of Scripture we see that the Apostle Paul was being cautioned by the Holy Spirit that the ship should not sail off from the harbour and that if it did, it would be shipwrecked
- In the above passage of Scripture we can also see that at times even the majority can be wrong and that the conditions may even appear to be confirming our course of action in life, (the south wind blew softly), but if we go against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit there will always invariably be consequences.

- The Devil loves to shipwreck the lives of believers and to rob them of God's best. For this reason we need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and never ignore the cautioning of the Holy Spirit when we are about to make particularly major decisions in life

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit. We see this in the gospel of John.

Jesus said to His disciples,

“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)**

- Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit is therefore a great key to realising our full potential in Christ and to finishing our Christian walk well.

8) We need to be continually planted in a loving and healthy bible based church fellowship

- The spirit of the world is getting stronger and stronger. With the internet and an ever increasing number of TV channels, there are so many avenues now for the values of the world to be also imparted into the lives of believers.
- With increased opposition now towards Christianity in all the nations of the world, more than ever before we need the support of other Christians if we are to remain strong in our walk with the Lord.
- When we look at the times that we are now living in, we can see why Jesus prophesied that in the days that we are now living just prior to the rapture and then second coming of the Lord, that the love of many would grow cold

- Having fellowship with other believers is therefore more crucial than ever if we are to finish well in our walk with the Lord.

This is why the writer of the book of Hebrew wrote,

“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)**

- There is also a cleansing affect when we meet together with other believers.
- When we have fellowship with other believers we are accountable both towards God and to other believers which helps us not to drift off track in our walk with the Lord.

Jesus Himself said,

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” **(Matthew 18:20)**

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)**

- It is within the context of having fellowship with other loving mature believers that we can also receive wise counsel when making important decisions in our life and ministry.
- Life is full of choices. Gaining wisdom and counsel from other believers helps us to make right choices in life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” **(Proverbs 11:14)**

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” **(Proverbs 15:22)**

9) We need to live a life of ongoing obedience to the will of God for our life. This is a great key to maintaining a soft and sensitive conscience

- It is so important that we continually walk in obedience to the Lord. Every time we disregard the promptings of the Holy Spirit and reject God's will in matters, we begin to desensitize our conscience so that we find it harder the next time to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit
- Ongoing obedience to the will of God for our life is also the key to experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” **(Isaiah 1:19)**

- Having a lifestyle of constant obedience to the Lord is the key to;
 - i) Continually staying in the will of God for our life
 - ii) To continually making good choices in life so that we avoid much pain and suffering
 - iii) To seeing God's continual provision of our every need in life
 - iv) To enjoying the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of
 - v) To making the greatest eternal difference in the lives of others
 - vi) To receiving eternal rewards in heaven as we faithfully follow God's plan for our life, and
 - vii) TO FINISHING OUR CHRISTIAN WALK WELL
- God has so much in store for each of our lives, both in the here and now and in the future when we go to be with the Lord forever.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.**” **(Ephesians 2:4-7)**

- It is in living a life of simple trust and obedience to the will of God for our life, that we will experience the fullness of life that God has planned for each of our lives and finish our walk with the Lord well.

10) We need to continually make time to meditate on the truth contained in the word of God.

- Being both hearers and doers of God's word is a great key to remaining strong in our faith in the lawless times that we are now living in
- In a world full of lies and deception, staying grounded in the word of God will help us to continually build our lives on a firm foundation
- It is crucial that we do not allow the values and mindsets of those in the world to influence the way that we live our lives

This is why 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**)

- True freedom in Christ can only come from living a life in obedience to the word of God. Basing our lives on the word of God will give us great stability in life and help us to keep our lives uncomplicated.

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**)

- It is in the continual hearing and doing of God's Word that our lives are built on a firm foundation.

Jesus made this clear when He 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**)

- When we build our lives on the Word of God we can also appropriate for our own lives the promise of God that is found in chapter one of the book of Joshua.

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)

11) That we continually make time to seek the face of God to hear from Him.

- Spending time alone in prayer with the LORD is a great key to remaining strong in our faith. In a world full of temptations and distractions we need to continually hear from God to make right choices in life.
- God’s ways are higher than our ways. So it is important that we regularly make time to hear from the LORD so that we can remain on course with what He has planned for our life and avoid the potential pitfalls that the enemy would like to put in our path.
- More than ever before we need to be in continual intimate fellowship with the Lord so that we can know God’s will for our life in every area of our life.
- With many voices in this world expressing things that are contrary to the ways of God, how important it is that we continually make time to hear from God.

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

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

And

12) We need to be continually filled with the right spirit; the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is crucial for all believers as we live in a world full of demonic spirits (fallen angels).

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 filled with the Holy Spirit is a great safeguard against the spirit of deception negatively affecting our walk with the Lord. This spirit is now very prevalent in the world.

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)**

- Being continually filled with all the fullness of God is crucial if we are to be continually empowered to be all that God has planned for our life and to finish our Christian walk well

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)**

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit helps us to remain strong in our faith and to be empowered to do those things that God has called us to do in our life and ministry.

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.” **(Ephesians 3:14-19)**

“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)**

- **HAVING A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP HELPS US TO BE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD. God inhabits the praises of His people.**

King David wrote,

“But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.” (**Psalm 22:3**)

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit helps to keep our faith vibrant and helps to give us the boldness that we need to live an overcoming Christian walk
- In the book of Acts we see the importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. After being baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, (Acts 2:1-4) Peter and John began to experience great persecution after the healing of the lame man in Solomon’s Porch (We see this miracle in Acts Chapter three)
- After gathering together in unity to pray together after experiencing this persecution, (Acts 4:14-21) they were again filled with the Holy Spirit. We see this in chapter four of the book of Acts. “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**)
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great key to finishing our Christian walk strongly

SO IN CONCLUSION

- More than ever before we need to be always ready for the time when all true believers will be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air. We see this event described in the book of 1 Thessalonians.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**)

- With this in mind we need to be always ready and looking for the return of the Lord so that we are prepared for the rapture.
- So given the importance of remaining strong in our faith in the time that we are now living in, it is important that we make finishing our Christian walk strongly a great priority in our life.
- More than ever before it is crucial that our greatest priority in life is our relationship with Jesus Christ and that we maintain an intimate walk with Him and allow Him to direct our steps in life. It is so crucial that our love for Jesus Christ is always greater than our love for any other person or thing. Maintaining our first love for Jesus at all times will help us to finish our Christian walk well.

King David who was a man after God's own heart 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. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” (**Psalm 63:1-7**)

- It is in having this type of love and devotion for God that King David had that will help us to finish our Christian walk strongly.

I will finish with the words of Jesus,

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (**Matthew 24:44**)