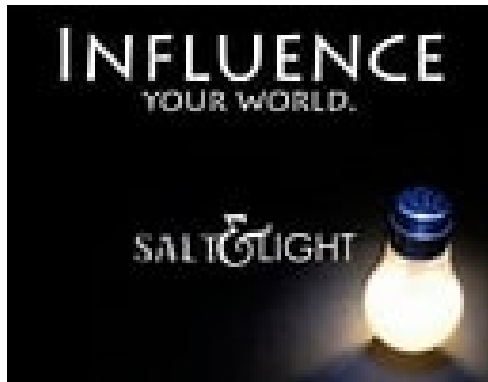


Five important keys to influencing our world as Christians



Today I want to look at five very important keys to seeing our lives impacting our world in a great way as believers

I will begin with the words of Jesus,

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.” **(Matthew 5:13-15)**



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

- I will now look at these five keys to seeing our lives as Christians making a great impact in our world, so that we can truly be salt and light as believers**



1) Building our life on a foundation of faith

- Firstly, I will begin by making it clear that our right standing with God is purely based on our faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross at Calvary



Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

BY GRACE
THROUGH FAITH

- But today I want to share about the importance of having faith in relation to fully embracing all the God has planned for our lives and future
- The bible makes it clear that as Christians we can do great things for God’s glory when our lives are fully surrendered to Jesus Christ

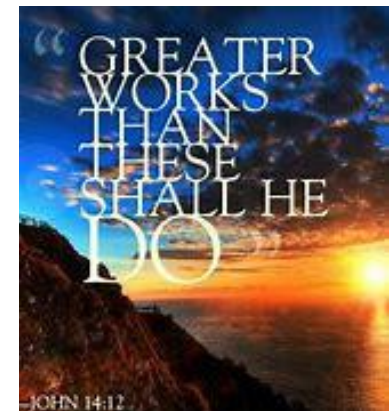
- It is so important that we never lose our pioneering spirit



- That we never grow weary while doing good
- That we never lose that sense of expectation that God is able to do great and mighty things through our lives IF our lives are FULLY surrendered to Jesus Christ

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT.” (John 14:12-14)**



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)



- I will now share some keys that can help us to build our future on a foundation of faith

- i. We need to learn to trust God at all times and in all circumstances



King David wrote,

“Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such a turn aside to lies.” (Psalm 40:4)



ii. We need to be always prepared to take steps (and even leaps) of faith as the Lord leads

- As we step out by faith to do those things that God puts on our heart to do, He then begins to move on our behalf



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

(Hebrews 11:1)

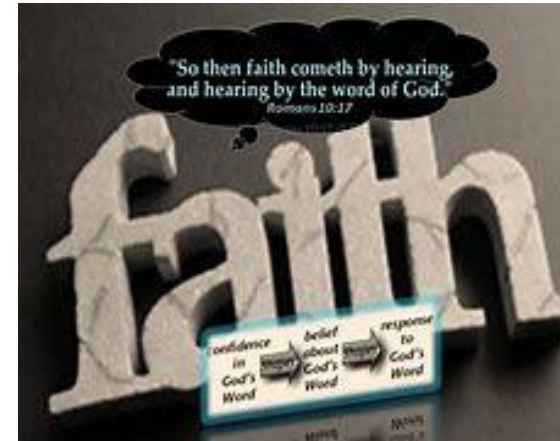
iii. We need to be continually guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do and allow Him to direct our steps in life. This is such a great key to remaining in the will of God for our lives. Where God guides, He provides



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)**

iv. It is important that we always build our future based on God's promises in His word



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)**

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

- v. It is so important that we develop faith filled thinking by consistently mediating on the word of God



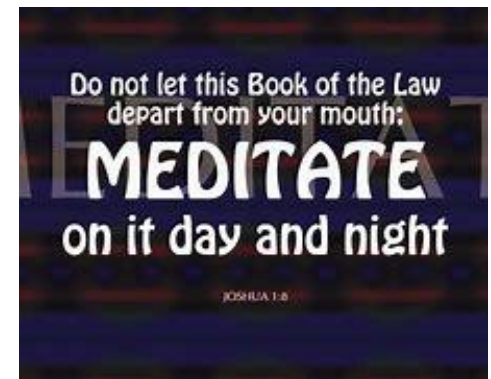
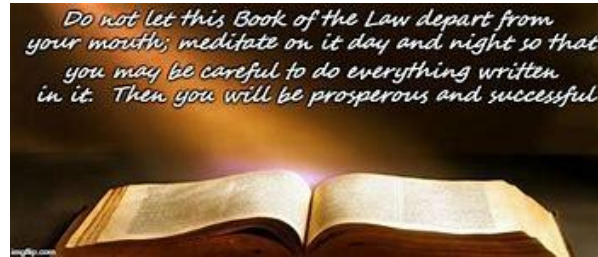
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

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

“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)



vi. We must not allow our past mistakes to
INFLUENCE OUR FUTURE decisions



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14) And

vii. We must also be careful not to focus on negative things that will undermine our faith



This is why 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)**

- In short, we need to simply be committed to trusting God at all times and just doing what Jesus tells us to do at all times



In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

2) Having a great love for ALL people

- As Christians we have the ability to love all people unconditionally



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” **(Romans 5:5)**

- **God has a great love for all people**



AGAIN, Jesus made this clear when He said,
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)**



- **As Christians it is important that people also see God’s love in our lives as we are His representatives here on earth**

- It is our sincere love for people that will open up doors to share our faith with them

**This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,
“Let love be without hypocrisy.”
(Romans 12:9a)**



**“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
(1 Corinthians 14:1)**



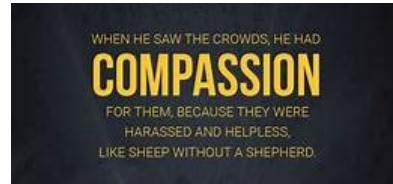
- **We need to always look for the best in others and look for opportunities to encourage people**
- We cannot have our hearts shut to people and open to God at the same time



The Apostle Peter wrote,

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

- **We are most like Christ when we genuinely love others.** Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the plight of humanity. We see this in the gospel of Matthew;



“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

- **Our greatest witness to the unsaved world is our genuine love for other believers**

Jesus made this clear when He said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

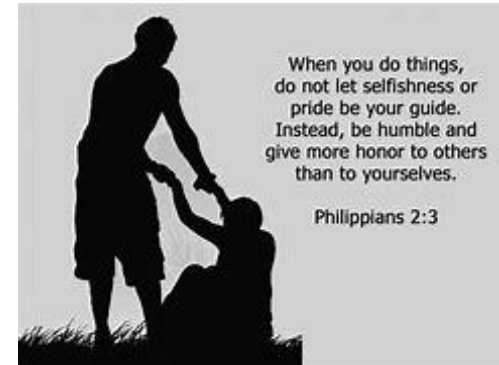


- It is so important that we continually choose to love all other people
- The Devil will always exaggerate the faults of others



- We must always be quick to take any wrong thoughts about others captive and simply choose to see the best in others. As we do the feelings will follow

- Dying to self and our own agenda and living for others enables God's love to flow through our lives to touch others



This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

(Philippians 2:3)

- **The more we love Jesus and abide in Him, the more we will love others.** This is why our love for Jesus must always be our greatest priority in life



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

- Having ongoing intimacy in our walk with the Lord is a great key to continually loving others

This is why Jesus said, “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30) “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)



- **It is our love for God that helps us to love others properly**

- **What matters to God most is that we have a genuine love for others**



- Loving others is also a great key to experiencing joy in our own lives

Jesus Himself said, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are my friends if your do whatever I command you.” **(John 15:11-14)**

3) Having unity in our relationships with other Christians

- It is our oneness with other believers that will greatly influence people to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and cause people to open up their hearts to Him




- Jesus Himself prayed that we would be one

We see this in His prayer to His Father in heaven for all believers towards the end of His time here on earth.



In this prayer Jesus prayed the following,

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” **(John 17:20-23)**

- **Unity is the key to seeing the body of Christ, (the church) making an impact in the world** 
- The early church grew rapidly. A key feature of the early church was that there was great unity amongst all believers

In the book of Acts we read, “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

- **Unity helps to see God's power being released in our meetings**



In the book of Acts we read,

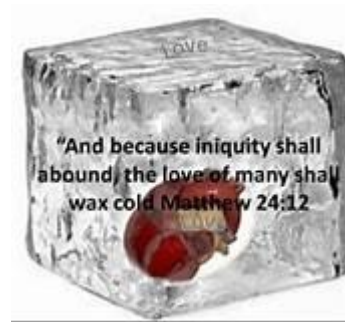
“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.” (Acts 5:12)

- **Walking in unity with other believers is also a great key to experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives and churches**



King David wrote, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing –Life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3)

- At a time when Jesus said that “many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another,” it is so important that we all individually CHOOSE to be people who seek to promote unity in our homes and church fellowships



- Dwelling together in unity with other believers helps us to stand out as Christians. People are drawn to Christ when they see genuine unity amongst believers

- It is so important that we also always consider what is best for the team in the way that we live our lives
- We are always better together



- I will now quickly share three things that we can do ourselves to help promote unity in our homes and church fellowships and workplaces

- i. That we continually esteem others better than ourselves
- ii. That we always have the mindset of not “my” will, but “Thy” will be done in our lives. As we have this mindset God will do great things through our lives as we work together as a team, and



- iii. That we spend quality time with the Lord so that we get His heart and His love for those people that we relate to in life

4) We need to continually depend on the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life

- It is so important that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit and that we depend upon His enabling power in all that we do in life and ministry in the coming days



- God's strength is made perfect in our weakness

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)

- **Jesus Himself depended upon the Holy Spirit during His ministry here on earth**



We see this in the book of Acts,

“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)

- It is so important that we continually pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint us and to empower us to accomplish those things that God puts on our heart to do in life



- It is so important that we always preach the word of God and share our faith with the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we can help to see people loosed from the kingdom of darkness in the coming days

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:3-5)**



- To fulfil all that God has planned for our lives we need to continually rely on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit



- The simply fact is that as Christians we are in a continual spiritual war in which the enemy of our soul, the Devil, will continually try and prevent us from fulfilling God's plan for our lives
- For this reason, we need to continually live our lives in God's strength and rely on His enabling power in all that we do for Him

- The early church continually operated in the power of the Holy Spirit and turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6)



In the book of Acts we read,

“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)**

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.**” (Acts 5:14-16)



- As we step out into the new season ahead it is so important that we depend upon the Holy Spirit to accomplish those things that God has planned for this season of our life and church
- How we need in the times that we are now living in, A SPIRIT FILLED REVIVAL

AND



5) The importance of having godly character



- The whole Christian walk is about becoming more like Christ

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)

- It is so important that we spend time in the word of God and allow it to bring transformation to our lives as we apply the word of God to our lives. Having character is a great key to fulfilling our God given destiny

Again, 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)**

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)



- **It is also so important that we always have the right people in our inner circle of friends. People of godly character and vision**

- **HAVING CHARACTER IN OUR LIVES IS A GREAT KEY TO BOTH SHINING FOR JESUS AND TO FINISHING OUR CHRISTIAN WALK WELL**

Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth,




“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)

- The way that we live our life has the greatest impact on others



Again, this is why Jesus said,

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

- Having character is also such a great key to promotion in God's Kingdom. God first prepares the man and then gives the ministry
- Having character helps us to remain strong in the perilous times that we are now living in and that the Apostle Paul wrote about 
- So given the times that we are now living in, it is crucial that our love for Jesus is our greatest priority in life and that we are always quick to repent of any known sin in our lives

- As we grow in character God can open up bigger and greater doors of influence at a time when so many people are in need of salvation
- It is our character that truly gives us credibility as a Christian and qualifies us for promotion in God's Kingdom
- So having godly character is such a great key to seeing our lives as Christians making a great impact in our world for eternity



So, five important aspects of our Christian walk are;



- 1) Building our life on a foundation of faith
- 2) Having a great love for ALL people
- 3) Having unity in our relationships with other Christians
- 4) Continually depending on the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life and ministry, and
- 5) The importance of having godly character

- I will finish with one great key to our lives making a great difference in our world for eternity as believers.



- **Living our lives with eternity in mind**

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, “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)**



SO, IN CONCLUSION



- **What a time now to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ when so many people are looking for hope.**
- **We have the answer. HIS NAME IS JESUS**