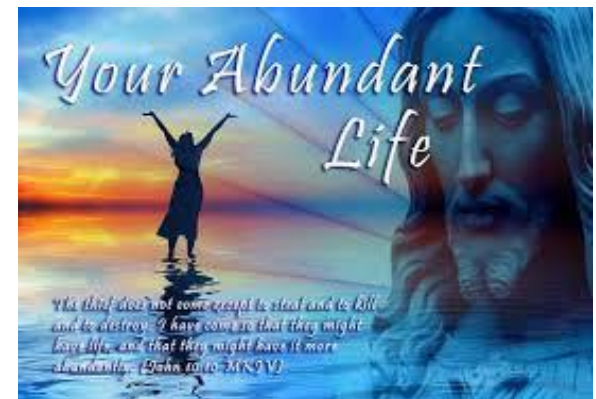
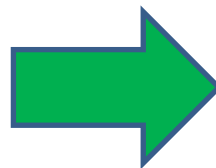


FORGIVENESS TO FUTURE

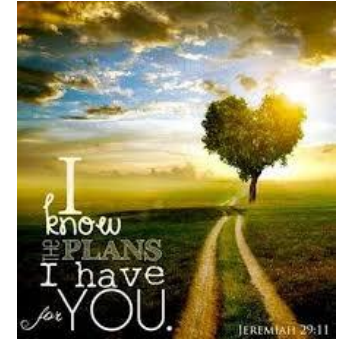
- Today I will be looking at some keys to fully embracing the future that God has planned for our life. A future which is full of great purpose and meaning
- However before we can fully embrace the future that God has planned for our life, we must let go of our past hurts, offences and disappointments in life



Forgiveness



- The bible makes it clear that God has a future full of purpose and meaning for every believer



In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” **(Jeremiah 29:11-13)**



- But to fully embrace the wonderful future that God has planned for our life we need to learn to continually put the past behind and to be *quick to forgive others*
- Unforgiveness will *hinder our prayers* and prevent us from moving on into the future that God has planned for our life
- Unforgiveness will also prevent us from connecting with people that God has brought into our life as part of His unfolding plan for our life



This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of forgiving others continually

Jesus Himself said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25)



- We have all been hurt in life
- Life is not always fair
- People will disappoint us in life
- We will not always be appreciated by others
- We have all made mistakes in life

But we must refuse to allow life's events to cause us to become bitter or unforgiving towards others

FORGIVENESS
doesn't excuse
their actions.
FORGIVENESS
stops their actions
from destroying
your heart.

*"To forgive is to
set a prisoner free
and discover
that the prisoner
was you."*

Lewis B. Smedes

So who can we sometimes develop unforgiving attitudes towards



- 1) Others** who have hurt or betrayed us, or who have let us down in life
- 2) Ourselves** (as we beat ourselves up for the past poor choices that we have made in life), and
- 3) Even God for some people** as they dwell on their past and present circumstances and blame Him for the bad things that have happened to them in their life. *(Yet in reality we all have made many poor choices in life and we have a very real adversary the Devil who is out to destroy our lives)*

Unforgiveness will:

- Affect our relationships with others and with God
- Steal our joy and weigh us down
- Cause us to become discouraged and cynical in life
- Affect our health, and
- Prevent us from embracing the wonderful future that God has planned for our life



OUR PAST DOES NOT HAVE TO DEFINE OUR FUTURE
Forgiveness is a key however to embracing our future
Forgiving others needs to be a DAILY choice

The bible makes it clear that God has the best plan for our life

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)



- Once we have forgiven all those who have hurt us in life, we are now in a position to fully embrace the future that God has planned for our life
- Forgiving those who have hurt us also helps us to maintain good relationships with others, which is a great key to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of
- I will now look quickly at what can stop us from fully embracing our full potential in Christ once we have forgiven others, before sharing 5 major keys that can help us to fulfil our God given destiny



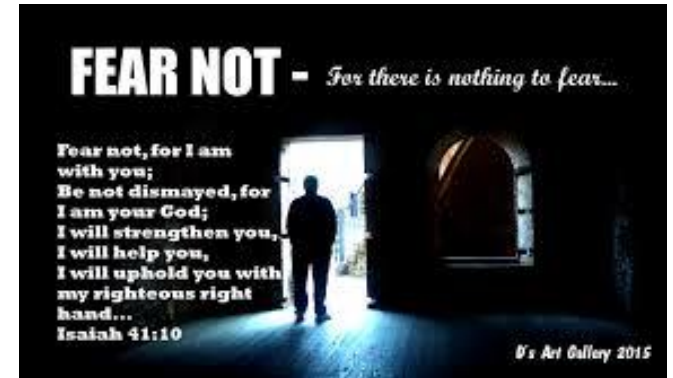
So what can stop us from FULLY embracing our full potential as Christians:

1) Our FEARS

- **Fear of man** (Worried about what others *might* think)
- **Fear of public speaking**
- **Fear of failure**
- **Fear of lack**
- **Fear of doing things which in the past you may have previously failed at** (We must not allow our past failures and disappointments and broken relationships to stop us from retrying things and embracing new opportunities)



- As Christians we must refuse to entertain our fears



- We must simply learn to face and overcome our fears and be committed to just doing what Jesus tells us to do
- Faith is the opposite of fear
- Choosing to trust God at ALL times is a great key to overcoming our fears



The Apostle Paul wrote,

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



2) Continually living in the past and dwelling on our past failures

- We must refuse to live with regrets. We must not allow setbacks and disappointments *to stop us from pursuing God's plan for our life*
- **Continually reflecting on our past failures will rob us of our God given future (*Jeremiah 29:11*)**
- Constantly living with regrets will keep us discouraged and steal our joy
- **We must make a once and for all commitment to let the past go**



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)**



3) Having no clear God given vision for our future

Without a clear God given vision for our life, we are more likely to:

THE ONLY THING WORSE
THAN BEING BLIND
is having sight and no
Vision.
- Helen Keller

- i) Make wrong choices in life that *draw us away* from the will of God for our life
- ii) To be *less disciplined* in the way that we live our life and use our time, and
- iii) We are more likely to squander weeks and months and even years of our life as the cares of this world and desires for other things entering in take our focus off what God has planned for our life

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)

WHERE THERE IS NO
VISION,
PEOPLE PERISH
©2010 D. J. RAY



I will now quickly look at FIVE keys that can
help us to realise our full potential in Christ

1) We need to pursue God's plan for our life

(This needs to be a daily choice)

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)

True purpose and meaning
in life comes from knowing
Christ intimately and from
following God's unique plan for our life



Jesus Himself 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)



It is only in daily renouncing selfish ambition and choosing to follow God's plan for our life, that we begin to embrace the fullness of what God has planned for our life – Without this commitment, the things of this world can easily pull us away from God's best plan for our life

2) We need to consistently meditate on the Word of God to build up our faith and to develop right thinking

- Spending quality time in God's Word is a great key to growing in our faith so that we can reach our full potential in Christ

The benefits of meditating on
Scripture influence
YOUR WHOLE DAY!



- Continually renewing our mind with the Word of God is a great key to seeing our *lives being transformed* as we develop Kingdom mindsets

The LORD said to Joshua just before he was about to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

7 BENEFITS OF MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

1. Meditating on God's Word will give you GOOD SUCCESS
2. Meditating on God's Word will make you STRONG and COURAGEOUS
3. Meditating on God's Word will cause you to live a RIGHTEOUS WAY OF LIFE
4. Meditating on God's Word will make you FRUITFUL
5. Meditating on God's Word will give you WISDOM
6. Meditating on God's Word will make you SEE JESUS' GLORY



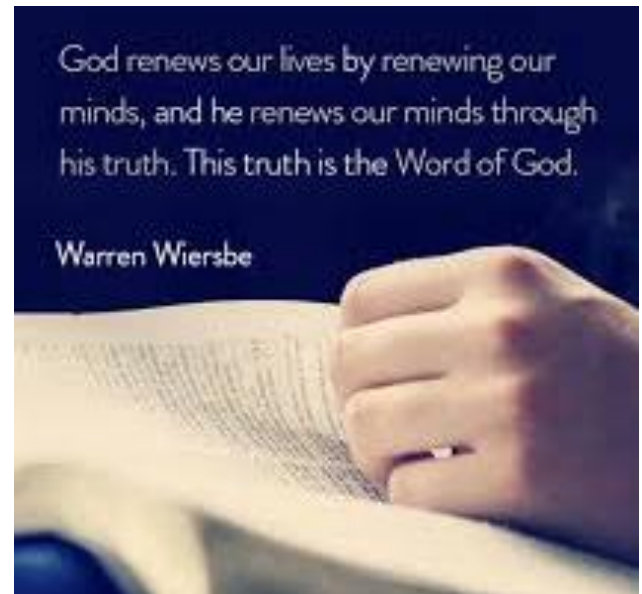
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

Romans 10:17



Scripture
Look



God renews our lives by renewing our minds, and he renews our minds through his truth. This truth is the Word of God.

Warren Wiersbe

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

3) We need to be people of prayer



Jesus Himself said,

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

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

- **We have a God who is both willing and able to help us in time of need – We just need to ask for His help and for His wisdom to make good choices in life.**



The Apostle John wrote,

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

(1 John 5:14-15)

In the book of James we read,

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

(James 1:5)



CALL TO ME AND I WILL
answer
YOU, AND SHOW YOU
great & MIGHTY
THINGS WHICH YOU
DO NOT KNOW
JEREMIAH 33:3

4) We need to simply trust God at all times and in all circumstances and let Him lead



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)

We need to learn to keep trusting God during the hard times, AND

5) We need to connect with other Christians



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)**

- God's plan for our life will be outworked in connection with other believers. We all need one another



- We all need the encouragement and support of other believers to remain strong and focused in our walk with the Lord, especially given the times that we are now living in
- It is important that we are accountable to other mature believers. This is a great key to fulfilling our full potential in Christ

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

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



So in conclusion:

- May I encourage you today to once and for all let go of all of your past hurts and disappointments and forgive all those who have hurt you, so that you can FULLY embrace all that God has planned for your future, and
- That from today on you would fully trust God in every area of your life and begin to wholeheartedly pursue His plan for you life as you build your life on the word of God and prayer and enjoy fellowship with other believers



- In doing this you will begin to experience the fullness of life that God has planned for you and see your life making a great difference in this world for eternity. God has so much in store for your life.

I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,
“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)

