

# **GIVING OUR BEST FOR THE LORD IN 2014**

**(Fully using our God given gifts and talents) - ONE FINAL KEY**

## **10) The importance of COMMITMENT**

- **God has so much in store for every believer's life this year. 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)**
- **However as Christians we are in an ongoing spiritual war in which the enemy will try an minimize what we do for God's Kingdom**
- **The Devil will continually try and distract and discourage all believers so that they don't fully embrace all that God has planned for their life**
- **The spirit of the world, the Devil and our fleshly nature will all try and pull us away from the things of God and what He has planned and destined for our life**
- **The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life are all used by the enemy to distract people from living wholeheartedly for the Lord**
- **Jesus Himself in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower made it clear that many things can stop us from bearing fruit in our life and that if we can overcome these things we will bear much fruit in our life**

- **Jesus said,**

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” (**Mark 4:18-20**)

- **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**)

- **SO HAVING COMMITMENT IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK IS SO IMPORTANT IF OUR LIVES ARE TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT THIS YEAR**

- **As all Christians are continually engaged in spiritual warfare, the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of the commitment and discipline side of our Christian walk to the young pastor Timothy,**

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**)

- **I will now share 7 important areas in which we need to have commitment as believers if our lives are to bear much fruit**

**i) COMMITMENT IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD**

**(Jesus must continually be our first priority in life – Everything that we do in life that will bear eternal fruit will flow out of our intimacy with the Lord)**

- **Jesus Himself made it clear that apart from Him we can do nothing**

“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)**

- **Given the increasing presence of ungodliness in the world it is so important that we maintain an intimate loving relationship with the Lord so that we truly shine in this world for Jesus and continue to remain strong in our faith as we see the imminent return of the Lord. Jesus 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)**

- **AS WE CONTINUALLY MAINTAIN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SENSITIVITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS PUTTING ON OUR HEART THIS YEAR TO DO FOR HIM. In Psalm 37 we read, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)**

- **KING DAVID WAS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART AND HE WROTE IN PSALM 63**

“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)

- **ALL EFFECTIVE MINISTRY FLOWS OUT OF OUR OWN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, IN WHICH WE GAIN REVELATION KNOWLEDGE OF HIM AND A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US AND OTHERS**

- **WE MUST SIMPLY MAKE OUR TIME WITH THE LORD AND SPENDING TIME IN HIS WORD OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY IN LIFE THIS YEAR – As we do our lives will bear much fruit this year**

ii) **COMMITMENT TO JUST DOING WHAT JESUS TELLS US TO DO – God has a unique plan for our 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)

- **GOD'S WAYS ARE FAR HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS.**

- **In the book of Isaiah we read,**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

▪ **AS WE SIMPLY CHOOSE TO COMMIT TO FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE THIS YEAR AND JUST DOING WHAT JESUS TELLS US TO DO WE WILL**

- **See much fruit in our life**
- **God's plan for our life continuing to unfold** – As we are faithful in the little things God begins to open up greater doors of opportunity
- **Doors opening that no man can close, and**
- **Many miracles of provision**

**WE MUST SIMPLY BE COMMITTED TO MAKING JESUS LORD OF ALL. 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)**

**iii) COMMITMENT TO SERVING THE LORD WITH OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

- **God has uniquely gifted each and every believer**
- **It is as we use our gifts that we experience great purpose and joy in life and are most effective**
- **As we use our gifts we help others to come to Christ and to fulfil their God given destinies. WE ALL NEED ONE ANOTHER**

▪ **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.” **(Romans 12:4-5)**

“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 12:6-8)**

**iv) COMMITMENT TO STARTING AND FINISHING  
WHAT GOD CALLS US TO DO**

- **Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to just make a start on what God has called us to do**
- **We must simply seek the Lord for a date to start what He has called us to do and then make a start**
- **AS WE MOVE GOD BEGINS TO MOVE – When Peter got out of the boat he began to walk on the water**
- **It was only when he took his eyes off Jesus and focussed on the winds and storms around him that he began to sink**

- **THERE ARE MANY GOOD STARTERS IN LIFE WHO BEGIN MANY THINGS BUT NEVER FINISH ALL THAT GOD HAD CALLED THEM TO DO**

- **We must also be committed to FINISHING what God calls us to do**

- **Whenever we are making an impact in this world for God's Kingdom we will experience opposition from the enemy**

- **We must simply be committed to never giving up on what God has called us to do for Him**

- **Jesus was committed to finishing what His Father had told Him to do**

“Jesus said to them, “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 here on earth Jesus said to His Father,**

“I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” (John 17:4)

- **WE MUST BE SIMPLY COMMITTED TO FINISHING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO**

- **Often our greatest struggles are on the point of a breakthrough in our life – We must choose to never give up on what God has called us to do**

**v) COMMITMENT TO LIVING FOR OTHERS  
(Laying down our lives selflessly for others)**

- **We must continually make a choice to live for others on a DAILY basis**
- **The Devil will continually try and appeal to our own self interest to try and discourage us from living whole heartedly for God and for others**

**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)**

- **Every Great Visionary Leader has always invariably lived for a cause to see others blessed through their life – Many giving their life for this cause – Martin Luther King had a dream to see racial prejudice abolished and was assassinated – America now has a black president**
- **Jesus Himself gave His life on the cross for our sins that we can be forgiven and live forever – Three days later He conquered the grave**
- **As we commit to living for others our lives will bear much fruit. Jesus also said,**  
“Then He said to them all, “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)**



**vi) COMMITMENT TO TAKING STEPS OF FAITH  
(Being prepared to step out of our comfort zone)**

- **God plan for our life will always involve taking steps of faith**
- **We must simply be committed to taking steps as faith and just doing what God calls us to do this year – A year of opportunity**
- **The bible makes it very clear that we can depend on God’s faithfulness and ability to perform all that He calls us to do in life**
- **What is impossible for man is possible for God**

**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**) “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (**Hebrews 11:6**)

- **The LORD said to Jeremiah when he was languishing in jail, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)**
- **Jesus Himself said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” (Mark 9:23)**
- **The angel Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus, “FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE” (Luke 1:37)**

**We must simply be committed to taking steps of faith in 2014**

**vii) COMMITMENT TO GIVING OUR BEST FOR THE LORD IN 2014**

- **We have one life to store up treasures for eternity**
- **There is a world of lost people who need to know the love of God and come to faith**
- **We all can make a great difference in this world**
- **WE MUST SIMPLY BE COMMITTED TO GIVING OUR BEST FOR THE LORD IN 2014**
- **As we make ourselves available to whole heartedly live for Jesus Christ, He will raise us up to do great things for God's glory and our life will be a blessing to many**

**The Apostle Paul 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)**

- **I will finish with the famous quotation from William Carey who was a missionary to India who became known as the Father of Modern Missions.**

**"Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God."**