

GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST

(Living for the Kingdom Cause)

- It is important as Christians that we always have a passion for helping to see the lost come to Christ.
- **We never want to just become comfortable Christians who are only concerned about having our own spiritual needs met – That we are not just spectators but PARTICIPANTS in the great commission**
- Jesus Himself made it clear that He came to seek and to save that which was lost and to help reconcile lost sinners to His Father in heaven, to bring healing to the hurting and to set free those bound and oppressed by the Devil
- Jesus Christ emphasised the importance of winning souls to Himself and making disciples in the great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) (Mark 16:14-18)
Jesus Himself said,
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
(Mark 16:15)
- **We now have a world full of hurting and lost people who need to know that there is a God who cares for them and who has an eternal plan for their life**

- Jesus consistently reached out to the outcasts of society and saw the potential in every person's life. So too we need to look out for opportunities to share our faith with the lost and hurting
- Jesus consistently reached out to the tax collectors and sinners and ate with them. He reached out to people who were the outcasts of society.
- He continually connected with people to share the hope of the gospel message.
- He attended the wedding where he turned the water into wine. Through this miracle His disciples believed in Him. (John 2:1-11)
- He spent time at the house of a chief tax collector called Zacchaeus." (Luke 19:1-10)
- When the Pharisees complained about Jesus reaching out to and eating with tax collectors and sinners, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matthew 9:12-13)
- It is so important as believers that we ***reach out to the lost in our community*** and to our unsaved loved ones and friends with the love of Christ and that we are not continually distracted from this task by the things of this world

- It is crucial that as believers we are continually salt and light in our world

Jesus Himself said,

“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.” **(Matthew 5:13)**

“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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

- As Christians we are meant to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world reaching out to those in the world with the love of Christ.
- As Christians we are to be in this world BUT not of it
- As Christians we have been given the ministry of reconciliation

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)**

- **But as believers IF we do not purposely keep our focus on things above, we can so easily get caught up with the cares and things of this world that we fail to reach out to the lost in our world (Colossians 3:2)**
- We are now living in a time when many people are in desperate need of salvation. With the imminent rapture of the church it is now crucial for every believer to become a soul winner

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

- It is only when we gain God’s heart of compassion for the lost that we begin to see people the way that God sees them

<p>- WE GAIN GOD’S HEART OF COMPASSION FOR THE LOST WHEN WE DRAW CLOSE TO THE LORD</p>

King David wrote,

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

- **More than ever before given the lawless world that we are now living in, we need to be intimate in our relationship and walk with the LORD**

- **We need to seek GOD FOR HIS COMPASSION FOR LOST SOULS. *The compassion which caused Jesus Christ to lay down His life as a ransom for many.***

We see Jesus' great compassion for the lost in the gospel of Matthew;

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. “Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” **(Matthew 9:35-38)**

- **INTIMACY WITH JESUS IS THE KEY TO SEEING HIS HEART FOR THE LOST BECOMING A GREATER REALITY IN OUR OWN LIFE.**

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)**

- Our **love for those in our community** and **commitment** to reaching the lost **grows as we make our relationship with Jesus Christ our first priority.**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We <u>cannot allow the busyness of life</u> to rob us of our time with the Lord |
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- JESUS HIMSELF SHARED MUCH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR THE LOST. IN PARTICULAR HE SHARED HOW EVERY INDIVIDUAL WAS SO PRECIOUS TO HIM
- The world is made up of over 7 Billion individuals who are all in a spiritual contest and who are all greatly loved by God.

Jesus Himself said,

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

“And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” **(Luke 15:1-7)**

- When we gain Christ's compassion for the lost we begin to have a passion to reach the lost
- THE APOSTLE PAUL was not ashamed of the gospel.
He wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **(Romans 1:16)**

The Apostle Paul had a great love for God.
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- **THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW THE HEART OF GOD FOR LOST SOULS BECAUSE HIS PASSION WAS TO KNOW CHRIST**

The Apostle Paul wrote: “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

- THIS LOVE FOR CHRIST compelled the Apostle Paul to preach the gospel and to share his faith in Christ with others.

In the book of Acts we read, “Now while Paul waited for them in Athens (that was for Silas and Timothy), his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.” **(Acts 17:16-17)**

- THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW THE VALUE OF EVERY SOUL TO GOD AND HIS HEART THAT ALL WOULD BE SAVED

(He became all things to all men that he might by all means save some)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law, to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” **(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)**

- WE HAVE ONE LIFE TO MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS
- The great revivalist John Wesley also wrote:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”
- **WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH GOD HE WILL GIVE US HIS VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST and heart for the lost**

- **Evangelism is all about bringing a message of hope to the lost**

- “The face of a killer started David Wilkerson (The founder of Teen Challenge) on his lonely crusade. One night in his country parsonage (his ministry living quarters) David picked up a Life magazine and saw the tormented face of a teenage gang member accused with six others of brutally murdering another teenager. **And David Wilkerson had to help.**
- **EVERY VISION MUST LEAD TO STEPS OF ACTION TO SEE IT COME TO PASS**
- Armed only with the gospel, David Wilkerson went into the slums – and the miracles happened. Crime hardened gang leaders knelt in the streets to pray, frightened children sobbed out their loneliness and anger, and heroin addicts found the courage to break their addiction

- **WE ALL AS CHRISTIANS HAVE A WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH OUT TO THE LOST WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”
(Romans 10:14-15)

- **We all have a part to play as Christians in seeing God’s Kingdom being expanded here on earth by helping others to come to Christ**
- **Jesus Himself emphasised the urgency to reach out to the lost when He said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35)**
- **If ever there is a time to break open our lives for the sake of the gospel it is NOW**
- The gospel is good news. It is the only hope for humanity. Only Jesus can save and set the captives free. He who the Son sets free is free indeed. (John 8:36)

- TODAY THERE IS A WORLD FULL OF LOST SOULS. In Europe only a small percentage of people are now believers.
- In India alone over one billion people do not know the love of Christ personally

Again Jesus Himself said in His great commission,

**“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
(Mark 16:15)**

- If we love the people in our community we will respond to this call.


- WE ALL HAVE A MISSION FIELD

-  Our workplaces

-  Our schools

-  Our friends

-  Our family

-  Our community and neighbourhood

-  In short, wherever we go

- We must not like as Jonah initially did, run from our responsibility to share the gospel to those who are perishing

- The word of the Lord came to Jonah for him to **arise** and go to Nineveh, that great city, and to preach a message calling that city to repentance

- But Jonah initially disregarded this call to preach to those in Nineveh and arose to flee to Tarshish

i) Whether it was because of fear

ii) Whether it was because he had no real concern for the lost in Nineveh (which was most likely the case as he later became angry when God showed mercy on Nineveh), or

iii) Whether it was because he had his own agenda

THE SIMPLE FACT WAS THAT JONAH WAS RUNNING FROM THE LORD'S CALL FOR HIM TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO WERE IN DANGER OF PERISHING IN NINEVEH

- ***Many people were impacted by his decision not to preach at Nineveh***

- His life was in turmoil
- Those on the ship that he was travelling in were in danger of being destroyed, and
- Nineveh was about to be judged and destroyed

- How we must all respond to the call to reach the lost

- GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE AND HIS DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH
- There are now countless millions of precious souls that are heading down the broad path that is leading to hell and destruction (blinded by the little god of this world)
- Countless millions of youth are having their lives destroyed through drugs and alcohol as they try to live in world full of pain and suffering
- However we as believers can make a great difference in our world by sharing the gospel of grace with others
- JONAH BEGAN PRAYING IN THE BELLY OF THE WHALE. After three days and three nights the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land
- After spending much time in prayer Jonah responded to the Lord's second call to go to Nineveh to preach to them the message of the LORD
- The people from Nineveh turned from their evil ways and were saved as God relented from bringing upon them the disaster that he had planned to bring
- THERE ARE COUNTLESS MILLIONS IN NEED OF SALVATION. People that Jesus Christ bled and died for.

- Today if you have not yet done so, you can choose to become a soul winner and help to see the harvest of lost souls coming to Christ and being saved
- JUST BELIEVE THAT YOUR LIFE CAN MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY
- Our past does not define our future
- ALL GOD IS LOOKING FOR IS OUR AVAILABILITY
- Like Isaiah we need to just respond to God's call to GO and to serve Him.

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“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)

- **God has a good plan for every believers life**
- **ALL GOD NEEDS IS OUR AVAILABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIFE**
- **Today I would like to encourage you to become a soul winner and to fulfil God's best plan for your life by living for the Kingdom Cause**

- **AS YOU MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE GOD WILL USE YOU IN A WONDERFUL WAY TO MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY. God will anoint and empower you to fulfil His plan for your life as you simply allow Him to lead**
- **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**)
- **King David wrote,** “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” (**Psalm 37:23-24**)

I WILL NOW FINISH WITH FIVE QUICK KEYS THAT CAN HELP US TO REALISE OUR FULL POTENTIAL IN CHRIST AND TO BECOME SOUL WINNERS

1) Let the Holy Spirit guide and direct your steps in life.

- The Holy Spirit will put on your heart who to share your faith with and tell you things to come.
- God knows the beginning from the end

Jesus Himself said,

“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**)

Jesus also 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)**

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)**

- **God wants you to fulfil your God given destiny.**
- Being continually led by the Holy Spirit will help you to appropriate all that God has planned for your life and enable you to become more effective in sharing your faith with others

2) When God puts on our heart to share our faith with someone, the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak. *We just need to open our mouth and begin sharing our faith with them*

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” **(Luke 21:14-15)**

3) Be committed to fulfilling God's unique destiny for your life. God has the best 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)**

- **If we remain committed to whole heartedly following God's plan for our life, our life will bear much eternal fruit**
- **As we are faithful in the little things, God will entrust to us greater things to do for His glory**
- **God knows what is best for us at all times. It is in following His plan for our life that our lives will have great purpose and meaning and make a great eternal difference in the lives of many**

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)**

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)**

GOD TRULY HAS THE BEST PLAN FOR EACH OF OUR LIVES

4) We need to continually TRUST the LORD at all times.

- We must not allow our temporary circumstances to draw us away from God's best plan for our life
- Sometimes the greatest trials and challenges that we experience in life are on the point of a breakthrough in our life
- We must continually keep our focus on things above and on God's promises in His word

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.”
(Isaiah 26:3-4)

- We must just keep on doing what Jesus tells us to do
- For some today the breakthrough is on the way and just around the corner
- We have a God who both hears and answers our prayers. We need to learn to stop talking about our problems and to take them to the Lord in prayer

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)**

- If we continually trust the LORD at all times and remain committed to following God’s plan for our life, we can be assured that all that God has planned for our life will come to pass

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)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” **(Philippians 1:6)**

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)**

And

5) We need to depend on the Holy Spirit and God's enabling power to fulfil God's plan for our life

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)

We need to allow God's plan for our life to unfold, '... Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' (Zechariah 4:6)

God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.

God will always empower us to complete all that He has planned for our life, AS LONG AS WE REMAIN FAITHFUL to what He has called us to do

SO MAY I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY LIVE FOR THE KINGDOM CAUSE FROM THIS DAY ON SO THAT YOUR LIFE WILL MAKE A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY AS YOU HELP MANY OTHERS TO COME TO CHRIST

I will finish with a short story about an Indian Beggar,

An Indian beggar sat beside a road, fingering the rice in his little bowl. Wearing only a loin cloth, he sat in poverty beside a road that stretched into nowhere both ways. One day he heard the thunder of a chariot in the distance. It was the grand entourage of the maharajah. This was a moment that had never come before.

Surely the great one would stop and give him baskets of rice. Indeed, the golden chariot of the maharajah stopped before the poor beggar. The great one stepped down and the beggar fell before him. Then the sky seemed to fall in. "Give me your rice," said the great one. The beggar reached into his bowl and thrust one grain of rice toward the maharajah. "Is that all?" said the great one. The beggar then threw him one more grain of rice.

The great one turned, entered his chariot, and was gone.

The beggar - angry, empty, and crushed - fingered the remaining rice he had hoarded in his bowl. He felt something hard, different from the rice. He pulled it out. It was one grain of gold. He poured out his rice, caring nothing for it now. He found one other grain of gold. They say his cries could be heard all around India - If only I have given my all

WE HAVE ONE LIFE TO GIVE OUR BEST FOR THE LORD

One life to leave an eternal legacy in our world through the way that we live our life here on earth

One life to store up treasures in heaven

So may I encourage you to give your best for the Kingdom Cause as you help others to also come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!