God's incredible faithfulness

- I have just started a teaching on the importance of being consistent in our walk with the Lord.
- Over a period of a few weeks (which commenced last Sunday), I will be sharing on a number of key areas in our life and Christian walk that we need to be consistent in, if our lives are to bear much fruit.
- Last week I shared on the first two areas that we need to be consistent in.
 - The importance of <u>consistently</u> choosing to do the will of God for our life (Allowing God's plan for our life to continually unfold over time), and
 - ii) The importance of being consistently faithful in the little things
- TODAY HOWEVER I WANT TO SLOT IN A TEACHING ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND CONSISTENCY, SO THAT WE CAN BE ENCOURAGED AND INSPIRED TO BE FAITHFUL AND CONSISTENT IN OUR OWN WALK WITH THE LORD
- As I prepared for this message I was greatly encouraged myself as I reflected on the great faithfulness and consistency of God in my own life and as I looked at the many promises contained in the Word of God and how also, He has been so faithful in the past to those who belonged to Him as seen in the old testament accounts.

- As we look at the Word of God we can be encouraged that God is absolutely faithful and that we can build our life on a firm foundation by just simply putting our faith and trust consistently in Him
- Even just last week as a church we experienced another example of God's faithfulness, when we saw the money that we needed to prepare the lease for our new Drop in Centre Church premises miraculously coming in
- Today I just want to share from the Word of God about God's incredible faithfulness so that you can leave here today knowing that you can confidently leave this place today putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for you future – For with God nothing will be impossible
- GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS WORD TO ENCOURAGE US AND TO GIVE US WISDOM TO BUILD OUR LIVES ON
- Jesus Christ Himself 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." (Matthew 7:24-25)
- My Prophet mentor in Melbourne just recently emailed me what the Holy Spirit was impressing on his heart to share on our new Prophetic Web page.

- He wrote, Received 18.02.14 - Strong Holy Ghost impression re: His Word.

See that you HEAR and HEAR correctly. There is untold treasure in my WORD as yet barely unfolded. It is there for you if you truly seek ME for then I will tell you. Do not hold back. There is something for everyone. My WORDS are inexhaustible if you do as I have said. Seek ME with all of your heart – you will never go hungry. My WORD fulfills all your Desires and Dreams for out of it flows the Goodness of MY HEART to MY children- I will not see you desolate.

- BECAUSE OF GOD'S INCREDIBLE FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE FOR PEOPLE, AS BELIEVERS,
 - i) We do not need to be anxious or afraid in life, nor overly concerned about our future
 - ii) We can position ourselves to appropriate all of God's promises for our own life. 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)
 - "PURPOSE" AS WE FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE A great key for walking in this peace and purpose is to have a vision for our life but to allow it to unfold one day at a time as we learn to "LIVE" one day at a time. Jesus Himself said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:34)

- TODAY I WILL BE LOOKING AT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
 ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN A NUMBER OF
 DIFFERENT AREAS
- I will begin by reading out a well known Psalm which clearly emphasises the incredible faithfulness of God. King David wrote, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His names sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever." (Psalm 23:1-6)
- This Psalm shows that Jesus as our Shepherd will be faithful to us in many areas of our life. (Jesus said in John 10:11 "I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.")
- In Psalm 23 we see that Jesus as our good Shepherd:
 - Will care for us
 - Will refresh us
 - Will walk with us
 - Will comfort us
 - Will nourish us, and
 - Will protect us

- When we look at the Old Testament we see many accounts of God's faithfulness towards the children of Israel God parted the Red Sea to make a way of escape for the Children of Israel (Exodus Chapter 14) The walls around Jericho were flattened by God as the Children of Israel marched around them (Joshua Chapter 6) and God helped Gideon with just 300 men to defeat the Midianite Armies that numbered 135,000 (Judges Chapters 7 and 8)
- In the New Testament we see how Jesus healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, fed the 5,000 and turned the water into wine at the Wedding Feast when they had run out of wine
- Jesus Christ is still the same today and we as believers can depend on God's faithfulness in every area of our life TODAY. In the book of Hebrews we read, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)
- I WILL NOW LOOK AT A NUMBER OF <u>SPECIFIC AREAS</u> IN WHICH WE CAN CONTINUALLY DEPEND ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD I WILL DO THIS BY LOOKING AT SCRIPTURES IN THE WORD OF GOD WHICH RELATE TO THESE AREAS The Word of God <u>is the truth</u> by which we need to learn to live our life by, rather than allowing our circumstances and emotions to dictate our decisions in life

AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN BE ASSURED OF:

- 1) God's continual presence in our life as believers and unwavering love for us (Jesus will never leave nor forsake us when we commit our lives to Him)
- The moment we give our life to Jesus Christ we have immediate and continual access to God's presence
- The moment a person puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation, their sins that separated them from a Holy God and His presence, are immediately washed away and forever they can enjoy the presence of God in their life.
- So as believers we can continually enjoy the presence of God in our life
- In the gospel of John we read the words of John the Baptist in relation to Jesus Christ, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
- In the book of Isaiah we read,
 - "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, <u>they shall be as white as snow</u>; Though they are red like crimson, <u>they shall be as wool.</u>" (**Isaiah 1:18**)
 - "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." (Isaiah 43:25)

 As Christians we have been redeemed and reconciled back to God, who is the source of all life, through our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and we can continually rest in His presence

The Apostle Peter when preaching in Solomon's Portico said, "Repent therefore and be converted, <u>that your sins may be blotted out</u>, so that <u>times of refreshing</u> may come from the <u>presence of the Lord</u>." (Acts 3:19)

The Apostle Paul wrote, "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made know by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him." (Ephesians 3:10-12)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

- WHEN WE COME TO CHRIST WE ARE SECURE FOREVER IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, BECAUSE HE IS ALWAYS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL
- In the book of Hebrews we read,
 - "...For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (**Hebrew 13:5-6**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

- JESUS HIMSELF SAID,

"and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matthew 28:20)

- SO AS BELIEVERS WE CAN CONTINUALLY DWELL IN GOD'S PRESENCE AND LOVE FOREVER BECAUSE GOD IS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL TO US WHEN WE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE OUR LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST
- Because of our continual access to God's presence and His faithfulness to never leave nor forsake us, we can continually be strengthened and filled with joy even when we are going through the midst of the greatest trials in life

- In the book of Isaiah we read,

"He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31)

- King David who was a man after God's own heart wrote,

"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (**Psalm 16:11**)

KING DAVID KNEW IN A VERY REAL WAY THE INCREDIBLE LOVE OF GOD FOR HIM. HE WROTE,

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth (that is your mother's womb). Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You." (Psalm 139:13-18)

SO WHAT CAN STOP US AS CHRISTIANS AT TIMES FROM SENSING GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIFE, GIVEN THAT WE WILL NEVER BE SEPARATED FROM GOD AS A BELIEVER?

 i) Having wrong and critical attitudes towards others can impair the intimacy of our fellowship with God 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?" (Matthew 7:1-3)

If we continually judge and condemn others, we ourselves will be more prone to experiencing condemnation in our own life, when we make the same mistakes that we have criticised others for making. As a result we can lose our joy

ii) Being envious of others and self seeking also negatively impacts our fellowship with the Lord In the book of James we read,

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." (James 3:13-16)

iii) Being unforgiving towards others will not only impact our relationships with others but also with God Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of forgiving others. In the gospel of Matthew we read,

"Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21-22)

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)

iv) Unconfessed and hidden sins in our heart and life can impact our relationship with the Lord and steal our joy The Psalmist wrote,

"I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer." (Psalm 66:17-19)

IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS WE READ.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." (**Proverbs 28:13**)

UNCONFESSED SIN WILL ALWAYS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND STEAL OUR JOY

v) Getting too busy with the everyday things of life and allowing the cares of this world to take our focus off the Lord,

In the gospel of Luke we see how being too busy in life can cause us to lose our peace and to be troubled by many things,

"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42), and

vi) Allowing pride to develop in our heart will also impact our relationship with God. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6a)

- SO HOW DO WE REGAIN THAT WONDERFUL SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE HAVE ALLOWED THINGS INTO OUR HEART AND LIFE TO TAKE OUR AFFECTIONS AWAY FROM GOD?
- WE NEED TO SIMPLY JUST CONFESS OUR SINS AND REPENT OF THEM WITH A HEART TO STOP DOING THEM AND WITH AN INTENTION TO LET GO OF ANY WRONG ATTITUDES THAT WE MAY BE HARBOURING IN OUR HEART

The Apostle John wrote,

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

- IT IS GOOD TO HAVE A REPENTANT HEART AND TO KEEP SHORT ACCOUNTS WITH GOD
- In doing this we will live a life in which we can continually experience the joy and peace that comes from being in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – the Prince of Peace
- Sometimes however God can for a while withhold that sense of tangible presence in our life, (though He is always with us), to cause us to seek after Him in a deeper way so that we can begin to enter again into the fullness of what He has planned for our life

- This can happen when a believer has begun to rebel against God and has backslidden into the world – A backslidden Christian will invariably lose the peace and joy that they experienced when they came to Christ and seek again after God's tangible presence in their life
- SO BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT FAITHFULNESS WE CAN ALWAYS ENJOY GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIFE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WILL NEVER EVER LEAVE NOR FORSAKE US
- The Apostle Paul lived to love and serve the Lord and to him the most precious thing in life was to know Jesus Christ in an intimate way. 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**)

- 2) That God has a <u>unique plan</u> and purpose for <u>every</u> believer's life (which commences the moment we come to Christ) No matter what our situation may look like now, God has a hope and a future for every person He is the God of second chances
 - When we come to Christ we can be assured that God has a life of purpose and meaning planned for us
 - As Christians when we live for the Lord even the more mundane things of life take on a different perspective as we serve the Lord
 - 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 has the best plan for our life The only plan that will ever truly fulfil us over the course of a life time. Jesus Himself said, "...I have come that they may have life, and that they more have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

NO MATTER

- i) What age we are
- ii) What our current circumstances are like
- iii) What our past has been like
- iv) What our financial situation may be like, or
- v) What our education level is

GOD HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR OUR LIFE IF WE ARE SIMPLY JUST <u>COMMITTED</u> TO FOLLOWING HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIFE OVER THE COURSE OF A LIFETIME – THAT WE ARE SIMPLY AVAILABLE TO BE USED BY HIM FOR HIS GLORY

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**)

- God has a great love for all people and His desire is that all would live a life of purpose and meaning
- Because Christ conquered the grave and is alive we all have a hope and future no matter where we may find ourselves today. "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37)

- 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)

NO SITUATION IS EVERY IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

- JESUS CAME TO HEAL THE BROKEN HEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED THAT WE MAY BE FREE INDEED
- God is able to restore broken lives and to turn impossible circumstances around

King David wrote,

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." (**Psalm 103:2-5**)

3) God's ability to meet our every need in life

- As believers we can depend on God's faithfulness to meet our every need in life
- God does not want us continually living a life full of anxiety and stress but that we simply put our trust in Him on a continual basis
- As we continually put the Lord first place in our life we can be assured that all that we need in life will be provided
 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)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:19**)

KING DAVID WROTE,

"I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread." (Psalm 37:25)

IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS WE READ,

"The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked." (**Proverbs 10:3**)

- 4) God's continual encouragement in our walk with Him
 (Jesus will continually comfort us during our trials in life)
 God speaks through His Word to give us a word in
 - God speaks through His Word to give us a word in season when we are going through tough times
 - The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ." (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

- GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US DURING THE STORMS OF LIFE AND ENCOURAGES US IN OUR WALK WITH HIM
- JESUS CONTINUALLY INTERCEDES FOR US. In the book of Hebrews we read, "Therefore He is also <u>able to save to the uttermost</u> those who come to God through Him, since <u>He always lives to make intercession for them.</u>" (Hebrews 7:25)

- I have always found that during the darkest moments of my life and during the midst of my greatest trials in life I have sense the presence of God in my life in a far greater measure
- So often God has spoken directly to me a word of encouragement to remind me of His great love for me and His faithfulness
- The Lord has also on many occasions used others to give me a word in season. In the book of Proverbs we read,
 - "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" (**Proverbs 15:23**)
- Whenever we need a word of encouragement God is able to speak through His Word a Rhema word in season. The bible has been referred to as God's love letter to us.
- We can be assured of God's faithfulness to be with us during the trials that we will all encounter in life and that ultimately He will deliver us from all the trials that we experience in life. The Apostle Paul wrote,
 - "For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us." (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

5) God's continual guidance in our life

 As Christians we can be assured of God's ongoing guidance and direction in our life if we simply entrust our future to Him and allow Him to direct our steps in life

- In the book of Proverbs we read,

"Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established." (**Proverbs 16:3**)

"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**)

- In the book of Psalms we read,

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way." (Psalm 37:23)

6) God's ongoing protection

In Psalm 91 we read, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you." (Psalm 91:1-7)

- God is absolutely sovereign in the affairs of this world
- Nothing can ever happen to us as believers apart from the will of God All that happens to us is filtered through the loving hands of God.

 Jesus Himself said,

"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will." (Matthew 10:29) "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:31)

- 7) God promises to finish and complete the good work that He has begun in every believer's life
 - As long <u>as we</u> continually allow the Lord to direct our steps in life NOTHING can ever stop us from fulfilling God's destiny for our life
 - God has so much in store for every believer's life
 - Every believer has the ability to make a great difference in this world for eternity
 - No setback, No other person, No circumstance in life can prevent God's plan for our life unfolding if we simply stay committed to allowing the Lord to unfold His plan for our life
 - It is only if we give up on what God has called us to do in life that we will miss fulfilling God's plan and destiny for our life

- If we simply do not grow weary in doing good we will see God's plan and purpose for our life unfolding over time.

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**)

8) That God rewards us for our service to Him in this life

- In this life we will not always be appreciated for all that we do for others
- However God appreciates all that we do for Him as we serve Him and others – Our labour for the Lord is never in vain

- Jesus Himself said,

"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 12:26)

"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)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- 9) That God both hears and answers our prayers that are in line with His will for our life (Our prayers matter to God)
 - We have a God who is attentive to our prayers
 - As Believers we can have the confidence to know that God both hears and answers all of our prayers that are in line with His will for our 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)
 - 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)

IF WE ARE PURSUING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIFE, WE CAN BE ASSURED OF GOD'S GREAT FAITHFULNESS IN MEETING ALL OF OUR NEEDS IN LIFE AND IN ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS — GOD'S HEART IS THAT WE WOULD LEAD FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES AS BELIEVERS. 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 Jeremiah when he was languishing in jail

"Call to Me, and <u>I will answer you</u>, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (**Jeremiah 33:3**)

- God never despises the prayers of anyone

The Psalmist wrote,

"He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer." (Psalm 102:17)

- WE HAVE A FAITHFUL GOD WHO BOTH HEARS AND ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS
- For this reason we can have peace in our life as we learn to continually commit our cares to the Lord in prayer and to simply trust the Lord in every area of our life
- The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

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)

10) That Jesus Christ will reject no person who comes to Him

Jesus Himself said,

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, <u>and the one</u> who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (**John 6:37**)

"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

- ALL WHO COME TO JESUS CHRIST HE RECEIVES

- God is merciful and compassionate and His desire is that none would perish but that all would come to Christ to receive the GIFT of eternal life
- The Apostle Paul wrote, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us," (Ephesians 2:4)
- In the book of Psalms we read, "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works." (Psalm 145:8-9)
- The Apostle Peter wrote, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

God usually reaches out to us at our worst time in life,
 when we least deserve to enter into a relationship with
 Jesus Christ – BUT THAT IS THE GRACE OF GOD

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

 Three days later Jesus Christ conquered the grave and arose from the dead with the keys of Hades and of Death. HE IS ALIVE

Jesus said,

"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <u>I am He who</u> <u>lives</u>, <u>and was dead</u>, <u>and behold</u>, <u>I am alive forevermore</u>. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." (**Revelations 1:17-18**)

- Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved
- GOD DESIRES TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERY PERSON
- He wants to have a relationship with you
- JESUS CHRIST WILL NEVER REJECT YOU IF YOU COME TO HIM – HE LOVES YOU WITH A PASSION

- 11) AS BELIEVERS because of God's faithfulness we can be assured of eternal life (Every believer will spend eternity with Jesus because of His faithfulness in laying down His life as a ransom for lost sinners on the cross at Calvary)
 - Jesus Himself said,

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

- As believers we have eternal life. Jesus Himself said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26)
- As believers to be absent from this body is to be with Jesus.

Jesus Himself said,

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3)

 At the time of the rapture (which is drawing closer and closer) every believer will receive an incorruptible glorious immortal body that will never decay.

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)

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

- BECAUSE OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS IN GOING TO THE CROSS TO DIE FOR ALL OF OUR SINS, ALL WHO COME TO CHRIST IN HUMBLE REPENTANCE AND FAITH HAVE A GLORIOUS ETERNAL HOPE AND FUTURE
- Jesus did not come into this world to condemn the world but to save the world
- He bled and died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins but death could not hold Him down. On the third day He arose from the grave triumphantly and is now back in heaven

- Today Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart
- Today will you open up your heart and invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life to be your Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on

"Dear God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on, Amen"

- IN CONCLUSION I WOULD LIKE TO FINISH WITH ONE MORE SCRIPTURE FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)