

Giving our best for the greatest cause

- We have one gift of life here on earth to make an impact in our world for eternity
- We are now living in a world where so many people are looking for a genuine hope in life
- It is also reported that this generation of young adults is the loneliest generation ever, even though they have more things and possessions and technology than those in previous generations
- The simple fact is that living life without an INTIMATE relationship with the LORD is empty and unfulfilling in the long run
- I will begin by looking at FOUR KEY Scriptures as I look at the importance of giving our best for the greatest cause

Firstly, 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)

Secondly, 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)**

(WE ARE SAVED FOR A GOD GIVEN PURPOSE IN LIFE)

Thirdly, 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)**

(GOD HAS A HOPE AND FUTURE FOR ALL THOSE WHO SEEK HIM – OUR PAST NEVER DEFINES OUR FUTURE IN CHRIST)

AND

Finally, the Apostle Paul also 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)**

- It is only in pursuing God’s will for our life that we will embrace the abundant life that Jesus spoke of, and that our lives will make a great impact in our world for eternity

- **THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT GOD HAS SO MUCH PLANNED FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S 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**)

So, what can stop us as believers from giving our best for the greatest cause, the Kingdom Cause;

1) Peer Group pressure (Being more concerned about pleasing your friends than honouring God with your life)

2) Allowing the wrong friends into our life. Who we associate with in life will greatly determine the outcome of our life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)

3) Distractions (Especially with the smart phone and social media)

4) Our fears (I had a very real fear of public speaking before I came to Christ)

5) Living our life based on what the world defines as success (Money, Status, how you look, what you do and how much you have) ALL THING THAT OF THEMSELVES WILL NEVER TRULY SATISFY

6) Not being connected in fellowship with other believers so that we do not receive the encouragement and support that we need in our Christian walk, especially given the lawless and ungodly times that we are now living in,

And

7) Just the many temptations that we all experience every day, that the Devil would try and use to ensnare us and to pull us away from God's destiny and plan for our life

- **I believe that God has such a great calling on the youth of this nation, even to touch the nations**

- So how can we give our best to the greatest cause, the Cause of Christ, in the ungodly and lawless times that we are now living
- So how can we become people of destiny who will leave a great mark in this world for eternity
- So how can we personally fulfil God's destiny and plan for our lives
- I will now just quickly share some important keys that can help us to fulfil our God given assignment here on earth

1) Don't let your past define your future

- It does not matter where we have come from, or what mistakes we may have made in the past, the moment we come to Christ we have a new start to life
- We must never live with regrets but wholeheartedly embrace the future that God has planned of our life

- Our upbringing, our educational level, our age, or even our past failures, (We have all failed at things) will never stop us from having a FUTURE full of great purpose and meaning when we give our lives to Jesus

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of not allowing our past to define our future when he 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)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things** have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2) Trusting God at all times and in all circumstances and letting Him continually direct our steps in life

- Know that God always has our best interests at heart in the long run
- We can always depend upon the faithfulness of God

- We must simply let Him take the wheel of our life
- It is only in continually allowing the Lord to direct our steps in life that we will fulfil our God given potential in Christ

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)

3) Building our lives on the wisdom and promises in God's word

The LORD said to Joshua,

“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)

- **The bible is full of wisdom as to how to do life well in a world that is getting more and more ungodly and challenging to live in**
- **It is in applying the wisdom in the bible to our lives that we can build our lives and future on a firm foundation**

Jesus 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.

But **everyone** who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” **(Matthew 7:24-27)**

- **As believers we can also build our lives on the promises of God in His word**
- **One of these promises is that we will never lack what we need in life if we put Christ and the things of the Kingdom first in our life**

Jesus Himself also 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)**

4) The importance of being connected to a loving bible-based church group

- Being accountable to other mature Christians helps us to make fewer poor choices in life
- We cannot do the Christian walk alone
- Without the constant encouragement of other believers, it is easy to lose our passion for the things of God and to get side-tracked in our walk with the Lord
- OUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY WILL ALWAYS BE OUTWORKED IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER BELIEVERS
- We all need one another in the Body of Christ

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)**

5) Continually have the right people in your inner circle of friends

- Who we have in our inner circle of friends will greatly impact the course of our life
- It is crucial that we always have friends of godly character in our lives and people of godly vision
- People who will encourage us to live wholeheartedly for the Lord
- Wrong friends in our life however, have the potential to cause us to compromise in our Christian values and to make poor choices in life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the wicked leads them astray.”
(Proverbs 12:26)

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but
the companion of fools will be destroyed.”
(Proverbs 13:20)

6) Being prepared to go it alone at times rather than running with the pack down the wrong path

- We must not allow peer group pressure to cause us to make wrong choices in life
- We need to be committed to doing what is right at all times
- The Devil will try and thwart God's plans for our life
- This can even be through others trying to discourage us from stepping out fully into what God has planned for our future
- Sometimes the hardest time is when God gets us to pioneer a new thing, or to take a new course of action in life and you have little or no encouragement or support from others
- It is in these times that we need to keep running with what God has put on our heart and be prepared to go it alone until we see the breakthroughs and other people coming on board with us

- IT IS ALWAYS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE GOD PLEASERS RATHER THAN MAN PLEASERS
- It is so important that we never give up on what God has called us to do in life

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)

7) Cultivating intimacy in our walk with the LORD

- It is so important that we develop a private devotional life and get to know the love of Christ in a real and personal way
- It is so important that our faith is not just a head knowledge of Christ, or something that we do religiously from Sunday to Sunday, but that we know Christ as our best friend as we continually commune with the Holy Spirit

- **This is a great key to greatness in God's Kingdom**

In the book of Daniel we read,

“...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry our great exploits.” **(Daniel 11:32)**

- King David was Israel's greatest King
- King David was the only one referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart
- God raised David up from being a mere shepherd boy to becoming Israel's greatest King
- What made David great was his great love for God

We see this great love for God in the Psalms that he wrote such as Psalm 63 where King David wrote,

“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 63:1-3)**

- It is our love for Christ that will keep us strong when we are persecuted for our faith
- It is our love for Christ that will keep us strong during the trials of life
- It is our love for Christ that will prevent money and the things of this world from drawing us away from God's unique unfolding plan for our life
- At a time NOW when Jesus said, "because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold," how important it is that we continually maintain our first love for Christ
- Truly in His presence is fullness of joy and it is the joy of the Lord that will continually keep us strong in our walk with the Lord in times of trouble

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Jesus Himself 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)

8) The importance of being careful about what we look at and listen to so that we do not get wrong desires that cause us to stumble and fall in our Christian walk

- In a world full of ungodly influences, it is so important that we are disciplined in what we allow into our ear and eye gates, especially given the fact that we now have continual access to the internet and social media through our smart phones

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)**

- It is so important that we do not give the Devil an opportunity to cause us to stumble and fall, through allowing wrong desires to develop in our heart by being undisciplined in what we allow into our ear and eye gates
- The Holy Spirit helps us to know what not to look at and listen to, so that we can remain strong in our faith
- As what we look at and listen to has a great influence on the desires that we have, it is so important that we heed the counsel of the Apostle Paul who gave us great wisdom on what we should meditate on in life

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)**

AND

9) Becoming a person of radical faith by stepping out to DO all those things that God puts on your heart to do.

- God moves when we move.
- As we step out by faith to do what God calls us to do, He will never let us down. We can **DEPEND** upon His faithfulness
- God wants to use our lives to do great and mighty things for His glory. That we can partner with Him in the work of the Kingdom

The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

- My great encouragement to you today is that you would not limit what God wants to do in and through your life through fear or the negative opinions of others
- We have one gift of life to invest for the greatest cause, the Kingdom Cause

So, in conclusion:

- Just believe that your life can make a great difference in our world in the challenging times that we are now living
- There is a world in desperate need of true hope
- As believers we can share the wonderful message of the hope that we can have in Christ with the lost and hurting in our world
- As Christians our lives can have true significance and meaning as we commit to following God's will for our lives
- All God needs is our availability and willingness to devote our lives to wholeheartedly living for Him

Jesus Himself 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)**

- We have one gift of life to live for the greatest cause, the Kingdom Cause.
- One life to store up treasures in heaven.
- One gift of life to make a great mark on our world for eternity
- One gift of life to help see the youth in this nation of Australia finding true hope in Christ and becoming the Jesus generation

I will finish with the words of Isaiah the prophet;
“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)**

MAY THAT ALSO BE OUR CRY TODAY.

HERE AM I! SEND ME