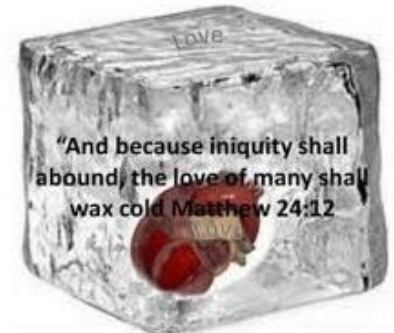


HAVING SPIRIT BIRTHED ATTITUDES THROUGH PUTTING CHRIST FIRST IN OUR LIVES AND PLANS



- In today's teaching I will be looking at two important aspects of our Christian walk
- Firstly, the importance of making our relationship with Jesus Christ our greatest priority in life, and
- Secondly, the importance of reflecting the fruit of the Spirit in the way that we live our lives as believers

- We are now living in increasingly lawless times where we can see the love of many growing cold



Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in;

“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)

Jesus also said in relation to the times that we are now living in, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” “For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matthew 24:36-39)



**“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
(Matthew 24:44)**



- As I prayed about today's message, I really sensed the Lord impressing upon my heart the importance of us always being ready for the rapture of all true believers and making our relationship with Him our highest priority in life in the times that we are living in**

- Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of making our relationship with Him our greatest priority in life.



Jesus Himself said,

“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)

- Our ability to consistently love others and to grow in Christlike character greatly depends on us maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord
- Jesus continually emphasised the importance of having a genuine love for others

Jesus said,

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” **(John 15:12-13)**



- How intimate we are in our walk with the Lord, is really greatly reflected in the degree to which we love others unconditionally



- **The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord, the more we will instinctively love others and reflect more and more His character**

The Apostle John wrote, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16)

- **Developing Christlike character and learning to love others unconditionally only comes from maintaining an abiding relationship with Christ**



- **The simple fact is that the way that we live our life has the greatest impact on others**
- **For this reason, growing in Christlike character and living with Spirit-birthed attitudes is so important. We need to live like a Christian**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:28-29)

- For this reason, we need to continually cooperate with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to do the work of change in our lives as we choose to walk in the Spirit**

- The simple fact is that the way that we live our life and love others has the greatest impact on other people. For this reason, we need to continually cultivate Spirit birthed attitudes in our Christian Walk



Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)



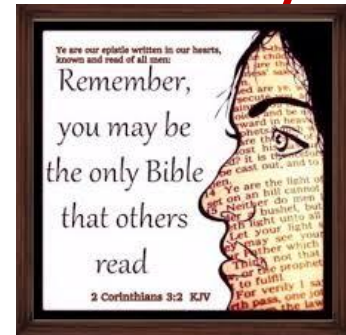
Jesus also said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**



- If we do not continually spend quality time with God, Who is love, invariably the ways of the world and the people around us will begin to negatively affect the way that we live our life

- For this reason, we need to ensure that we continually maintain intimacy in our walk with the Lord so that our lives reflect the fruit of the Spirit and make a positive impact in the lives of others

The Apostle Paul wrote, “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;” (2 Corinthians 3:2)



- **For some people we may be the only bible that they read**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

- It is as we choose to continually walk in the Spirit that we begin to demonstrate these Spirit birthed attitudes in the way that we live our life and relate to others**



Choosing to walk in the Spirit is a key to:

- Consistently maintaining Spirit birthed attitudes
- Having healthy relationships in our life
- Continually maintaining our peace and joy
- Truly shining for Jesus in our witness to others as we reflect the fruit of the Spirit in our own lives, and
- Helping to promote unity in our homes, workplaces and church fellowships



- Continually choosing to walk in the Spirit helps us to maintain Spirit birthed attitudes and to living a victorious and overcoming Christian life



- **So given the importance of walking in the Spirit as a believer I will now quickly look at:**
 - i. Five things that can stop us from walking in the Spirit, and
 - ii. Six keys, or disciplines that can help us to *consistently walk* in the Spirit as believers

Firstly, five things that can stop us from walking in the Spirit



1) **PRIDE** (God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble)

Proud people are more likely to be defensive and argumentative, even about trivial and irrelevant issues and invariably find it hard to say that they are sorry or wrong when they have hurt or wronged others

In the book of Proverbs we read,

**“By pride comes nothing but strife,
But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.”
(Proverbs 13:10)**



2) HAVING UNFORGIVENESS TOWARDS OTHERS

- We will have many opportunities to forgive others. The world is full of imperfect people
- We must simply refuse to allow offences into our heart by being always quick to forgive others that have hurt us



- Having unforgiving attitudes towards people will negatively affect both our relationships with others as well as our relationship with God

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” (Hebrews 12:14-15)



3) Having the wrong friends in our life



- Friends who are worldly minded have the potential to also cause us to lose our affections for the Lord. Jesus Himself said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

In the book of Proverbs we read,

**“Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.”
(Proverbs 22:24-25)**



- It is so important that we have the right people in our inner circle of friends. We become like the company that we keep.**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

**“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles,
And they go down into the inmost body.”
(Proverbs 18:8)**



- It is so important not to spend too much time with people that are always prone to gossiping about others**
- IF we do, it is then so easy to end up getting caught up ourselves in speaking wrongly about others. We must simply love others**

4) Not being careful about what we look at and listen to



- It is so important that we are disciplined in what we allow into our eye and ear gates
- It is so important that we do not focus on things that will arouse our carnal desires and cause us to stumble into sin
- We are now living in a world full of temptations that the enemy (the Devil) would try and use to cause especially believers to get back into operating out of their fleshly nature

- Even King David, who was referred to as being a man after God's own heart, stumbled and fell into sin when he looked upon Bathsheba bathing whilst he was walking on the roof of his house



- After looking upon her, he not only committed adultery with her, but had her husband Uriah murdered by putting him on the front line of battle and by instructing Joab to get the other soldiers to draw back leaving Uriah to die **(2 Samuel 11:2-17)**

- So, if King David can so stumble and fall as a man referred to as being a man after God's own heart, we all have the potential to stumble and fall if we are not careful about what we look at and listen to



This is why 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



5) Not having enough INTIMATE fellowship with the Lord (Only Jesus can give us the peace and love that we need to always relate to others in a right manner)



In the gospel of Luke we read,

“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.” **(Luke 10:38-39)**

“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 10:40-42)



- **We must not allow the busyness of life to stop us from spending quality time with the LORD**

Again, Jesus Himself said,

“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)



- **Our fellowship with Jesus must always be our greatest priority in life**

I will now quickly look at five disciplines that can help us to consistently walk in the Spirit

1) Taking all wrong thoughts quickly captive

We must learn to be quick to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive and become strongholds in our mind



- It is so important that we continually win the battle for the mind
- The enemy will continually bombard our minds with critical and negative thoughts



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)



- If we do not quickly take wrong thoughts captive, we will invariably become more prone to operating out of our fleshly nature as we allow frustration, fear and anxiety to influence our lives in a negative way



- The enemy will continually try and bombard our minds with thoughts that are designed to get us to lose our peace and to operate in the flesh. *We must be always quick to take ALL wrong thoughts captive and to replace them with Christ centred thoughts*

- What we think about will eventually affect our heart attitudes and influence the way that we live our life and speak



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

**“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...”
(Proverbs 23:7)**

One of Ralph Waldo Emerson quotes was;

“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”



- **How important it is that we always win the battle for the mind.**
- **It is such a great key to consistently demonstrating Spirit birthed attitudes in our life**

2) Being slow to anger.

(Learning to think before we speak)

In the book of James we read, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (James 1:19-20)



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)

3) Spending quality time with the LORD with an open bible and being continually filled with all the fullness of the Holy Spirit



- The more time that we spend in the Lord's presence the more Christ-like we become in the way that we live our life and the more we gain God's heart of compassion for others
- Meditating on the word of God helps us to replace our wrong mindsets with Kingdom thinking so that we can fully realize our life's potential IN Christ

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

- **Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit helps us to consistently walk in the Spirit**



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)

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)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**



The Psalmist wrote,

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” **(Psalm 119:9-11)**



- Spending quality time with the Lord and in God's word helps us to become *mature in our walk with the Lord*. **Having a genuine love for others and self control is evidence of this maturity**

4) We need to be planted in a local church fellowship. (We cannot do the Christian walk alone)



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) Learning to be content with what God has entrusted to us in EVERY season of our life

- True contentment can only be found in a whole hearted loving relationship with Jesus Christ.
- When we put Christ first in our life, God promises to meet our every NEED in life 
- We need to learn to be content with what God has called us to do in life and with what He blesses us with. We need to be simply the best at what God has called us to be. This is a key to enjoying the abundant life that Jesus spoke of

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:6, 7, 9-10)



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:” (Philippians 4:10-11)

AND



6) LIVING A LIFE THAT IS TRULY SURRENDERED TO JESUS CHRIST

- If our lives are truly surrendered to Jesus Christ, we will instinctively walk in the Spirit and in love towards others



- Our highest potential in life will only be realised if we are prepared to daily die to our own selfish ambition and to live for Christ

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)



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)**



- Dying to self is a great key to consistently walking in the Spirit and to becoming ALL that God has planned for our life

The Apostle Paul, who achieved so much for God's Kingdom 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)



SO, IN CONCLUSION

- May I again emphasise the importance of continually choosing to walk in the Spirit so that you will reflect Spirit birthed attitudes in the way that you live your life. The way that we live our life matters



- As we choose to consistently walk in the Spirit we will truly shine in our world for Jesus and experience the fullness of life that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10, life and life more abundantly

Consistently walking in the Spirit enables us to;

- Enjoy healthier relationships in our life
- To continually maintain our peace and joy in our heart and life, even during the storms of life
- To hear the voice of the Holy Spirit clearly, and
- To truly shine for Jesus in our witness to others as we demonstrate Spirit birthed attitudes in our life



- I began this message by sharing how our love for Christ must be our greatest priority in life. I will now conclude with this same thought



- The simple fact is that we live in a world full of temptations and distractions
- As we see the imminent rapture of all true believers, how important it is that we make our love for Jesus Christ our greatest priority in life

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)



- It is only our love for Christ and maintaining an intimate and abiding relationship with Him, that enables us to consistently **MAINTAIN** Spirit birthed attitudes in our life



King David, the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart wrote,
“Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”
(Psalm 37:4)

So given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, how should we be living our life as Christians in the times that we are now living in:

- Firstly, our relationship with Jesus Christ must be our greatest priority in life
- Secondly, we need to be actively helping the unsaved to come to Christ, and
- Thirdly, we need to actively encourage other believers to remain strong in their walk with the Lord and to fulfil God's plan for their lives. We all need one another in the body of Christ



- So may I encourage everyone today as I draw this message to a close that God has so much planned for your life in the days to come
- Choosing to walk in the Spirit and being continually guided by the Holy Spirit is such a great key to seeing all that God has planned for our lives coming to pass
- Just believe that your life can make a great eternal difference in the lives of many in the days to come as you simply allow Jesus Christ to be truly Lord of all of your 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)

- I will finish with one final thought. God does not look at our ability, but just our availability. Are we simply prepared to live wholeheartedly for Him**



- I will now conclude by giving everyone the opportunity of either giving your life to Jesus Christ if you have not yet done so, or recommitting your life to Jesus as we pray together the sinner's prayer:



Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to wholeheartedly live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Baptize me with the Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name, Amen.