

HAVING A GOD GIVEN VISION FOR OUR LIFE



It is so important that we are people of vision

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,
“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,
that he may run who reads it. For the vision is
yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will
speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait
for it; Because it will surely come, It will not
tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

- It is so important as Christians that we have a clear understanding of what God has called us to do in life. Every believer has a ministry and calling
- **We will never come second putting God first**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

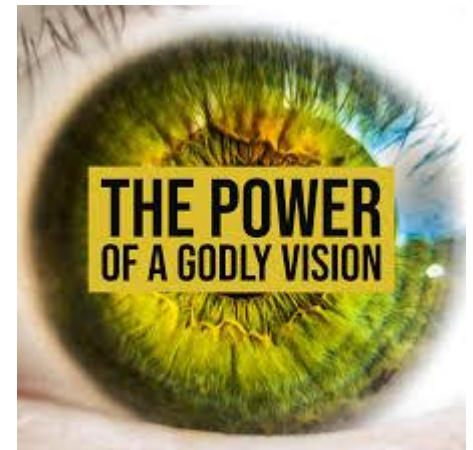
**“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”
(Ephesians 3:20)**

- **God wants us as believers to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to use us to help reconcile a lost and broken humanity to Himself**

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, ... 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)



- Without a clear God given vision for our life we will invariably go through life never fully embracing the plan and purpose that God has for our life
- As Christians we have a very real adversary, the Devil, who will continually try and prevent us from realising our God given destiny in life



The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**



God's vision for our life will always be connected to the eternal things. In particular,

- i. In seeing His Kingdom being advanced here on earth,
- ii. To helping other Christians to grow in their faith, and
- iii. To helping unbelievers to come to Christ




In short, God's vision for our life will be related to how we can use our gifts and talents and careers to help see God's Kingdom being established here on earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” **(Colossians 3:17)**

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” **(Colossians 3:23-24)**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

A graphic with a sunset background. The text is centered and reads: "Whatever you do, Do it all for the Glory of God!"

*Whatever you do,
Do it all for the
Glory of God!*

1 Corinthians 10:31

**We have one life to store up
treasures in heaven**

Jesus Himself said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:19-21)



Having a clear God given vision for our life will influence our choices in life:

- How we use our time
- How we use our resources
- Our priorities in life, and
- How efficiently we use our gifts and talents



- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to redeem the time and to make the most of the God given opportunities that come our way in life.



- Having a vision for our life helps us to have a clear understanding of what we are called to do in life.



- Having a clear vision for our life helps us to know what to say yes to and what to say no to

- **Having a clear God given vision for our life is a key to bearing much eternal fruit in our lives**



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)**

- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to make right choices in life so that we continually remain in the will of God for our lives



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

- It is in the will of God for our lives that we experience God's favour and blessing upon the work of our hands



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)



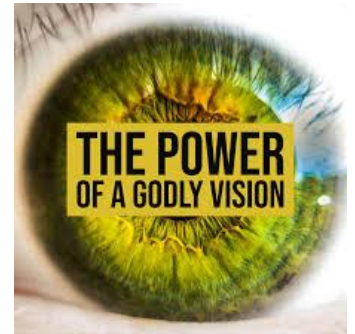
- Without a clear God given vision for our life we will invariably be distracted from the things of God and be more prone to making poor choices in life



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

- **If we fail to live for the Lord, others will also be impacted**
- **The simple fact is that we all need one another in the body of Christ.**
- If we do not faithfully fulfil God's plan for our life, the whole body of Christ will be impacted in some way
- We all have a part to play in helping to see God's Kingdom being established here on earth



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as the body is one and has many members,
but all the members of that one body, being
many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one
Spirit we were all baptized into one body -
whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free
- and have all been made to drink into one
Spirit” **(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)**



“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

“And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

(1 Corinthians 12:14-17)



“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” (1 Corinthians 12:18-22)



- **As Christians we all need one another**

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” **(1 Corinthians 12:26)**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, variety of tongues.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27-28)

**WE ALL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND
FUNCTION TO PLAY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**



The Apostle Paul also clearly emphasised the importance of all believers using their spiritual gifts and doing so with a right attitude



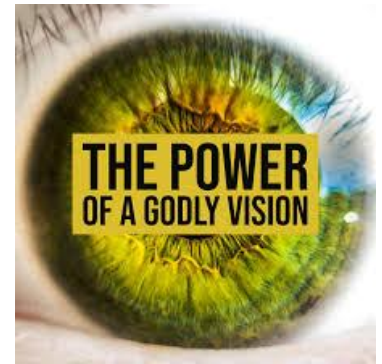
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5)

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
(Romans 12:6-8)



- **At times we will be a link in the chain in seeing someone come to Christ**
- The simple fact is that if we live wholeheartedly for the Lord we will make a great eternal difference in the lives of many over the course of our life
- We have all been uniquely created by God with a specific and unique plan for our life which commences the moment that we come to Christ



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)



- Having a clear personal God given vision for our life will help us to *fulfil God's plan for our life*
- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to continue to be focused and fruitful EVEN during the storms and trials of life and during the winter seasons of our life



- The bible makes it clear that “We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.”
(Acts 14:22b)

- **The Apostle Paul who always emphasised the importance of doing the will of God, also wrote about his own struggles and challenges in life;**

“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)**

- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to keep moving forward in the things of God during our trials and setbacks in life



- Having a clear God given vision for our life also helps us not to become discouraged and disillusioned when we are rejected for doing the will of God for our life, or betrayed by others that we have faithfully sown our lives into. *Life will have its hurts*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,



“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **(2 Timothy 3:10-12)**

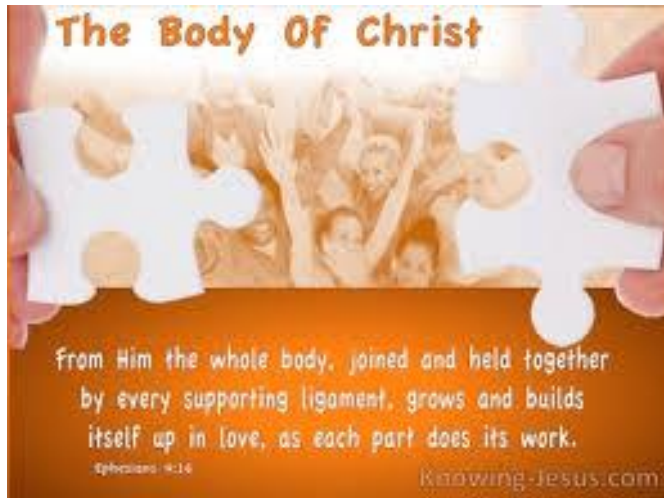
- Without a clear God given vision for our life we will invariably squander much of our life's potential and miss God's best for our life

Jesus made this clear in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower when He said,

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:18-19)



- The church (which is the body of believers) will only make a great impact in the world when all Christians actively participate in God's plan for their life



The Apostle Paul wrote,
“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.”
(Ephesians 4:16)



- **We will always be most energized and fulfilled in life when we flow in God's will for our life**
- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us not to be distracted from flowing in our own unique gifts and callings



Jesus Himself said,

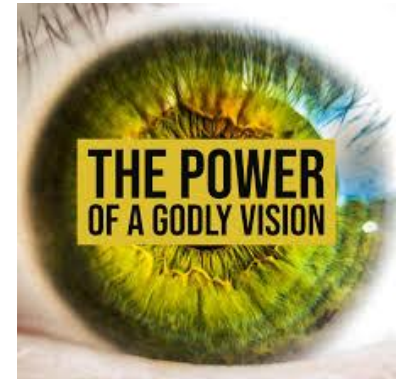
“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)

- **With the world now becoming more and more ungodly, how important it is that we all as Christians have a clear God given vision for our life**
- Having a clear God given vision for our life is a great key to us not being conformed to the pattern of this world in the perilous times that we are now living in



The Apostle Paul wrote,

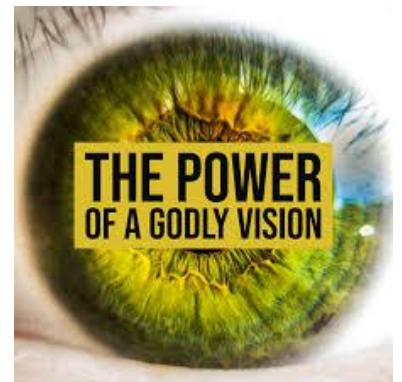
“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**



If we have a clear God given vision for our life;

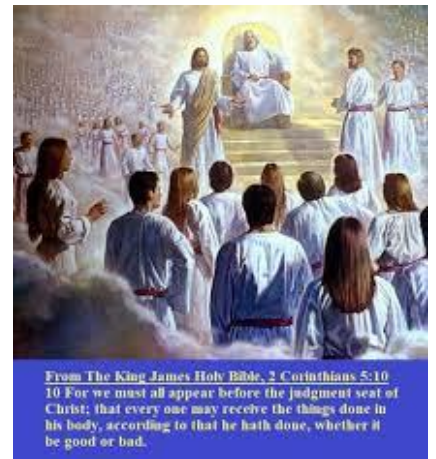
- i. We will make an eternal difference in the lives of many in the days to come, and
- ii. Help contribute to the church (the body of Christ) making a great impact in our communities in the days to come.

We are better together.



- As we connect with God's plan for our life we will also help others to connect with God's plan for their lives, in particular encouraging our children to live for the Lord
- Having a clear God given vision for our life will help us to fulfil our God given destiny and to receive eternal rewards when Christ returns

Jesus Himself said, “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)

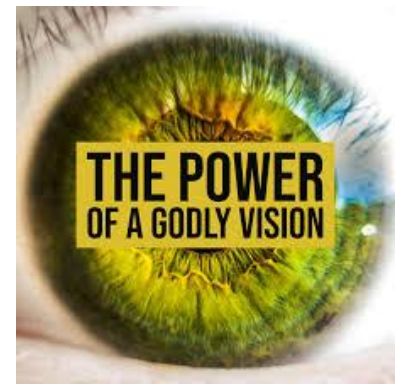


- **Having a clear God given vision for our life will help us to finish our walk with the Lord well in a time when Jesus said the love of many would grow cold**

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

“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)

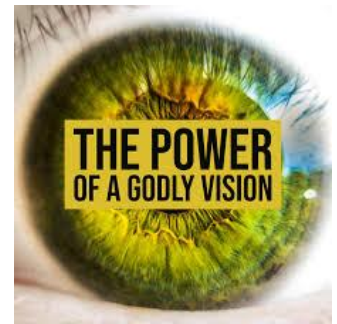


Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth,
“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**



- **As we are faithful in the little God will also enlarge the vision for our life so that we can have a greater impact on more people's lives**

- **In Jesus' Parable of the Talents we see this fact clearly illustrated when He referred to the faithful servant who had been given five talents;**



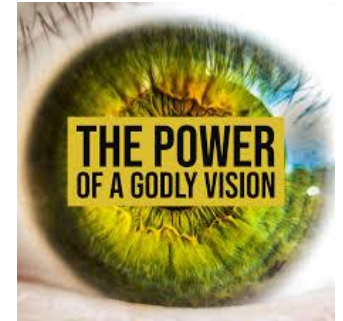
“His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

(Matthew 25:21)

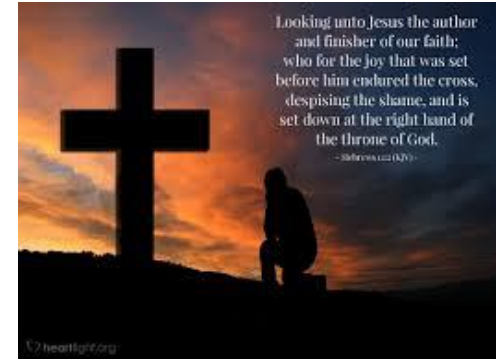
- **A GOD GIVEN VISION WILL CAUSE US TO BREAK OPEN OUR LIVES FOR OTHERS**

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)**



- **Jesus is our example**



Looking unto Jesus the author
and finisher of our faith;
who for the joy that was set
before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is
set down at the right hand of
the throne of God.
- Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” **(Hebrews 12:2)**

“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



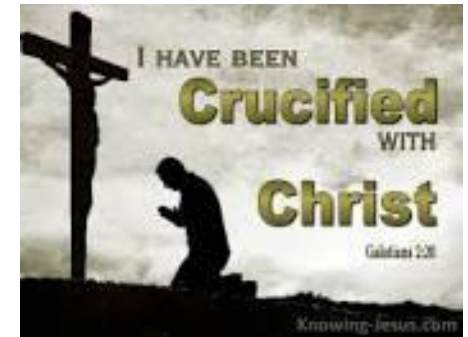
SO QUICKLY how do we get a God given vision for our life!

1) We need to be prepared to fully surrender our life and plans to Jesus and to seek His will for our life

- It all begins with this. If we are to know God's vision and plan for our life we must first allow Jesus to be truly Lord of ALL of our life. That we seek His will for our life.
- **The Apostle Paul led a surrendered life and achieved much during his time here on earth**



- Like the Apostle Paul we need to fully surrender our lives and plans to the Lord
- When we do God is then able to reveal His will for our life to us



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)**

2) We need to make time to draw aside to hear from the Lord



In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” **(Jeremiah 23:18)**



- It is as we are still before the LORD that He is able to show us what He has planned for our life and give us a clear vision and focus for our lives.
- **Revelation always comes in isolation.**
- In the place of intimacy with the LORD He will place upon our heart His plans and vision for our life



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

- It is in the place of intimacy with the LORD that we will gain God's heart of compassion to make a difference in the world as He births His plan and vision for our life in our hearts
- **It is God's compassion in our heart that will compel us to run with His vision for our life**
- God's plan for our life will always involve sacrificially giving of ourselves, but His compassion in our heart will make it a joy to do so



In the gospel of Matthew we read,

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing every sickness and every disease* among the people.

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)



- It is as we draw aside with the Lord that we will get His heart and VISION for our life
- It is as we sit in His presence that God will continually clarify His vision and plans for our life as His will for our life unfolds over time



3) We need to choose to continually commit our plans to God and to seek to know what His blueprint is for our 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)**

4) The importance of being planted in a local church fellowship and being accountable to other mature believers

- At times, (especially as new believers) others can see more clearly as to what our spiritual gifts and calling are in life than what we do
- Having other mature Christians speaking into our lives can also help us to fine tune and clarify what God's vision and plan is for our life
- The bible makes it clear that there is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors



In the book of Proverbs we read,

**“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”
(Proverbs 15:22)**

AND



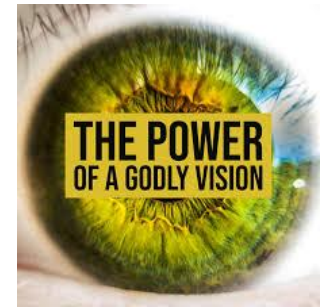
5) We need to journal and write down God's directions and vision for our life when He reveals them to us

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,
“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,
that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)

- If we do not write down what God has revealed to us to do, we can easily forget what He has put on our heart to do as we get caught up with the everyday issues of life



- *Once we have a clear God given vision for our life we can then prayerfully make plans to see it come to pass*
- *A Vision is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration to see it come to pass*
- Without plans and action the vision for our life will never come to fruition



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)

- So my encouragement to you today is that you would seek to know and follow God's vision for your life so that your life will be a great blessing to the body of Christ and the world around you as you actively seek to live for the Kingdom Cause

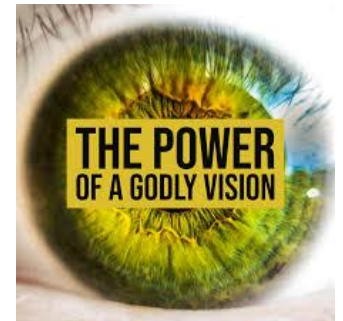


- WE ONLY HAVE ONE GIFT OF LIFE TO LEAVE AN ETERNAL LEGACY IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND TO STORE UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN

- Having a clear God given vision for our life will help us to leave a great legacy in our world as we simply commit to following God's blueprint for our life

I will now look at one final Scripture;

**The Lord said to Jeremiah the prophet,
“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and
show you great and mighty things, which
you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)**



May I encourage you to wholeheartedly pursue God's vision and plan for your life from today on

Just believe that your life can make a great difference in our world for eternity