

KINGDOM LIVING – PART TWO

- Today I am going to continue on by sharing some more keys to Kingdom living to help us to experience and to enjoy the fullness of life that God has planned for our life
- Again I will remind you of the words that Jesus spoke, “... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)
- Again we must continually refuse to be conformed to the world’s way of thinking but to build our lives on Kingdom principles and God’s promises in His Word for all believers
- In an uncertain world we can be assured in our walk with the Lord that God is absolutely faithful and that with Him nothing is impossible
- More than ever before as faith filled believers we have the ability to shine in this world for Jesus. Again I will look at the words of Jesus as we begin looking at this week’s keys to Kingdom living. Jesus said,
“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Today I will be sharing 7 more keys to help you to live an overcoming life that is full of purpose and meaning

1. Choosing our friends wisely

- **We need friends who will encourage us to fully embrace what God has planned for our lives**
- **We must not continually associate with people who will drag us down and who will continually cause us to compromise in our walk with the Lord.**
- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**
“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
(1 Corinthians 15:33)
- **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)**
- **We have one gift of life to make a difference in this world for eternity, to leave a legacy from our life here on earth.**
- **The Devil will continually try and get us to squander our lives and to draw us away from all that God has planned for our life**

➤ **The bible makes it clear that we must break off our lives, all those things that would hinder us from fulfilling our God given potential and that we need to refuse to allow wrong people to come into our lives who will complicate and negatively impact our lives**

➤ **In the book of Hebrews we read,**

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1)

➤ **In Psalm One we read,**

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

➤ **We need to cut the Delilah’s off our life who will drain us of our spiritual strength.**

➤ In the book of Judges in the Old Testament, we see how Delilah enticed and pestered Samson daily to reveal the secret of his strength (his hair), and after he did so, she organized for a man to shave off his hair. As the LORD had departed from Samson he no longer had God’s supernatural strength and power and was imprisoned by the Philistines. His eyes were also gauged out and he became blind (See Judges Chapter 16)

- We need to ensure that we ***do not allow*** *wrong influences and wrong friends into our life*, (Delilah's) who can undermine our spiritual fervour and draw us away from GOD'S DESTINY AND PLAN FOR OUR LIFE and who can blind us to the things that God has planned for our life

- **WHO WE KEEP COMPANY WITH IN LIFE WILL GREATLY DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WE FULFILL OUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY AND WHETHER OR NOT WE EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE**

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

- **We need friends who will encourage us to be all that God has planned for our life.**

- **Friends who love us enough that they will even graciously speak words of correction into our lives to help us to not make bad choices in life – TRUE FRIENDS**

2. Living a life of HUMBLE obedience (Continually just doing what Jesus tells us to do)

➤ **God's ways are higher than OUR ways**

➤ **In the book of Isaiah we read,**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

➤ **God knows what is best for us and our families in every area of our life**

➤ **He knows the good works which He has planned for our lives to walk in**

➤ **God loves us with a passion and truly wants the best for our life.**

➤ **King David wrote**

“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 139:17-18)**

➤ **Walking in obedience to what God has planned for our life and heeding His counsel and correction help us to make good choices in life and to avoid much heartache and problems in life**

➤ **Walking in humble obedience is a key to walking in God's blessings**

➤ **In the book of Isaiah we read,**

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

➤ **Jesus Himself also said,**

“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” **(Luke 11:28)**

➤ **Having a humble dependence on God is a key to embracing the fullness of what God has planned for our life and to seeing His plan and purpose for our life coming to pass**

➤ **King David wrote,**

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” **(Psalm 37:3-5)**

➤ **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)**

➤ **HAVING A HUMBLE DEPENDENCE ON GOD IS ALSO A GREAT KEY TO BEING PROMOTED IN GOD’S KINGDOM**

➤ **Promotion in God’s Kingdom always comes from above. For this reason we must always endeavour to be God pleasers rather than man pleasers.**

➤ **Peer group pressure and the opinions of others have the potential to cause people to make poor choices in life and to miss out on God’s best for their life**

➤ **PEOPLE will fail us from time to time, even we at times will disappoint ourselves, BUT GOD will NEVER fail us. WE CAN DEPEND ON HIS FAITHFULNESS**

➤ **As we humble ourselves before God He will then raise us up and promote us in due time.**

➤ **In the book of James we read,**

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” **(James 4:10)**

- **HAVING A HUMBLE DEPENDENCE ON GOD IS A GREAT KEY TO ENJOYING THE FULLNESS OF WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE AND TO AVOIDING THE MANY PITFALLS OF LIFE.**

➤ We need to simply CHOOSE to be <u>continually guided</u> by the Holy Spirit in ALL that we do in life.

- **Jesus said,**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

3. The importance of living one day at a time.

➤ **Jesus 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)

➤ **God gives us the grace and ability and wisdom to handle all of today's problems.**

➤ **We must not burden ourselves with tomorrows and next week's problems which cannot be dealt with today.**

➤ **We must continually refuse to make a down payment on tomorrow's problems.**

➤ **We need to LEARN to live one day at a time - To ENJOY EACH MOMENT of every day**

➤ **We can always be assured that God is already going ahead of our tomorrows and knows exactly what we have need of in life even before we ask Him**

➤ **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)

4. Learning to do things in God's strength.

➤ **The Apostle Peter wrote,**

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11)

➤ **GOD WILL ALWAYS ANOINT US to do the tasks that He calls us to do in life.**

➤ **We need to learn to depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us for all that we have to do in life. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do more than we could ever do in our own strength**

➤ **Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit in His ministry here on earth. In the book of Acts we read,**
“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)

➤ **The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“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)

➤ **God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness**

➤ **So often it is when we have nothing left in the natural to offer God that we see Him moving most powerfully in our life**

➤ **The Apostle Paul was well aware of this fact when he wrote,**
“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” **(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**

➤ **GOD IS NEVER LIMITED BY OUR ABILITY, ONLY OUR AVAILABILITY**

➤ **The simple fact is that whatever God calls us to do in life, no matter how inadequate we may feel or how tired we may feel, God will anoint and supernaturally empower us to complete the tasks that He assigns us to do**

➤ **Three important keys to living our life in God's strength and ability are:**

- i. **Continually doing what God has called us to do in life
(That we flow in His gifts and calling for our life)**
- ii. **Doing things in His timing and**
- iii. **Doing things His way**

5. Being CONTINUALLY quick to forgive others who have hurt us or let us down

➤ **Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”
(John 8:36)

- **As Christians we can enjoy great peace and fullness of joy in our lives and rich relationships with other people, especially other brothers and sisters in the Lord**
- **The devil will however continually try and offend Christians to separate themselves from other believers and will try and bring strife and contentions into our families.**
- **All of us will continually have opportunities to be offended in life because no person is perfect in this world and because we have all different perspectives about what matters in life. (i.e. Some like the toilet rolls unrolling along the wall and some away from the wall. Some like tidy homes whereas some see being comfortable in a less than perfectly tidy home a greater priority)**
- **Jesus Himself said,**
“It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!” (Luke 17:1)

➤ **Jesus Himself also said in relation to the times just prior to His Second Coming,**

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” (Matthew 24:10-11)

➤ **We must simply refuse to give any place to the devil to bind us up with unforgiveness and to cause a root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts. THIS NEEDS TO BE A CONTINUAL CHOICE.**

➤ 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**)

➤ **Unforgiveness will:**

- i. Steal our joy and peace
- ii. *Negatively affect our relationships with other people and our fellowship with God*
- iii. Will be a barrier to seeing our prayers being answered,
- iv. Will affect us emotionally and physically
- v. Will greatly affect the way that our children grow up, and
- vi. Will deliver us over to the torturers and to demonic oppression.

- **As God has forgiven us everything as believers, He also requires us to forgive others that may hurt us from time to time.**
- **At times when we have been very hurt by others we may need to ask for God's help to forgive them. But if we ask God for His help He will then give us the ability to forgive those that have hurt us**
- **Jesus emphasised the importance of forgiving others when He 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)
- **We must simply choose to swallow our pride and be CONTINUALLY quick to forgive those that hurt us**
- **We must refuse to open the door to oppression and torment from the enemy by harbouring unforgiveness.**
- **This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,**
“Be angry, and do not sin”; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- **In being quick to forgive others we will continually enjoy the freedom that we can have in Christ. He who the Son sets free is free indeed**

6. Enjoying the Sabbath rest.

➤ **Jesus Himself said,**

“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” **(Mark 2:27)**

➤ **God made the Sabbath for man and not man for the Sabbath.**

➤ **God knows that we need one day of rest each week to recharge our batteries.**

➤ **For me Tuesday is my Sabbath day of rest when I spend time physically resting and with the Lord renewing my strength and spiritual vitality, as I spend time with my wife.**

➤ **Sundays are a great time for families to enjoy time together and to put the Lord first.**

➤ **Fellowshipping with the Lord helps to keep our families strong and our spiritual walk vibrant.**

➤ **Spending time waiting upon the Lord and enjoying the Sabbath rest each week is a great key to continually renewing our physical strength and spiritual vitality.**

➤ **Having one day off each week helps us to also get a fresh perspective for our coming week as we spend time in God's presence**

➤ **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 is the only person in the bible referred to as being a man after God's own heart 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.”

“Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.” (Psalm 63:1-5)

➤ **Corporate worship meetings also help us to be encouraged and built up in our faith as we enjoy the blessings that come from meeting with and being encouraged by other believers.**

7. The importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit

- **As we give out to others we too need to be continually refreshed and filled with the Holy Spirit to maintain our spiritual vitality**
- **The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)**
- **Being continually filled with all the fullness of God is crucial to maintaining our spiritual vitality and passion for the things of God alive**
- **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)**
- **Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit keeps us bold and active in our faith and in witnessing to others**
- **Although all the disciples in the upper room were baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, after Peter and John had received much persecution for their faith after healing the lame man, they gathered together again for prayer. As they prayed for boldness in speaking the Word of God they were all again filled with the Holy Spirit**

- **We see this in Chapter Four of the book of Acts when they gathered together for prayer,**

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’” **(Acts 4:29-30)**

- “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31)**

- **Like those in the early church who received much persecution for their faith, we too need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit to maintain our spiritual fervour and passion for Jesus alive, especially given the times that we are now living in, when we are beginning to receive more opposition for our faith**

So in conclusion seven more keys to help us to live an overcoming walk with the Lord and to see all that God has planned for our life coming to pass are:

- 1. Choosing our friends wisely**
- 2. Living a life of HUMBLE obedience**
(Continually just doing what Jesus tells us to do)
- 3. The importance of living one day at a time**
- 4. Learning to do things in God's strength.**
- 5. Being CONTINUALLY quick to forgive others**
who have hurt us or let us down
- 6. Enjoying the Sabbath rest, and**
- 7. The importance of being continually filled**
with the Holy Spirit