

KINGDOM LIVING – Part One

➤ Today I want to commence a teaching that relates to some biblical keys that can help us to embrace the fullness of what God has planned for our life and that can help us to live in a way that our lives make a great difference in this world for eternity.

➤ I will begin by looking at three Scriptures. 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)

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

“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)

➤ From these three Scriptures we can see that the heart of God is that we would live an abundant life that is full of purpose and meaning and that through the way that we live our life we would help to lead others to Christ. That our lives would bear much fruit as we follow God’s plan and blueprint for our life

- **However as we do life in an imperfect world, we will also experience situations and experiences that can cause us to become discouraged if we do not keep our focus on the bigness of our God**
- **So I want to first start this teaching by outlining some of the great promises in the bible that can help us to live an overcoming life without stress and anxiety**

As Christians we can:

- I. Be ASSURED of God's continual and everlasting love for us. That nothing can ever separate us from His love**

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)**

- II. Experience and enjoy God's peace and joy in our life (even during the midst of our greatest trials in life IF we keep our focus on the LORD)**

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)**

King David 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)

III. Be assured that God promises to meet our every need in life when we put Him first in our life

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)

IV. We can know that God has a unique and unfolding plan for our life that is full of purpose and meaning

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)

V. That God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. God ENABLES and empowers us to do all that He has planned for our life. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13) AND

VI. That with God nothing will be impossible

**The angel Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus,
“For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)**

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)

➤ GOD HAS MUCH IN STORE FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE

➤ Every believer can make a great difference in this world for eternity

➤ We are all however in a spiritual contest in which our adversary will try and draw us away from God's Kingdom design and plan for our 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)

➤ It is ONLY when Jesus is on the throne of our heart and as we live for Him that we experience the ABUNDANT life that Jesus spoke

➤ **As we live with ETERNITY in mind and do things as to the Lord LIFE HAS GREAT PURPOSE AND MEANING**

➤ **We must continually REFUSE to be conformed to this world (and the world's way of thinking) and refuse to become self focused in the way that we live our life**

➤ **The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

“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 12:1-2)**

➤ **The Apostle Paul wrote of the perilous times that we are now living in as we see the imminent return of the Lord**

“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)**

➤ **WHAT THE WORLD WOULD SAY WOULD MAKE US HAPPY is often so different to what God would say are the keys to happiness and purpose in life**

- When we look at many of the high profile people in the world who have achieved much wealth and fame in their life, we often see that their own personal lives are in tatters
- Greg Laure a well know preacher said, “Don’t pursue happiness but pursue God and you will experience true happiness”
- OVER THE NEXT FEW SUNDAYS I WILL BE SHARING SOME KINGDOM PRINCIPLES THAT CAN HELP US TO ENJOY KINGDOM LIVING AND TO SEE OUR LIVES MAKING A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY
- As Christians we have the potential to help bring hope and transformation to the lives of those around us if we live whole heartedly for the Kingdom cause and share our faith with others

1) Living to serve and to encourage others

- **Whilst the world would say that looking after number one is the most important thing Jesus emphasized that serving and living for others was the key to greatness in God's Kingdom**

Jesus said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet is shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
(Matthew 20:25-28)

- **Mother Therese was quoted as saying,**
“A life not lived for others is not a life.”
- **Living for and serving others is a great key to living a life of purpose and meaning**
- **Life has much greater meaning when we live our life to love and serve others. When we look to live for others we also spend less time focusing on our own problems**

➤ When we have gone through pain and disappointments in life we can do one of two things:

- i. We can become bitter and cynical in life and continually live with regrets, or
- ii. We can seek the Lord for His comfort and strength and healing and then when we have passed through the storm, we can then LIVE TO help encourage others that may be going through similar storms and trials in life

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)

➤ Having a servant heart helps us to stand out and shine in this world – HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE LEARN TO SERVE OTHERS with our gifts and talents

➤ In a world in which the focus is often about living for number one, as Christians we can make a great difference in the atmospheres of our homes, workplaces and in our world by having a servant heart

2) That we do all things in life with a right attitude

In many ways our attitude in life will determine our altitude

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)**

Giving our best (not perfectionism) in all that we do is a great key to living a life of great purpose and meaning

Making the most of our God given abilities and gifts and faithfully serving the LORD with our gifts and time helps to give us great joy and purpose and meaning in life.

In the parable of the talents Jesus said,

“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ “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.’”

“He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Matthew 25:20-23)

Having an excellent spirit and doing things well helps to give purpose and meaning to the things that we do in life

I will now just look at a number of areas in relation to having a right attitude in life:

i. Doing all things with a *motivation of love*

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

ii. Doing all things *as to the Lord*

(People will not always appreciate what we do for them)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

- iii. **Being *content with what God gives us to do in life* and what we have in life** (That people are always more important in life than possessions)

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)**

- iv. **Being enthusiastic about what we do in life**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Rejoice always,” **(1 Thessalonians 5:16)**

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” **(1 Thessalonians 5:18)**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.” **(Philippians 4:4)**

There is no greater cause to get passionate about than the cause of Christ.

The more intimate we are in our relationship with the LORD, the more passionate we will be in enjoying every aspect of life

The Apostle Paul wrote about how we should behave as a Christian in the book of Romans

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, ***serving the Lord***; rejoicing in hope, **patient in tribulation**, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**” (Romans 12:10-14)

- v. **Being where God wants us to be and in the centre of God's will for our life is a great key to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus spoke of**

(We are most fulfilled and energised when we are flowing in our gifts and calling – BEING WHO GOD CREATED US TO BE – There are different seasons in life)

Jesus Himself said,

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

- vi. **Being faithful in the little things**

When we are faithful in the little things then God can entrust to us greater responsibilities – Promotion in God’s Kingdom always comes from above.

Jesus Himself said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.” **(Luke 16:10)**

- vii. **CONTINUALLY living our life for the Kingdom cause and with eternity in mind helps to give us great purpose and meaning in life, EVEN in the everyday things of life. We all have a ministry and mission field.**

LIVING FOR THE KINGDOM CAUSE CHANGES OUR WHOLE PERSPECTIVE IN LIFE. WE CAN SEE THIS IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE

Three people working on a building site where asked the same question, "What are you doing?" One answered, "I am laying bricks." The second answered, "I am building a wall." The third answered, "I am building a cathedral." The final response is typical of someone who has a Kingdom perspective in life. This person has a Kingdom perspective and great purpose in the job that he is doing.

We need to simply choose to maintain a good attitude in life in all circumstances

- **We need to choose to ENJOY what we HAVE to do in life**
- **Life is full of many mundane tasks which need to be done. We need to continually choose to enjoy and to have a good attitude about doing these tasks**
- **Seeing these mundane tasks in light of the bigger picture helps to give meaning to these tasks. Like seeing our children growing up in the ways of the Lord and doing well in life makes all our hard work worth while**
- **Every vision that God gives us in life is 10% Inspiration and then 90% perspiration if we are to see it come to pass. HAVING A RIGHT ATTITUDE IN LIFE IS CRUCIAL**

3) That we have a clear God given vision for our life and an understanding of His will and plan for our life

➤ **Having a clear understanding of God's plan for our life helps us to stay focused in our walk with the Lord and in the centre of His will for our life**

➤ **Being in the centre of God's will for our life is a key to living a life of great purpose and meaning. Being at the right place at the right time**

➤ **This is why 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)**

➤ **Without a clear God given vision for our life we are more likely to squander our God given gifts and talents and to make undisciplined 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)**

➤ Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us

- To *overcome discouragement*
- *Avoid distractions* in life
- To have *right priorities* in life
- To live a life of *great purpose and meaning*
- To see our lives *bearing much fruit*, and
- To see all that God has planned for our life coming to pass

➤ **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 so much in store for each of our lives as believers**

➤ **A clear God given vision for our life helps to see God’s plan for our life unfolding and coming to pass AND OUR LIVES MAKING A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY**

4) Refusing to live with regrets.

- **We have all experienced disappointments and failures in the past**
- **We have all made wrong choices in the past**
- **But no matter what has happened in the past we cannot change the past**
- **The enemy will always try and get us looking back at our past failures, lost opportunities and injustices to discourage us and to get our focus off the Lord**
- **We must continually look to the Lord and keep our focus on what He has planned for our future**
- **We must simply refuse to live with regrets.**
- **LIVING WITH REGRETS WILL SABOTAGE OUR JOY AND PREVENT US FROM FULLY EMBRACING ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE**

➤ **The Apostle Paul was persecuting Christians before he had a dramatic encounter with the Lord. He knew that he could not dwell on his past mistakes.**

➤ **The Apostle Paul 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)

➤ **God is able to resurrect broken dreams. No matter how many mistakes we have made in life God has a hope and future for our life.**

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)

➤ **We must CONTINUALLY CHOOSE to fully EMBRACE the future that God has planned for our life**

➤ **We cannot hold on to our past hurts and disappointments if we are to experience the fullness of what God have planned for our life.**

➤ **We must refuse to live our life with regrets.**

➤ **We must focus on the future that God has planned for our life**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

**“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
(Isaiah 43:18-19)**

5) That making time to spend with the Lord is our greatest priority

(Everything flows out of our intimacy with the Lord)

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)**

Maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord is a key to growing in Christlike character and in our walk with the Lord and to fulfilling all that God has planned for our life

IT IS ALSO A GREAT KEY TO MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR LIVES. 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.

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)**

In the middle of our busy agendas we need to continually make time to spend alone in the presence of the Lord. THIS IS A GREAT KEY TO MAINTAINING OUR SPIRITUAL VITALITY

King David wrote,

“Wait on the Lord; Be of **good courage**, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14)

Starting each day with the Lord is a great platform on which to build our day and to continually keeping our fervour and passion for Jesus alive

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)

Intimacy with the Lord helps us to be watching for the return of the Lord. I will finish with the words of Jesus

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

“For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)