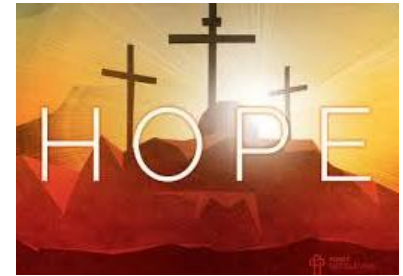


# Keeping the main thing, the main thing

Our faith and love for Jesus Christ is the most precious thing that we have in life and it is eternal

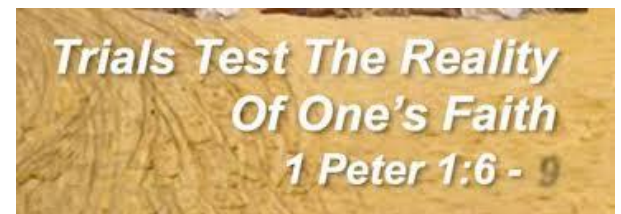
*The Apostle Peter wrote,*

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” **(1 Peter 1: 3-5)**



“In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.

Though now you do not see Him,  
*yet believing, you rejoice with joy  
inexpressible* and full of glory,  
receiving the end of your  
faith-the salvation of your souls.  
**(1 Peter 1:6-9)**



- Jesus Himself clearly emphasised the importance of living with eternity in mind. He also made it clear that in the days that we are now living in, that the love of many would grow cold
- **We see this in the following passages of Scripture**  
**Jesus 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)**



**Jesus also said,**

**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)**



- Here Jesus made it very clear that we cannot love the things of the world and God at the same time. With materialism such a great focus in our world today, how important it is that we continually put Christ first in our life

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

**“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

**“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My names sake.”**

**(Matthew 24:6-9)**



“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.

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

**(Matthew 24:10-13)**





- Jesus also made it clear that if we put Him and the things of the Kingdom first in our life, we can be assured that God will meet our every need in life

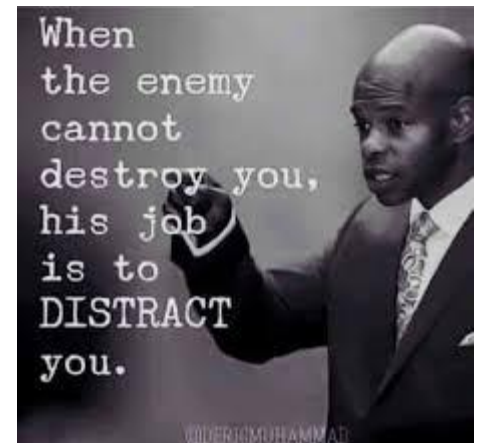
Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and *His righteousness*, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
**(Matthew 6:31-33)**



I will now just quickly share 9 reasons *why* we need to always keep our faith in Christ and our walk with Him the main thing in our life

## **1) We only have one life here on earth to store up treasures in heaven**

- The enemy would like to minimize our Christian witness in this world by distracting us and side tracking us from our God given assignment in life
- God has a unique plan for every believer's life





**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)**



- There is a big difference between our career and our calling. Chuck Missler was both a businessman and a gifted bible teacher for much of his life
- When we breathe our last breath all that really matters is the *eternal legacy* that we have left in the lives of others and in particular our children. People who have been encouraged to walk with the Lord *through our life and witness here on earth*
- Like athletes who are highly disciplined in their training so we too need to be disciplined in the way that we live our life



- Without a clear commitment to living for the Kingdom Cause we can easily squander our life
- It is so important that we continually make Christ and His Kingdom Cause first priority in our life so that we can be an eternal blessing to many

**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)**



## 2) We will all one day stand before Jesus to receive our rewards for our life here on earth

- The simple fact is that we will all one day give an account of our life here on earth to Jesus
- For Christians our judgement is not unto condemnation but to receive our rewards for our service here on earth



**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)**

## The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **(2 Corinthians 5:9-10)**



### **3) Other people's eternal destinies are connected to us fulfilling God's plan for our life**

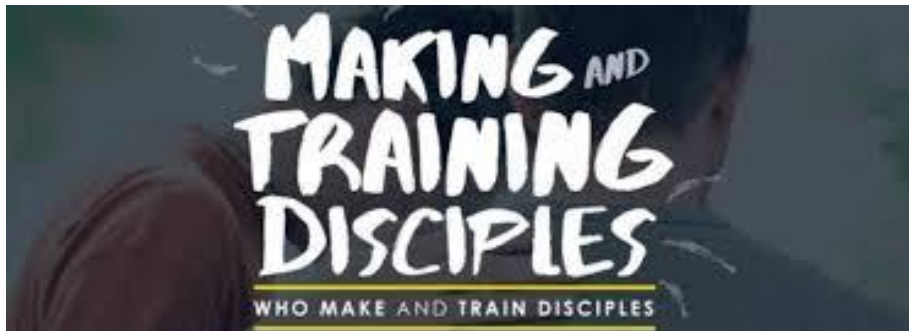
- In particular it will be our genuine passion for the things of God that will have the greatest impact on the lives of our children and friends
- When we fulfil God's plan for our life we will help others to come to Christ and to connect with God's plan for their lives
- The eternal destinies of others are also connected to us flowing in God's plan for our life





**The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy** “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, *commit these to faithful men* who will be able to teach others also.” **(2 Timothy 2:2)**

- As we invest in the lives of other believers we will also help them to fulfil God’s plan for their lives. We all need one another in the Body of Christ





***The Apostle Paul also wrote to Timothy,***

***“Let no one despise your youth, but be an **example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, **in faith**, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; **give yourself entirely to them**, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**” (1 Timothy 4:12-16)***



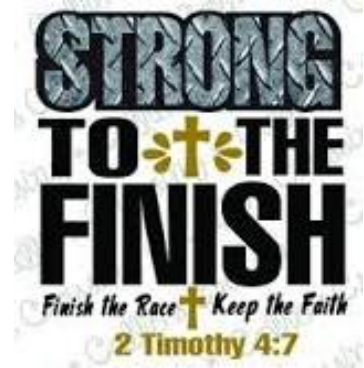
- Particularly for those who have been called into the five fold ministry, it is important that they are faithful in wholeheartedly pursuing their calling as many lives will be impacted for eternity through their obedience.



**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

#### 4) In a world full of lawlessness, sceptics and unbelief, the most important thing is that we continue walking with the Lord

- That our greatest goal as a believer needs to be to finish our Christian walk strongly

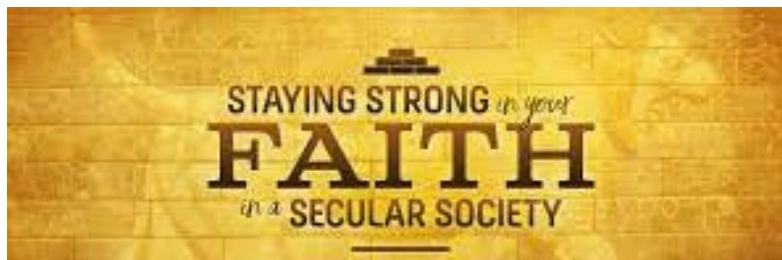


**At the end of his time here on earth the Apostle Paul wrote, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all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

- **We have a very real adversary, the Devil, who is out to destroy our lives and faith**

**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)**



- Jesus Himself referred to the Devil's constant endeavour to stop people living for Christ in His Parable of the Sower when He said, "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, ***and does not understand it***, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ***yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while***. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles." (Matthew 13:18-21)



- Spending quality time in God's Word
- Having a lifestyle of prayer and worship
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit
- Having fellowship with other believers
- Being planted in a local church, and
- Living a lifestyle of simple obedience to God's will for our life

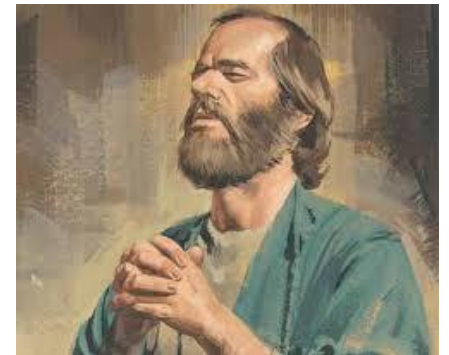


Will all help us to maintain a soft heart towards the things of God and to finish our Christian walk strongly





- **It is our love for Christ that will keep us strong during the trials of life**
- The Apostle Paul experienced many trials and challenges during his time here on earth  
*(He was beaten with rods, stoned by the Jews, was shipwrecked on a number of occasions and abandoned by other disciples as he neared his death)*
- However he never lost his love and passion for the things of God. He was a lover and not user of God.
- **His consuming passion was to know Christ and to make Him know to others**





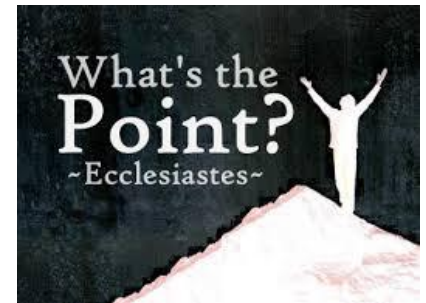
**The Apostle Paul wrote, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:7-8)**



- **Like with the Apostle Paul, it will be our love for Christ that will keep us strong during the trials and temptations and disappointments of life that we will all experience**

## 5) That though the spirit of the world promises much, the things of this world will never truly satisfy us

- King Solomon, the richest man in the world, who had everything the world would say would make you happy at the end of his life came to the conclusion that it was all meaningless.
- It is only in knowing Christ intimately and living for the Kingdom Cause that will give us true purpose and meaning in life on an ongoing basis



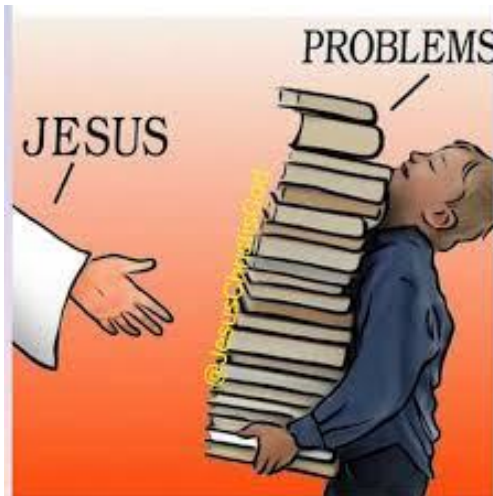
- We were made to do life together with God
- Allowing Jesus Christ to be truly Lord of every area of our life is the key to embracing the fullness of life that Jesus spoke of

**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)**

**Jesus also said,** “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **(Matthew 11:28-30)**



## 6) It is a key to always being ready for the imminent rapture of all true believers prior to the second coming of the Lord

- Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of always being ready for His return in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish virgins. (*Matthew 25:1-13*)
- There are several passages of Scripture in the bible that emphasise the importance of believers always being ready and watching for the return of the Lord and the imminent rapture of all true believers. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)



**Jesus Himself said,** “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” **(Luke 21:25-28)**





“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)**





**Jesus also said,**

**“Therefore you also be ready,  
for the Son of Man is coming at  
an hour you do not expect.”**

**(Matthew 24:44)**



**“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day  
nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”**

**(Matthew 25:13)**

- **Maintaining our first love for Jesus and continually abiding in His love is a great key to always being ready and prepared for the imminent rapture of all true believers**



**In the book of Revelation we read the words of Jesus, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” (Revelation 22:12)**

**“...Surely I am coming quickly...”  
(Revelation 22:20)**



- Given all the signs that we are now seeing in our world, it is so important as believers that we always live our lives in the light of Jesus' coming, so that we will be found faithful when He comes

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

**(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**



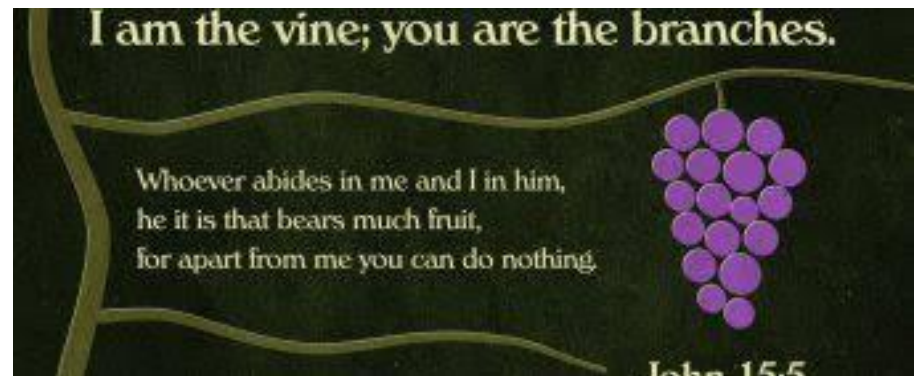
## 7) That our lives only bear fruit when we maintain an ongoing intimate and abiding relationship with Christ

- We will only grow in Christlike character through maintaining an ongoing intimate relationship with the Lord
- Our lives will also only bear much eternal fruit if we stay close to the Lord
- God has so much in store for every believer's life. God's ways are higher than our ways



**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)**



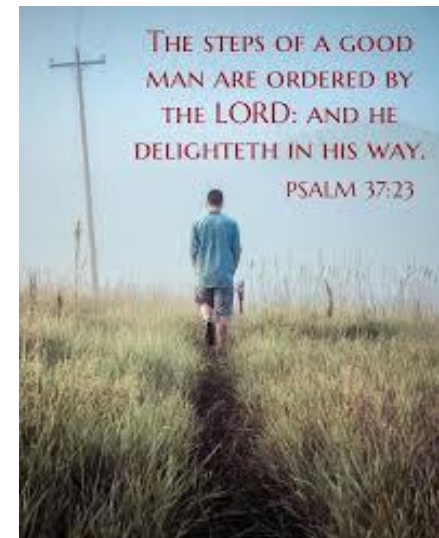
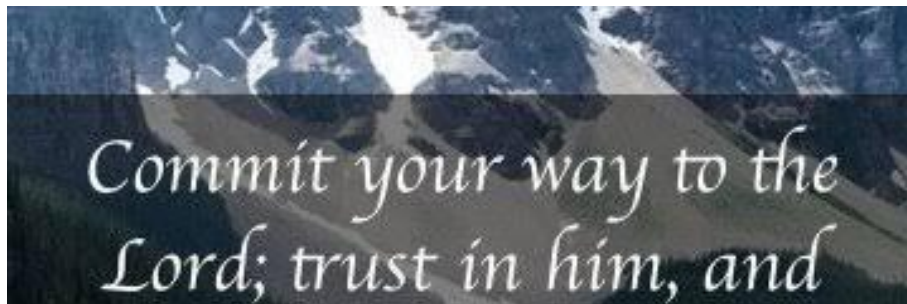


- Intimacy with the LORD is the key to seeing God's unfolding plan for our life coming to pass  
**Jesus Himself said,**  
“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**



**King David wrote,**

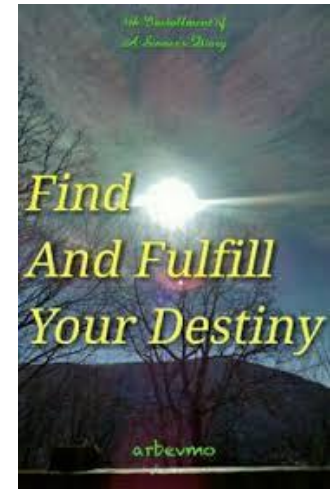
**“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)**





## 8) That when we put Christ and the things of the Kingdom first in our life, God promises to meet our every need in life

- God wants to help us to fulfil our God given destiny in life
- God is able to connect us with the right people in life and to meet our every need
- When Jesus Christ is truly Lord of every area of our life, God promises to meet our every need in life (Matthew 6:33)



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

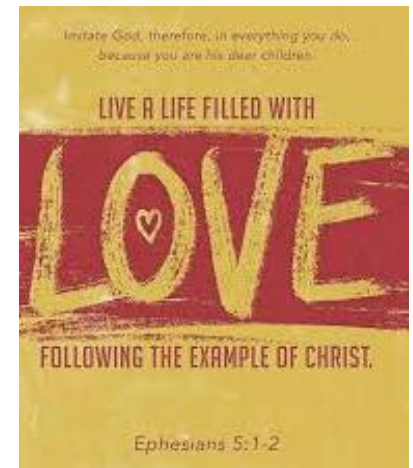
**“And my God shall supply all your need  
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:19)**

**AND**



## 9) It will affect the way that we live our life and love others

- When Christ truly gets hold of our heart we are more prepared to sacrificially give of ourselves and *to help others* to come to Christ and to realise their God given destiny in life



- It is only Christ's love in our heart that will cause us to sacrificially live for others

## In Matthew 9:35-36 we see Christ's great compassion for people

“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.”

**(Matthew 9:35-36)**



- It is only as we CHOOSE to die to self DAILY and to live for the Kingdom Cause that our life makes any difference in our world for ETERNITY



**Jesus made this clear when He 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.” (John 12:24-25)**



- So in conclusion, especially given the lawless times that we are now living in, may I encourage you to keep your love for Jesus the main thing in your life, so that all that He has planned for your life will continue to unfold in the days to come



- Just believe that as you choose to continually make your relationship with Jesus Christ the main thing in your life, that your life can make a great difference in this world for eternity





- I will finish with three scriptures

**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)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”**  
**(1 Corinthians 15:58)**



- One day we will be rewarded by Jesus for all that we did in His name during our time here on earth

- For this reason it is good to fully use our gifts and talents for the Kingdom Cause during our time here on earth



- We have one life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others and to store up treasures in heaven

In the book of Jeremiah we read the words of the LORD to the prophet Jeremiah,

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



So may I encourage you again, just believe that as you continue to put the Lord first in you life in the days to come, that your life can make a great *eternal difference* in the lives of many in the days to come