

# KEYS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND TO FULFILLING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE

## Introduction:

Every believer has an important ministry calling. The moment a person comes to Christ, God has a unique plan and purpose for their life. The Apostle Paul made this clear when he 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)**

Whilst this teaching has a focus on giving some keys to being effective as a church pastor and leader, it also relates to all Christians. This teaching was part of my training notes for a mission's trip to India in 2016. As the community structure for many other countries is probably similar to that in India, I have kept my observations on the community life in India as part of this revised teaching.

**I will now look at some general keys to being effective in our ministry callings and in our roles as church leaders**

- **The importance of commitment in our lives and in persevering in our ministry callings**

Our ability to fulfil God's plan for our life will impact the lives of many other people. For this reason we should never giving up on what God has called us to do in life.

As Christians we will all need to overcome trials and challenges in life and persecution from others

**The Apostle Paul made this clear when he wrote,**

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

**The Apostle Paul clearly emphasised the importance of being committed and persevering in our walk with the Lord. We see this in the following passages of Scripture;**

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” **(Galatians 6:9)**

“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)**

“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)**

**Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of finishing all that God has planned for our life.**

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

**Towards the end of His time here on earth Jesus said,**

“I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” **(John 17:4)**

<p><b>- HAVING AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH IN GOD (Being prepared to take steps of faith as directed by the LORD)</b></p>
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**God’s work done in HIS ways and in His timing will never lack provision**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” **(2 Corinthians 9:8)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

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

**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)**

<p><b>- THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A <u>GOD GIVEN</u> VISION FOR OUR LIFE AND CHURCH MINISTRIES</b></p>
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**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)**

**Without a clear God given vision for our life we can be easily distracted and sidetracked from what He has planned for our life and ministry.**

**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 also helps us to keep strong and focused during times of trials and struggles**

## - **EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY – The importance of making disciples**

**The importance of our churches having a vision to help see all converts being given the opportunity to become MATURE DISCIPLES**

A church that is full of converts who have not yet died to self will have many relational issues and problems

A church full of mature disciples will be a loving and healthy church. For this reason as pastors and leaders we need to have a key focus on helping to encourage all believers to become mature disciples

We need to actively encourage and equip all believers to grow in their faith so that they can realise their full potential in Christ

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” **(Matthew 28:19)**

“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” **(Matthew 28:20)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote about the role of those in the five-fold ministry offices**

“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.” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

**- THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR OUR LIVES AND MINISTRIES (Just doing what Jesus tell us to do) – God's ways are higher than our ways**

**In Psalm 127 we read,**

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” **(Psalm 127:1)**

**- THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING OUR BEST FOR THE LORD**

There are many reasons why it is so important that we give our best for the Lord. There is no greater privilege than living our lives for Jesus. True joy and purpose in life comes from wholeheartedly living for the Kingdom Cause

**I will now just look at a few of the reasons why it is so important that we give our best for the Lord;**

**i) We will receive eternal rewards (Our labour for the Lord is never in vain)**

**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)**

**ii) People's eternal destinies are at stake**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,** “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?” **(Proverbs 24:11-12)**

iii) **Giving our best for the Kingdom is a great KEY to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus talked about (John 10:10)**

iv) **Whatever we do for the LORD done His way will bear much fruit**

**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) **AND**

v) **TRUE JOY AND PURPOSE IN LIFE COMES FROM LOVING THE LORD AND BEING FAITHFUL IN WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO**

**WE SEE THIS IN JESUS’ PARABLE OF THE TALENTS**

**IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE WE SEE THE OUTCOME FOR THE TWO SERVANTS WHO FAITHFULLY INVESTED THEIR TALENTS THAT WERE ENTRUSTED TO THEM BY THEIR MASTER, AND HOW THEIR MASTER RESPONDED WHEN HE CAME BACK FROM HIS TRAVELS TO A FAR COUNTRY**

“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)

## - **THREE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF CHURCH LIFE**

### **i) WORSHIP (PRAYER)**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

**Prayer less people are powerless people**

**Prayer is the key to seeing breakthroughs in our life and ministry**

**Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of persevering prayer in the parable of the persistent widow;**

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’”

“And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me”

Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said,

“And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?”

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” **(Luke 18:1-8)**

## ii) EVANGELISM

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes** and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (**John 4:35**)

**We are now in a season of harvest. Given the times that we are now living in and with the imminent return of the Lord, how important it is that we have a focus on winning people to Christ; that our churches are active in the area of evangelism**

**AND**

## iii) MAKING MATURE DISCIPLES WHO CAN MAKE DISCIPLES OF OTHERS (Multiplying Small Group Model)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“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**)

It is important for all churches to have small groups that have a focus on multiplication. In the multiplying small group model all members within a small group are encouraged to look at establishing their own future small groups. Pastoral care needs are best met within the context of a loving bible based small group.

It is important also as church leaders that we invest our lives in helping to raise up other leaders. In particular we need to invest our lives in the lives of the younger generation who are our future leaders, who will help to see the gospel continuing to make an impact in the world in the days to come.

## **- THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD**

**The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,**

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: \*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

### **- PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD;**

#### **i) Builds up the faith of people**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

#### **ii) Sets people free from wrong mindsets and fears**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

#### **iii) Brings conviction to people’s hearts**

**In the book of Hebrews we read,**

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

**And**

**iv) Helps people to build their lives on a firm foundation**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” **(Matthew 7:24-25)**

**I will now conclude with some thoughts on why in particular it is crucial that all new believers are quickly encouraged to grow in their walk with the Lord, especially in countries that are not considered to be Christian nations.**

<p><b>- COMMUNITY DYNAMICS OF TYPICAL INDIAN VILLAGE – WHY it is so important to help all Christian converts in village areas to become mature disciples</b></p>
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- i) There is always much peer group pressure from other Non Christians in the villages to get new Christian converts back to idol worship**
- ii) Christians need to become strong in their faith so that they can help others to come to Christ,**
- iii) All new Christians need to be encouraged to forsake all other gods and idols and to build their lives on the Word of God and Christ alone**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

**(Colossians 2:4-8) and**

- iv) The importance of all Christians, especially in the village areas, being also connected to healthy mid week small groups. (Small groups help new Christians to be connected to the life of a local church and to grow in their walk with the Lord)**