

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING STUDY

7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

I will begin tonight's teaching by looking at an encouraging Psalm – Psalm 121

## God the Help of Those Who Seek Him

### A Song of Ascents.

121 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—

From whence comes my help?

<sup>2</sup> My help *comes* from the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to <sup>[a]</sup>be moved;  
He who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD *is* your <sup>[b]</sup>keeper;  
The LORD *is* your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
Nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD shall <sup>[c]</sup>preserve you from all evil;  
He shall preserve your soul.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD shall preserve<sup>[d]</sup> your going out and your coming in  
From this time forth, and even forevermore.

## **TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT**

**Introduction:** This is the last leadership study for 2022. I began the first leadership study for 2022 by expressing the Vision or Purpose for our leadership studies:

- 1) To help equip and train up strong leaders
- 2) To help equip all Christians to become mature disciples, and
- 3) To encourage and empower Christians to be overcomers so that they are always ready for the rapture of all true believers

**In the book of Hebrews we read,** “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” **(Hebrews 6:1-2)**

**Again, it is so important that we continually grow in our faith. Foundations are not to be re-laid but built upon.**

**Before I look at tonight’s topic, I felt to share a little on the area of church planting based on my notes from the recent ACC NSW State Conference:**

### **Having a Church Planting Focus (Notes from ACC Conference)**

- 1) The importance of creating a leadership culture
- 2) Start small (People are generally resistant to change) Impart faith into people. Keep it simple. Encourage the formation of small groups
- 3) Continually create a culture of church planting
- 4) Don't put all your energy into the main church. Keep energy for other church (small group) plants
- 5) Equip leaders to become church planters

6) Personally, as leaders and pastors we must just do what Jesus tells us to do. This will prevent us from becoming physically fatigued (It is so important that we always have energy and ENTHUSIASM in all that we do)

7) Our time with the Lord in the word of God and prayer is the most crucial thing. We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit and GUIDED by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)

8) The Holy Spirit will give us guidance in relation to the following areas when we commit our plans to Him (Proverbs 16:3)

- i. Should I plant another church, or an extension service, or a new small group?
- ii. What type of church or extension service should I plant? (i.e. Revival Outreach Focus, or Small Group Development Focus, etc)
- iii. The importance of sending church planters

9) JUST SOME FINAL THOUGHTS IN RELATION TO CHURCH PLANTING

- i. Having a blueprint to help church planters to start new churches or extension services
- ii. Planting a church or extension service 15 minutes down the road (Can be a Sunday PM service or some other night)

Two ways of doing a church plant:

- Blank Campus Church. Start with an original design, OR
- Multi-Site Church (Multiple Extension Services)

- iii. The importance of building a Discipleship culture where all Christians are encouraged to become disciple makers, and
- iv. The importance of having a greater training focus in 2023. Both to raise up leaders locally to become small group leaders, outreach team leaders and church planters and globally to help disciple overseas pastors and leaders (This can be done through zoom meetings and workshops)

## **I WILL NOW SPEND THE REST OF OUR TIME LOOKING AT TONIGHT'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING TOPIC – THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT**

**In our first leadership study this year I looked at the important character trait of COMMITMENT**

**As we are fast approaching 2023, a year of harvest, I sensed that the Lord again put on my heart to share on the importance of commitment in our Christian walk as we head into the next season**

**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)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote, “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)**

Tonight, I will again be looking at the important character trait of “COMMITMENT” We are now living in a world where commitment is becoming less apparent in the lives of many. As believers we can truly stand out in our world because of our commitment in the way that we live our lives, serve others and remain faithful in our relationships with others.

I will now look at the importance of commitment from the perspective of a Christian by looking at eleven key areas where we need to be committed as believers if we are to fulfil our God given potential in Christ. AS BELIEVERS WE NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO:

**1) Remaining strong in our faith and to continually growing in our faith. God always has more for us as believers**

Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in it is crucial that we do not neglect our spiritual disciplines and in fellowshiping with other believers

Having a commitment to growing in our faith will help us to endure to the end as we spend time with God in prayer and in His word

We are either going forward in our walk with the Lord or drifting back. The Christian walk is always one of going upstream against the tide of this world that would try and draw us away from a whole hearted devotion to Christ

It is also crucial that we do not allow our circumstances, or the actions of others, or our trials (Acts 14:22b) and disappointments in life to get us offended towards others and even towards God and to stop us from having a whole hearted devotion to Christ. Our faith is the most precious thing that we have and it is eternal (1 Peter 1:3-9)

**In the book of James we read,** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing.”  
**(James 1:2-4)**

**The Apostle Paul near the end of his time here on earth 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)**

## **2) To always making our love for Jesus the greatest priority in life**

It is our love for Jesus that will keep us strong to the end.

It is our love for Jesus that will give us His compassion for others

In His presence is fullness of joy

Intimacy in our walk with the Lord keeps our faith vibrant and alive

Regularly practicing God's presence in our life is a great key to remaining strong in our walk with the Lord in a world that is now so often opposed to the things of God

We only grow in Christlike character if we continually maintain an abiding and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ

**Jesus Himself said,**

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” **(Mark 12:30)**

**Jesus also 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)**

**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)**

### **3) To embracing the new things that God has planned for our lives in this season**

We must never allow fear or the opinions of others to stop us from FULLY embracing the new things that God has planned for our lives

Where God guides, He provides

In general, most people are prone to not taking risks and tend to remain in their comfort zone

As Christians risks are referred to as TAKING STEPS OF FAITH

God will often call us out of our comfort zone and what is familiar to us and take us in a NEW direction

God always has more for our lives as believers

We must simply be prepared to just do what Jesus tells us to do at ALL times

It is so important that we never lose our Pioneering Spirit

As we step out by faith to do those things that God calls us to do in each season of our life, He will not let us down

**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)**

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

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” **(Hebrews 11:1)**

**It is as we step out to do those things that God calls us to do, that we see God beginning to move on our behalf. Nothing is impossible WITH God**

#### **4) To always flowing in our own unique gifts and calling**

We are the greatest blessing to the body of Christ and to others when we CONTINUALLY flow in our own unique gifts and callings

It is so important that we become the best us as we continually choose to follow God’s unique plan and calling for our life in EACH season of our life. There are different anointings for different seasons



**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)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” **(Romans 12:3)**

“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)**

**IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ALWAYS PRAYERFULLY SEEK THE LORD TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY “YES” TO AND WHAT TO SAY “NO” TO SO THAT WE ARE ALWAYS OPERATING IN OUR OWN UNIQUE GIFTS AND CALLINGS**

**There is always a joy when we are flowing in our own unique gifts and calling. His (Jesus) yoke is easy and His burden is light**

**Again, there are different seasons in our life**

## **5) To building our lives on the firm foundation of the word of God and prayer**

It is so important that we are both hearers and doers of God's word and that we lead a lifestyle of prayer

The simple fact is that we are living in increasingly ungodly and lawless times

Applying these two disciplines to our life is a great key to remaining strong in our faith in a world full of temptations and challenges

Building our life on the word of God helps us to build our life on a firm foundation and is a key to prospering and having good success in life

**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.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”  
**(Matthew 7:24-27)**

**The LORD said to Joshua**, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

Having a lifestyle of prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) helps us to consistently make right choices in life and is a great key to seeing breakthroughs in our life as we seek God's help in prayer (Psalm 46:1)

**In the book of James we read, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)**

**The Apostle John wrote, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)**

## **6) To following God's will and plan for our life. God has a unique calling and plan for every believer's life**

We are the most fulfilled and the greatest blessing to others when we flow in God's will for our life. A good indicator that we are in the will of God for our life is the peace of God being evident in our lives

It is in the centre of God's will for our life that we see His continual provision and favour upon our lives

**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)**

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

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“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 12:2)**

## **7) To trusting God at ALL times and in ALL circumstances**

We must simply continue to follow God’s plan for our life at all times, even when all things seem at times to be falling apart.

God’s call upon our lives will at times be tested through the trials and disappointments that we experience in life, but we can depend upon God’s faithfulness to see us through them all as we simply continue to let Him lead at all times.

In the long run we will never come second putting God first.

We must simply learn to trust and obey for there is no other way (Psalm 37:3-5)

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,** “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” **(Jeremiah 17:7-8)**

**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)**

## **8) To finishing all those things that God calls us to do in life**

Other people's eternal destinies are connected to us being faithful in fulfilling God's plan for our life

It is easy to start things, but it takes courage and commitment to finish things, especially given the spiritual warfare that we all experience as Christians

We must simply be committed to finishing all those things that God calls us to do in each season of our life

Jesus is our example of what it is to finish our assignment during our time here on earth

**Jesus Himself said at the beginning of His ministry here on earth, "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 Prayed to His Father in Heaven, "I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4)**

On the cross Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

**The work of redemption had been completed once and for all**

## **9) To being continually guided by the Holy Spirit in all that you do. God's ways are higher than our ways**

Just like we need to follow the directions given to us when we are using the GPS to find a place, so too we must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit if we are to stay on track in our walk with the Lord

**Jesus Himself said,**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“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)**

**10) To doing all things out of a motivation of genuine love for others. This would also be reflected in our faithfulness and commitment to those that we have significant relationships with**

The simple fact is that people do not care about how much we know, but they do want to know about how much we care for them

All effective ministry needs to be undergirded by a genuine love for those that we are ministering to

In a world become less loving, it is our genuine love for others that will really make us stand out as Christians in the world that we are now living in

Love is always a choice – the feelings follow

As Christians we have the ability to love others unconditionally

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” **(Romans 5:5)**

**The Apostle Paul emphasised the absolute necessity of having a genuine love for others when he 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)**

**Jesus Himself said,** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35) AND**

**11) To living a crucified life (A life that is fully surrendered to Christ – This is what it means to be a true disciple)**

Without a daily commitment to living wholeheartedly for the Lord we will be more prone to being discouraged and distracted from following God’s plan for our life.

**This is why Jesus Himself said,** “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” **(Matthew 16:24-25)**

**Jesus also 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)**

The simple fact is that the flesh; the Devil and the world will always try and pull our focus away from the things of God. Many are called but few chosen

This is why we need to choose daily to be committed to living a crucified life for Christ so that our lives can bear much eternal fruit

**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**)

I will conclude by saying that it is only in fully surrendering our life to Jesus Christ that we begin to embrace the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10