

Living for Christ

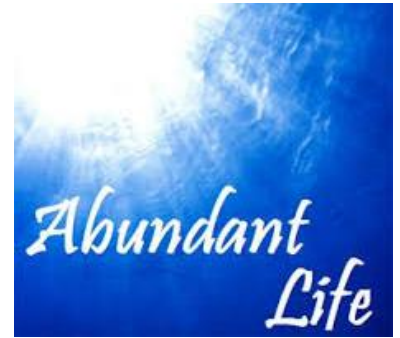


Jesus said,

“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.”

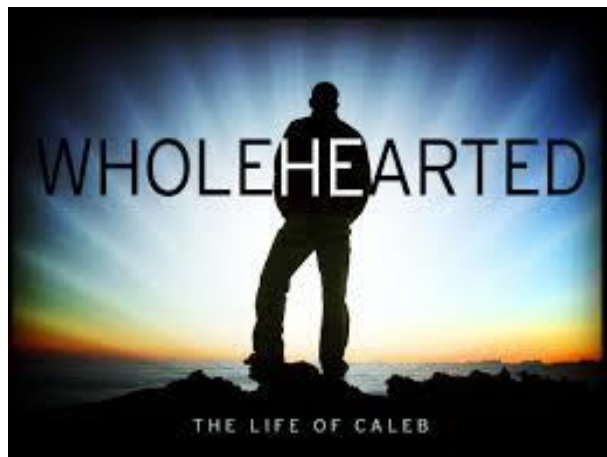
(John 10:10)

Firstly, it is good to clarify what Jesus meant by abundant life



- True abundant life consists of an abundance of love, joy, peace and the rest of the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)) being evident in our life, not an abundance of “stuff.” It is a richness of life that can only be found in Christ
- It consists of life that is eternal, therefore our interest is in the eternal, not the temporal. Paul admonishes us, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” ([Colossians 3:2](#)) **It is about living a life of great purpose and meaning as we live wholeheartedly for Christ**

- True purpose and meaning in life in the long run (that is over the course of our entire life) can only be found in knowing Christ intimately and in wholeheartedly living for God



- **We all have one gift of life here on earth to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.**
- This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of living our lives with eternity in mind

Jesus Himself 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)



- **We are all uniquely created by God**
- God has a unique unfolding plan and purpose for each of our lives that begins the moment that we give our heart to Jesus Christ



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)

- We all have unique gifts and talents that God has graced us with as believers

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)**



- **But the question for all of us is;**
“Will we live our lives for the Kingdom Cause and for the things of God?,” or “Will we spend our life pursuing the temporary material things of this world and the pleasures of life?”



OR



- **Jesus made it clear that we cannot serve God and Mammon**



- **Either our love for God or our pursuit of money will determine the *decisions* that we make throughout our life and how we live our lives**
- **Jesus Himself 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)**

- Jesus also made it clear that if we put Him and the things of the Kingdom first in our life ALL that we need in life will be added to us
- God does not always want us worried and preoccupied about the things of this world
- Our heavenly Father knows what we have need of even before we ask
- As we commit to doing God's will for our life we can be assured the He will meet our every need in 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)



- We are now living in a time when many people are looking for hope as the world becomes more challenging to live in
- True hope can *only be found in Jesus Christ* who offers eternal life to all those who come to Him in repentance and faith
- We are now also living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

- We are now living at a time when people are looking for answers and for a genuine hope in life



- **At the same time we are living at a time when living the Christian life has become more difficult as opposition to our beliefs increases**
- Given the fact that living for Christ is the best way to live our life, what are some of the things that can stop us from wholeheartedly living for the Lord?

I will now quickly look at some of the things that can stop us from serving the Lord with our gifts and talents

1) Drifting out of fellowship with other believers

- Without having fellowship with other Christians we will quickly lose our passion for the things of God. We must *refuse to be offended by others* and always stay connected in fellowship with other believers
- We cannot successfully do the Christian walk alone. **We all need one another**



In the book of Hebrews we read,
“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**

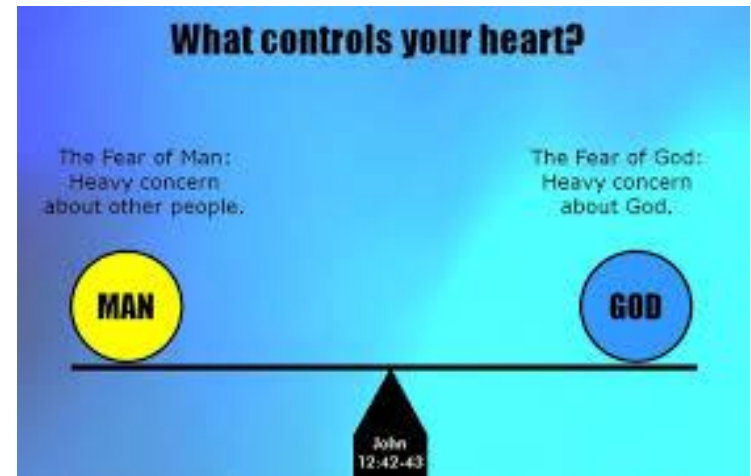


2) Peer Group Pressure (Worried about the opinions of others)

- Many people make poor choices in life to receive the approval of others. They then have to live with the consequences of their poor choices in life.
- Peer group pressure can cause people to miss God's best for their lives



In the gospel of John we read,
“Nevertheless even among the rulers many
believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees
they did not confess Him, lest they should be put
out of the synagogue; ***for they loved the praise of
men more than the praise
of God.***” (John 12:42-43)



- **We must never allow the opinions of others to stop us from living wholeheartedly for the Lord**

3) The expectations of others (We can so often live our life in a way to meet the expectations of others. We must be most concerned about pleasing God and following His plan for our life)

- God knows what is *best for us* at all times and what He has planned and destined for our life
- Other people will have their opinions about what we should do in life
- However God knows what He has planned for our future

DONT BASE
YOUR LIFE
ON OTHER PEOPLE'S
EXPECTATION



Be yourself. You don't need to live according to what others expect of you.

4) Our fears (Having a fear of man or a fear of being rejected by others)

- Having a fear of being rejected by others or a fear of failure will prevent us from becoming all that God has planned for our life.
- We must not allow fear to stop us from sharing our faith with others and from living for the Kingdom Cause



THE FEAR OF MAN BRINGS
A SNARE, BUT WHOEVER
TRUSTS IN THE LORD SHALL
BE SAFE.
PROVERBS 29:25 NKJV



In the book of Proverbs we read, “The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be ^[a]safe.” (Proverbs 29:25)

The Apostle John wrote, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

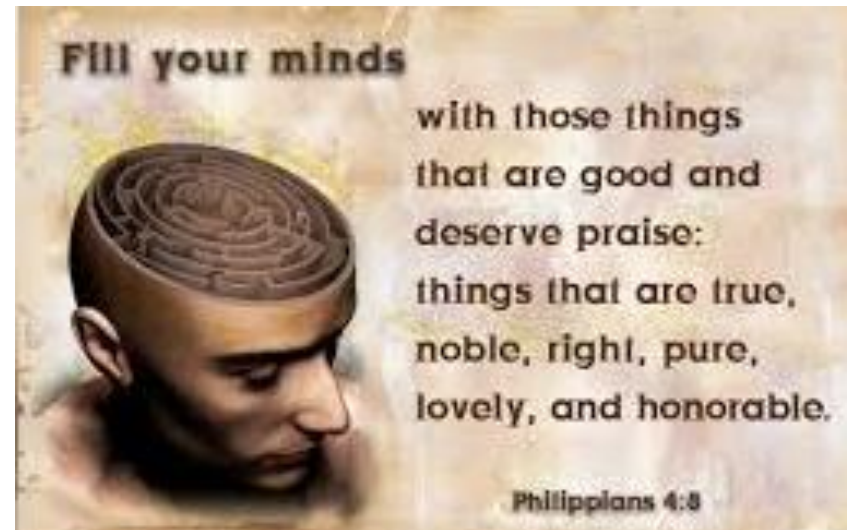
- **We must refuse to allow our fears to stop us from stepping out to do those things that God puts on our heart to do**



The Psalmist wrote, “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)



The Apostle Paul gave us some wisdom as to what we should focus on when he wrote,
“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things.”
(Philippians 4:8)



6) Getting involved in wrong relationships

- *Getting involved with unbelievers in significant relationships* will greatly affect our relationship with God and the degree to which we fulfil our God given destiny.
- **It is so important that we choose our friends wisely. We become like the company that we keep**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

- **Particularly when choosing a marriage partner it is crucial to marry a believer who shares your love for Jesus and Christian values**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?

And what communion has light with darkness?

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what

agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God...” **(2 Corinthians 6:14-16)**



7) Becoming preoccupied with the things of this world

Jesus Himself said, “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the *deceitfulness of riches*, and *the desires for other things entering in* choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” **(Mark 4:18-19)**

- **There are many things in this world that can take our focus off the things of God**



8) Getting caught up in the pursuit of material things where your self worth comes from what you have (keeping up with the Joneses)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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 6:9-10)



9) Social media and entertainment

- We are living in a generation that is hooked on social media and entertainment.
- We must not allow these things to stop us from developing an intimate relationship with the Lord. God speaks to us in isolation.
- We need to have boundaries in our life so that *we can spend quality time with the Lord*



In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?”
(Jeremiah 23:18)



The Psalmist wrote,

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” **(Psalm 46:10)**

10) Discouragement (from being consistently rejected when sharing our faith with others)

The Apostle Paul 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)**



- **God has so much in store for every believer's life** – Every believer can make a great impact in this world for eternity if they remain strong and committed in their walk with the Lord



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 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)**



- We must not limit what God wants to do in and through our lives. If we continually involve God in all that we do in life we will see His best plan for our life unfolding over time

- We must however continually remain strong in our faith if we are to fulfil our God given destiny in life as we have a constant adversary, the Devil, who is out to stop us from realizing our full potential in Christ

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)



- Just believe that your life can make a great difference in the world that we are now living in
- God is looking for those in the body of Christ to rise up in this hour to help see the many lost souls in our world coming to Christ in the days to come



- **I just want to now quickly share some keys to help you to become a person whom God can use in a great way in the days to come to help see many others come to Christ**

So who does God use in a mighty way?

1) Those who are simply available to be used by God



The Prophet Isaiah wrote,

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

(Isaiah 6:8)



- All God is looking for is our availability

- God does not look for the qualified but qualifies those who respond to His call upon their life



- **As we step out to do those things that God puts upon our heart to do He will empower and resource us to accomplish those things**

- We must simply be available to be used by the LORD and be prepared to allow the Holy Spirit to direct our steps in life

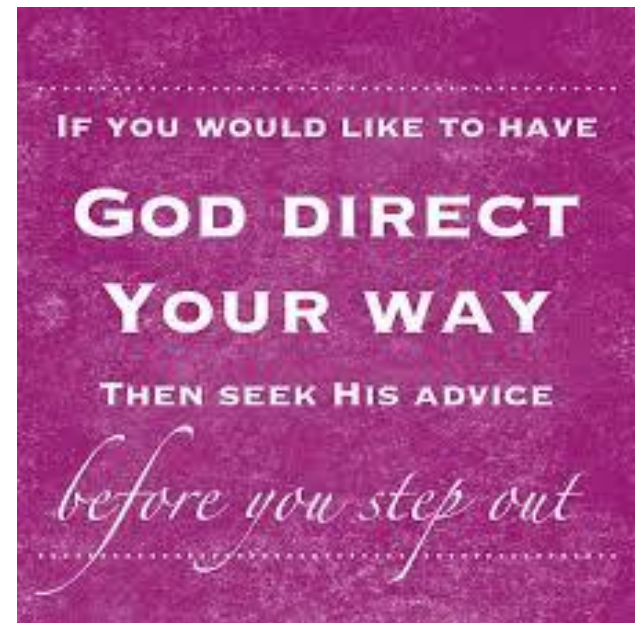
King David wrote,

“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)

**“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”
(Psalm 37:23-24)**



**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)**



- So firstly God simply uses those people who are available to live for Him and for the Cause of Christ to do great things for His glory
- As we are faithful in the little things that God assigns to us to do, He will entrust to us greater things to do for His glory



2) Those who have a clear God given vision for their life and who *remain* in the will of God for their lives

- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to remain *focused* and *fruitful* in our walk with the Lord
- Without a clear understanding of God's will for our life we will invariably be distracted by the things of this world and the cares of this life and not wholeheartedly live for Christ

The Power of
God Given
Vision



**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)**

**Without a clear God given vision for our life we are
more likely to make wrong choices in life that can
cause our lives to become barren and unfruitful**



God's desire is that our lives would bear much eternal 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)



Having a clear God given vision and focus for our life helps us to fulfil God's plan for our life here on earth and to live a fruitful life

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk when he was being *overwhelmed with discouragement* as he looked at what was happening around him,

“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)



Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to:

- i. Make right choices in life that are in line with God's will for our life
- ii. **To maintain a Kingdom perspective for our life. We are to be in this world but not of it**
- iii. To know what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to. We need healthy boundaries in life
- iv. **To overcome the many temptations that we all experience in life, and**
- v. To use our time wisely



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)**



Having a clear understanding of God's vision and plan for our life helps us:

- To become the best at what God has called us to be in life
- To have the right balance and priorities in life in the way that we use our time
- To remain strong and focused during the trials and tests that we all go through in life
- To seize the God given opportunities that come our way in life, and
- To remain in the centre of God's will for our life



- True purpose and meaning in life comes from living in the will of God for our lives

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

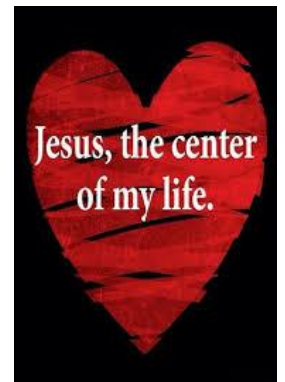


- It is in the centre of God’s will for our life that we see His continual provision of our every need in life, His favour upon our lives and that we experience great peace and joy in our hearts as we live wholeheartedly for the Kingdom Cause

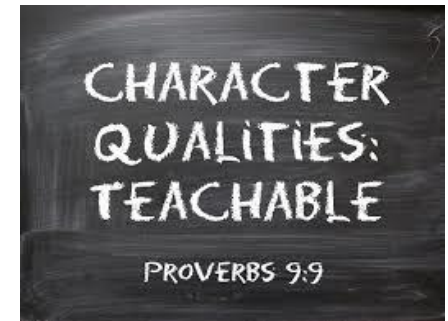
This is why the Apostle Paul, who suffered much persecution for his faith during his ministry here on earth could write,

“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)

- We are most fulfilled AND fruitful in life and the greatest blessing to others when we pursue the will of God for our life**



3) Those who are teachable



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” **(Proverbs 9:9)**

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.”
(Proverbs 19:20)



- King David was Israel's greatest king who was referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart who always desired to do the will of God for his life



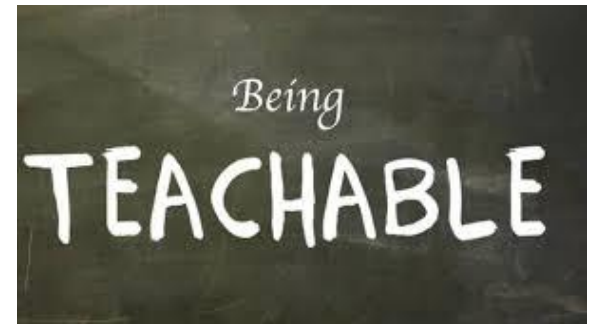
In the book of Acts we read,

“And when He had removed him (King Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’ **(Acts 13:22)**”

- Having a teachable spirit helps to prevent us from making many wrong choices in life



- It is also most likely that if people cannot speak into our lives that God will also not be able to speak into our lives to give us the wisdom that we need to do life well



- Like King David we need to have a teachable and obedient spirit if we are to realise our FULL potential in Christ

4) Those who trust God as ALL times and in ALL circumstances



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)**

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)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” **(Philippians 1:6)**



- We must simply choose to trust God at all times and allow Him to direct our steps in life
- No situation is ever impossible for God
- God knows what is best for us at ALL times
- We need to learn to **trust** and **obey** God at all times and in all situations. This is a key to seeing all that God has planned for our life coming to pass



5) Those who simply walk in humble obedience to God's plan for their lives and who are both hearers and DOERS of God's word. God's ways are higher than our ways

In the book of Proverbs we read, "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)



Jesus Himself said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28)



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)

- **Being obedient to God’s plan for our life and to His word is a great key to being blessed and fruitful in our Christian walk**

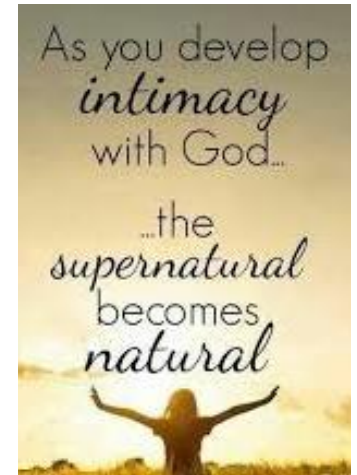


6) Those who continually maintain their first love for Jesus. Those who know God intimately will do great things for Him

In the book of Daniel we read,

“... but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” (Daniel 11:32)

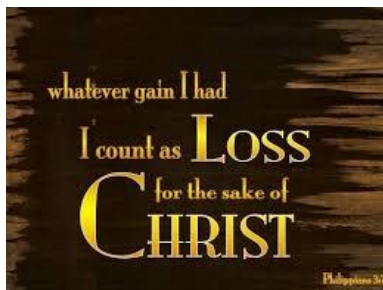
- It is our love for Jesus that will help to see us through the storms of life
- The Apostle Paul suffered much persecution during his time here on earth but he achieved much for God’s Kingdom



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)



Everything else is
WORTHLESS when
compared with the
INFINITE VALUE
of knowing
Christ Jesus
my Lord.
Philippians 3:8, NLT

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:28-29)

- **It is our love for God that will help us to become better rather than bitter during the trials and challenges that God allows us to go through to cultivate Christ-like character in our lives**



**God is more
concerned about
our character
than the length
of time we're in a
trial
Romans 8:28-29**

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)

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

- **It is our ongoing love for Christ that enables us to consistently love others**



King David wrote, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)



- The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord, the more easily we will understand what the will of God is for our life as He puts desires in our heart to do the things that He has planned for our life

The Apostle Paul also 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)



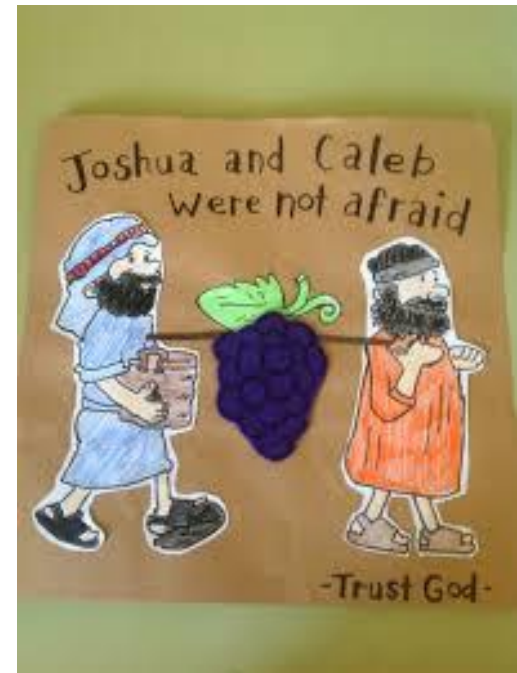
7) Those who remain committed and faithful to God's calling upon their lives even during the trials and disappointments of life. People who never give up on God's plan for their life like Caleb who waited for 45 years until he saw God's promise for his life come to pass



- Caleb and Joshua were the only two of the twelve spies sent out by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan that God was giving to the Children of Israel, who believed that they could possess this land

- Because of the unbelief and fear of the other ten spies a whole generation of the Children of Israel failed to enter into the Promised Land of Canaan

- Forty five years later Caleb inherited Hebron in the land of Canaan



- We see an account of this in Chapter 14 of the book of Joshua in the Old Testament

“Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. I *was* forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as *it was* in my heart.” **(Joshua 14:6-7)**



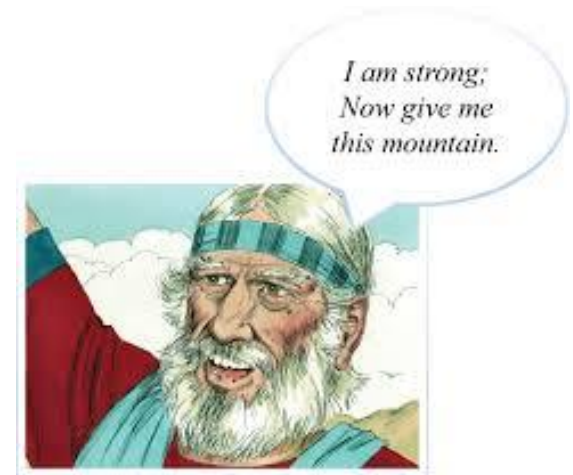
“Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’” **(Joshua 14:8-9)**



“And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

“As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.”

(Joshua 14:10-11)



“Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.”

“And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.”
(Joshua 14:12-13)



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)**



- 8) Those who are prepared to take steps of faith and to DO those things that God calls them to do, even when these things seem impossible**
- They are people who learn to depend on God's ability to help them at all times and who are prepared to just do what Jesus tells them to do

**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)**



- **We can depend on God's faithfulness at ALL times**

In the book of Hebrews we also read,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

(Hebrews 11:6)



The Psalmist also wrote,

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, ... ”

(Psalm 46:1-2)

9) Those who are people of prayer

- Prayer changes things
- Prayer is the key to seeing the breakthroughs in our life and to gaining wisdom from God to do life well



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)

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. “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
(James 1:5-8) AND



10) Those who depend on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to do those things that God puts on their heart to do



The Apostle Paul wrote, “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

- **God's strength is made perfect in our weakness**



- We need to learn to depend on the Holy Spirit to do those things that God calls us to do in life. *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)

- It is so important that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit so that we are always empowered to do those things that God calls us to do in life

This is why 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 baptised in the Holy Spirit is a great key to being empowered to effectively share our faith with others

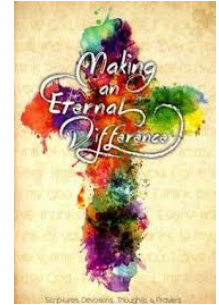
In the book of Acts we read the words of Jesus, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



Being continually filled with all the fullness of God helps to empower us to live a victorious and overcoming Christian life

So in conclusion:

- We have one gift of life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others
- One gift of life to store up treasures in heaven
- *One gift of life to help see others come to faith*
- One life to help see God's kingdom expanded here on earth
- *One life for God to use, to bring hope to others*
- One gift of life to show our appreciation for what Christ did for us on the cross at Calvary
- **One life to invest for eternal rewards**



- It is only in **CHOOSING** to fully surrender our lives to Christ and dying to self daily that we will see our lives bearing much fruit



Jesus Himself 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)**

- If ever there is a time to break open our lives for the Cause of Christ now is the time
- We are living in a world that desperately needs to know the love of Christ



Jesus Himself said,

**“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest”
(Luke 10:2)**

I will now finish with the words of Jesus in relation to how we should live our lives as Christians. Jesus 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.* For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 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 16:24-27)

