

Living with eternity in mind and for the Kingdom cause

I will begin by looking at two passages of Scripture in the bible:

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)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:7-9) “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11)

In these two passages of Scripture we can see a number of important things in relation to the times that we are now living in

Briefly these include:

- **The importance of being prayerful and watchful as we see the imminent return of the Lord and the importance of focusing on storing up treasures for eternity rather than just living for the here and the now**
- **The importance of having a genuine love for others and that we always look for the best in others. That we see people the way that Jesus would see them rather than always looking at their faults. We need to always be looking for opportunities to encourage people and in particular our brothers and sisters in the Lord to help inspire them to be all that God has planned for their lives**
- **The way that we conduct ourselves in life given the nearness of the Lord's return. That we should have an attitude of gratitude and be content with what God gives us – That we do not constantly grumble and complain about things, and**
- **That we should be faithful stewards of the gifts that God has given us and that we look for opportunities to especially minister to others within the Body of Christ as we depend on God's enabling power and grace in all that we do and say**

When we live with eternity in mind it will greatly influence the way that we live our life.

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- **How we live our life** (We will live in a way to try and glorify God with our life)

Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

- **It will cause us to want to be prepared and ready for the imminent return of the Lord**

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Luke 12:40)

- **In His Parable about the Persistent Widow Jesus concluded by saying,**

“...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8)

- **Jesus emphasised the importance of always maintaining a close walk with Him and enduring to the end especially during those times just prior to His return – WE MUST ALWAYS BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF THE LORD. Jesus said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:3-13)**

- **It will influence our priorities in life** and what we **FOCUS ON** (We will want to invest our life in storing up treasures for eternity and be committed to finding and following God's plan for our life)

The Apostle Paul said,

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (**Colossians 3:1-2**)

“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**)

- **It will influence the way that we use our time** (our time is our most precious resource – every day once gone cannot be reclaimed)

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**)

WE HAVE A VERY REAL ADVERSARY WHO WILL TRY AND PULL US AWAY FROM GOD'S BEST FOR OUR LIFE

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (**1 Peter 5:8-9**)

Jesus Himself emphasized that living our life in line with the word of God was a key to not wasting our life on unproductive things and to our lives bearing much fruit. Jesus said in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower, “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.

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” **(Mark 4:14-20)**

- It will influence the way that we relate to people and how we value our relationships with others

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)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us...” **(Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:1-2)**

WE WILL HAVE A DESIRE TO HELP OTHER COME TO CHRIST
– “...And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

- **It will influence the way that we use our resources**
 - i) **We will no longer feel comfortable just wasting our money on frivolous things**
 - ii) **We will become better stewards of our finances**
 - iii) **We will have a desire to sow into the things of the Kingdom**
 - iv) **We will have a generous heart towards others who are in need – especially those who are our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and**

- **It will influence the way that we see our trials and challenges in life** (This life is just a dress rehearsal for the next) – We grow most in our faith and in Christlike character AND in our compassion for others during the trials of life, **AS LONG AS WE DO NOT BECOME BITTER DURING OUR TRIALS IN LIFE**

The Apostle Paul 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)**

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)**

**TODAY I WANT TO SHARE JUST QUICKLY SIX THOUGHTS
IN RELATION TO LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND AND
FOR THE KINGDOM CAUSE**

- 1) That true joy and purpose only ever comes
from living whole heartedly for the Lord**

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)

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)

**ONLY PURSUING GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE AND
PUTTING THE LORD FIRST PLACE IN OUR LIFE WILL
GIVE US GREAT PURPOSE AND MEANING AND
FULLNESS OF JOY OVER THE COURSE OF A LIFETIME**

**God has uniquely created each and every one of us to
have fellowship with Him and for a specific plan and
purpose, good works which He prepared beforehand
for us to walk in. It is only as we live according to His
blueprint for our life that we are able to embrace the
fullness of the life that God has planned for us**

2) That this life is but a vapour (we have one gift of life in this body to store up treasures for eternity and to make a difference in this world)

- We must simply choose on a daily basis to not just squander our lives on unproductive things that can waste our time and resources and take us away from God's best
- **OUR LABOUR FOR THE LORD IS NEVER IN VAIN –**
The enemy will constantly try and get us to waste our time – Sidetracking us with wrong friends and even getting us to do good things that are not what God has called us to do in life
- We must continually redeem the time and make the most of ever God given opportunity – Even when it is sometimes inconvenient for us to do so
- **WE MUST ALSO REFUSE TO ALLOW FEAR TO STOP US FROM STEPPING OUT TO EMBRACE ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE**
- In terms of eternity our life is so fleeting – We must choose to make the most out of every day of our life

In the book of James we read, “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” **(James 4:13-15)**

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)**

- **We have one gift of life in this body to make a difference in this world for eternity – TO LEAVE A LEGACY THROUGH OUR LIFE. (Billy Graham has left a great legacy through his life)**
- **Every believer has the potential to make a great impact in this world for eternity as they simply follow God’s plan for their life faithfully. (Mother Therese is one such example)**
- **As we remain faithful in the little things God will entrust to us increasingly greater opportunities to impact this world for eternity**
- **We need to purposefully make ourselves available each day for the Lord and simply be committed to just doing what He tells us to do – In doing this our life will bear much fruit**

3) That with God our past need never determine our future – God is always a God of second chances – Our past mistakes will never disqualify us from having a wonderful future with the Lord

King David wrote,

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” **(Psalm 103:2-5)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things** have become new.” **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

GOD IS ALWAYS WILLING AND ABLE TO RESURRECT BROKEN LIVES AND DREAMS – EVERY PERSON IN CHRIST HAS A HOPE AND FUTURE

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” **(Jeremiah 29:11)** “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” **(Jeremiah 29:12)** “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” **(Jeremiah 29:13)**

4) The importance of being faithful in the use of our God given gifts and talents

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)**

- **Every member of the Body of Christ has an important part to play in God’s Kingdom**
- **God has uniquely created each and every one of us**
- **We all need and depend on one another in the Body of Christ**
- **As we connect with those who God brings into our life we will fulfil our God given destiny**

- **Flowing in our God given gifts and callings is a key to experiencing joy and purpose in our lives as Christians**

- **JESUS IN THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS SHARED ABOUT THE JOY THAT COMES FROM FAITHFULLY INVESTING IN THE USE OF OUR TALENTS**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.” **(Matthew 25:14-19)**

“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)**

5) That living for the Lord needs to be a daily choice (As Christians we are constantly rowing upstream against the current of this world)

- **Jesus made it clear that we need to live a consecrated life if we are to be His disciples and to bear much fruit in our life here on earth for eternity**
- **Living for the Lord needs to be a continual daily choice. Jesus made this very clear. In the gospel of Luke we read,**
“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” **(Luke 9:23-24)**
“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost.” **(Luke 9:25)**
- **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 Apostle Paul did much for God's Kingdom in his life here on earth, EVEN THOUGH INITIALLY HE WAS PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS**
- **But once the Apostle Paul had his life changing encounter with the Lord on the Damascus road he was never the same**
- **The Apostle Paul had a passionate love for Jesus and gave his best for the work of the Kingdom including writing around one quarter of the new testament**
- **The Apostle Paul lived whole heartedly for the Lord. In the book of Galatians he 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)**

6) That God will anoint and empower us to do all that He calls us to do in life (We must not limit what God wants to do through our lives)

- *God will always empower us to do what He calls us to do in life*
- **We must refuse to live our lives based only on what we can do in our own strength and with our own limited resources**
- **We must choose to be people of faith who will step out of the boat without hesitation when the Lord calls us to do so to take on assignments that we could not do in our own strength and ability**
- **We must learn to live our lives based on what God can do through our lives as we learn to depend on His enabling power in all that we do**
- **Most people when they get to the end of their life when asked what they would have done differently say that they would have taken more risks**

- **For Christians to take risks is to take steps of faith. But as Christians we can be assured that if we step out by faith to do what God is calling us to do He will bring in to pass**

- **“For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)**

- **His power is made perfect in our weakness**

- **When we move, God begins to move.**

- **When God calls us to step out by faith to do what is impossible for us, He will always makes it possible as He empowers us and makes a way where there seems no way.**

- **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 must learn to humbly depend on God in all that we do in life. We must simply learn to depend on God’s enabling power to fulfil the assignments that he gives us to do in life**

- **The Apostle Peter emphasised this when he said,**
“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” **(1 Peter 4:11)**

- **As we continually step out to do what God call us to do in life, He will raise us up to do great things for Him because of His power working in and through our lives**

- **We must never limit what God wants to do through our lives. 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)**

So in conclusion, my encouragement to you today is that you would live whole heartedly for the Lord so that all that He has planned for your life will unfold from this day on, knowing that He has so much in store for your life

- That He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him**
- That God honours those who serve Him**
- That our labour for the Lord is never in vain, and**
- That His plan for your life is exceedingly abundantly above all that you could ever ask or think**

Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Today I fully consecrate my life and plans to You and I ask that Your will be done in all that I do from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, Amen.”