

MAINTAINING a right heart for ministry



In the book of Proverbs we read,
**“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it
spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)**

- **Maintaining a right heart is crucial to fulfilling all that God has planned for our lives and ministries, especially given the ungodly and lawless times that we are now living in**



Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in, “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)

- **THE BIBLE SAYS MUCH ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A RIGHT HEART AND THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN HEART IF IT IS NOT FULLY SURRENDERED TO THE LORD**



In the book of Jeremiah we read, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

Jesus Himself said,

“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” **(Mark 7:20-23)**



In the book of James we read,

“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the LORD is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!” (James 5:8-9)



Jesus Himself said, “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)**



**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)



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits
eternity, whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in the high and holy place,

With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,

To revive the spirit of the humble,

And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isaiah 57:15)



King David wrote,

**“I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”
(Psalm 9:1-2)**



“Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!
Glory in His holy name;

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face evermore!" (Psalm 105:2-4)





The Psalmist wrote,

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” **(Psalm 119:9-11)**

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”
(Psalm 119:33-34)

“Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies,
and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from
looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.
Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to
fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.”
(Psalm 119:35-38, 40)



- **Having a right heart full of God's word is a great key to seeing revival in our lives and ministries**

In the book of Hebrews we read, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” (Hebrews 3:12-14)



The Apostle Paul also wrote in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,” (1 Timothy 4:1)



In the book of Proverbs we read, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he....” (Proverbs 23:7)

So how important it is that we CONTINUALLY guard our heart with all diligence

- God first prepares the man before He gives them the ministry – Character First



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)

The Apostle Peter wrote, “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.” (2 Peter 1:5-10)



- It is so important that we continually allow the Lord to do the work of change in our lives as we continually choose to cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives



The Apostle Paul also wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **TODAY I JUST WANT TO BRIEFLY LOOK AT SOME KEYS TO ALWAYS MAINTAINING A RIGHT HEART FOR MINISTRY AS I LOOK AT SOME IMPORTANT QUALITIES FOR BEING A GREAT LEADER THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE BIBLE**



1) Always having a motivation of serving others

Jesus Himself said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)



2) The importance of always having compassion for others



In the gospel of Matthew we read, “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 so important that all that we do in life and ministry is always undergirded by a genuine love for others



The Apostle Paul 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)**

3) Maintaining Humility (Especially when experiencing success)

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “Pride goes before
destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”
(Proverbs 16:18)**



**In the book of James we read, “Humble yourselves
in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
(James 4:10)**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,” (1 Peter 5:6)



We see the consequences of pride in the life of King Nebuchadnezzar who even though warned in a dream succumbed to pride. We see this in the book of Daniel

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

“All *this* came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”

(Daniel 4:28-30)



“While the word *was still* in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”” **(Daniel 4:31-32)**



“That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ *feathers* and his nails like birds’ *claws*. ” **(Daniel 4:33)**



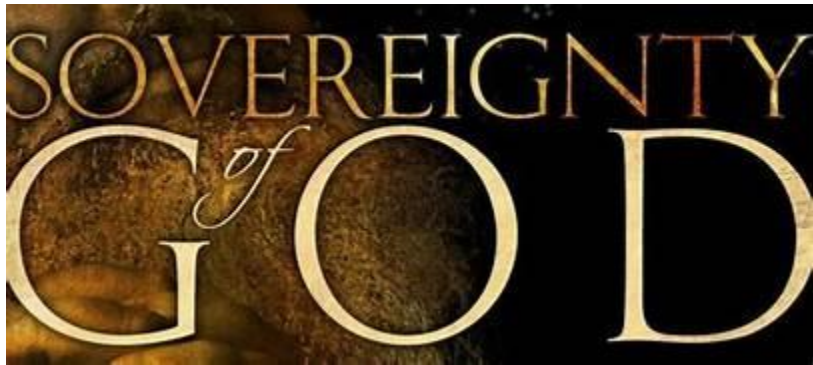
Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.”
(Daniel 4:34)



“All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;
He does according to His will in the army of heaven
And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.
No one can restrain His hand
Or say to Him, “What have You done?” **(Daniel 4:35)**



“At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” **(Daniel 4:36-37)**



4) That we live a life of simple trust and obedience in our Christian Walk



- We must simply trust God at all times and simply allow the Holy Spirit to continually direct our steps in life
- This is a great key to continually maintaining a heart of faith and to maintaining a soft heart towards God
- Trusting God continually also shuts the door to fear entering our heart

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)



5) That in all that we do we choose to be God pleasers rather than man pleasers

- It is so important that we never compromise to gain favour from others



- We can depend upon God's faithfulness at all times
- He is the only one who can promise us that He will never leave nor forsake us

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.” (1 Thessalonians 2:4)



In the gospel of John we read how many of the rulers though believing in Christ were not prepared to openly confess their faith “for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” (John 12:43)

- **It is so important that we are always most concerned about pleasing God in all that we do and say to others**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.” (Galatians 1:10)



- **So, a great key to maintaining a right and uncompromised heart is that we always seek to please and honour God with our decisions rather than yielding to the influences and demands of others to be people pleasers**

6) Being ALWAYS faithful in the little things

In the gospel of Luke, we read in the Parable of the Minas the words of the nobleman to the first servant, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’

(Luke 19:17)



Jesus Himself said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.” (Luke 16:10)

7) Seeking to always glorify God in all that we do



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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)

8) Continually winning the battle for the mind

- It is so important that we are always quick to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive and to replace them with Christ centred thoughts



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” **(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)**

- The real battle is for the mind as the enemy will continually put wrong thoughts in our mind to distract and discourage us in our walk with the Lord and to cause us to have wrong heart attitudes in life



- Continually meditating on God's word is a great key to quickly identifying the fiery darts of the enemy and being quick to replace all wrong thoughts with Christ centred thoughts

The Apostle Paul 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)



9) Being disciplined in what we allow into our ear and eye gates



The Apostle Paul 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)**

- What we look at and listen to will greatly influence our heart attitudes and the way that we live our lives
- In a world full of ungodly influences, it is so important that we are disciplined in what we focus on and listen to in life



- In particular the smart phone must always be our servant and not our master particularly because it is always generally within our reach

10) Having a teachable spirit

- Being teachable is a great key to realising our full potential in life and to maintaining integrity in our walk with the Lord



- Being teachable helps us to avoid the many pitfalls of life and to consistently make right choices in life

- The simple fact is that if we are not prepared to have people speak into our lives, we are also most likely to have selective hearing even when God speaks to us
- **Being teachable helps us to maintain a soft heart**



soft hearted

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

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (Proverbs 9:8-9)



“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

- **Being teachable helps us to consistently make right choices in life which is also a great key to maintaining a right heart**

11) Having a spirit of excellence

- It is so important that we always give our best to what God has called us to do in life and that we always maintain a great attitude in ALL that we do
- There is no greater cause than the Kingdom Cause
- The way that we fulfil our ministry calling will impact the lives of many others for eternity



This is why the Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor 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)



- **Having a spirit of excellence helps us to maximise our God given potential so that we can be most effective in seeing God's Kingdom being expanded here on earth**



In the book of Daniel we read,

“Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.” **(Daniel 6:3)**

12) Being always quick to forgive others

- Particularly in ministry we will have many opportunities to forgive others



- It is absolutely imperative that we refuse to allow offences to enter into our heart and that we are always quick to forgive others who hurt us, or let us down in life

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in, “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 Himself also said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” **(Mark 11:25-26)**



13) Refusing to allow critical and judgemental attitudes to develop in our hearts and minds

- The enemy will always exaggerate the faults in others, especially in those that we are meant to be connected with



- The simple fact is that we are all works in progress
- It is so important that we always look for the best in others and as much as depends on us to be at peace with all people

- Critical and judgemental attitudes will greatly affect the culture in our churches and ministry teams and the degree to which we see God's presence and power working in our meetings



- UNITY IS A GREAT KEY TO SEEING GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER IN OUR MEETINGS
- For this reason, we must refuse to allow critical and judgemental attitudes to develop in our heart

Again, in the book of Proverbs we read, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he....” (Proverbs 23:7)



- **What is in our heart will be reflected in the way that we relate to people**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ... So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or cause to fall in our brother’s way.” (Romans 14:10, 12-13)

Jesus Himself said, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” **(Matthew 7:1-5)**

- **We must simply refuse to allow judgemental and critical attitudes to enter our heart**



14) Being the best you and not comparing yourself to others



- We must refuse to have a competitive spirit
- The way that we live our lives needs to be always all about glorifying God through our lives and ministries during our time here on earth
- We need to stay in our own lane and simply flow in God's unique plan for our own lives

- **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)



- One day we will be rewarded for how faithful we have been in fulfilling God's assignment for our life 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)**

- It is so important that we do not have a competitive spirit and that we do not compare ourselves with others

In the book of James we read, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” (James 3:13-16)



15) Having a heart to equip and empower other believers to reach their full potential in Christ

- The Apostle Paul made it clear that the role of those in the five-fold ministry is to equip and edify believers so that all Christians can be effective and fruitful in their own Christian Walk and ministry callings



- It is so important to disciple the next generation of believers (the children and youth) and to help equip all Christians to become soul winners

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**)



“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **but, speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ-” **(Ephesians 4:14-15)**

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself **IN LOVE.**”
(Ephesians 4:16)



- It is so important for those in the five-fold ministry that they always have a heart to help equip and empower all believers to be fruitful in fulfilling their own unique God given callings in life



The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

- **We need more mothers and fathers of the faith to help see the next generation and all believers shine for Jesus**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)



- **How important it is that we invest our lives in helping other Christians to become mature disciples and to fulfil God’s destiny and plan for their lives**

16) That our motivation is always about what is best for the team



- This is a great key to seeing unity in our churches and ministry teams. Again, unity is a great key to seeing God's blessing and favour upon our lives and ministries

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” **(Philippians 2:3-4)**

King David wrote, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing –Life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1-3)**



The truth is that
teamwork is at the heart
of great achievement.

John C. Maxwell



- We are most effective as believers when we are flowing in our own unique gifts and callings

- Every believer has an important role in the body of Christ
- We all need one another in the body of Christ
- When every believer finds their fit within the body of Christ, then the church begins to make a great impact in the world
- A good leader will help each member of the team to flow in their own unique gifts and calling





The Apostle Paul wrote,

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

- **Our heart attitude must always be about using our gifts and talents to serve others and about what is best for the team AND for the entire body of Christ**

"A successful team is a group of many hands
but of one mind"

- Bill Bethel



17) That money is always our servant and not our master

- It is crucial that we always having integrity in the stewardship of money



- Money can have a beguiling effect on many people
- It is so important that money is always our servant and not our master

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 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)



- Many years ago, my Old Testament lecturer said something that has always stuck with me
- He said if you always have money in your heart, you will never have it in your pocket, but if you do not have money in your heart, you will always have it in your pocket



The Apostle Paul also warned about the potential of money to affect our Christian Walk when he wrote,



“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... 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 6:6, 7, 9-10)**

18) Having a genuine love for all believers

(That we continually choose to esteem others better than ourselves)



- Our love for other believers is our greatest Christian witness and the key to seeing God's blessing upon our lives
- For this reason, the devil will continually try and sow strife and division between believers to stop God's power moving in our church meetings and to stop churches and Christians from working together

- With this in mind we must refuse to entertain the fiery darts of the enemy against other believers.
- The devil knows that if Christians work together, they will plunder hell and populate heaven
- In particular the devil will always try and get believers offended against the people that they are meant to do life and ministry with



Jesus made it very clear that every kingdom and house divided against itself will not stand when he said,

“Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25)



- **Given the devil's desire to destroy the lives of Christians we must purposely always maintain a soft and forgiving heart towards other believers and give the devil no foothold to create disunity in our fellowships**

- **Our greatest and most powerful witness to the unsaved world is our genuine love for other believers**
- For this reason, we need to always maintain a soft and loving heart towards all believers and be always quick to forgive those who hurt us

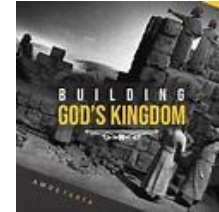


Jesus Himself said,

“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)**

19) That our motivation is always about building God's Kingdom and not our own ministry

The Apostle Paul wrote,



“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUALLY LIVE OUR LIVES WITH A FOCUS ON BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM BY:



- Helping to lead people to Christ
- Helping Christians to grow into mature disciples and to fulfil their God given destinies for their lives
- That we use our gifts and talents to help see the body of Christ built up as we work together with other churches, and
- That all that we do in life is to glorify God and to help see His Kingdom being established here on earth

- When our focus is always on building the Kingdom of God we can be assured that God will meet our every need in our life and ministry



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 will never lack what we need in life when our continual focus is always on building God's Kingdom here on earth and continually flowing in God's will and plan for our lives here on earth.



- God's will, God's bill. Where He guides, He provides
- So, a great key to always maintaining a right heart is that our focus is always on building God's kingdom and not just our ministry, **AND**

20) That we always have a commitment to living a life of obedience to God's will 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)

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)



- **Living a life of ongoing obedience to God’s will for our lives is a great key to maintaining a soft heart and a clear pipeline of communication with the LORD**

- **King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart**
- King David always had a desire to do the will of God in his life



In the book of Acts we read,

“And when He had removed him, 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)**

I will now quickly conclude with 5 important Christian disciplines that are crucial to helping us to maintain a right heart

1) That our greatest priority in life is always our first love for Jesus. This will help us to finish our Christian Walk and ministry well



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

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)



- **It is so important that we continually make time to spend alone with the Lord**

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 only as we continually maintain an intimate and abiding relationship with the Lord that we grow in Christlike character and reflect the fruit of the Spirit**

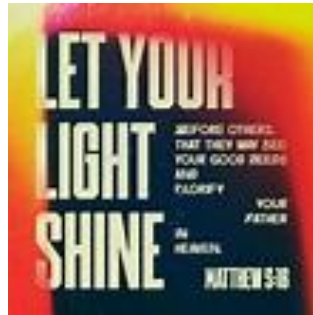
Jesus Himself also said,

“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)



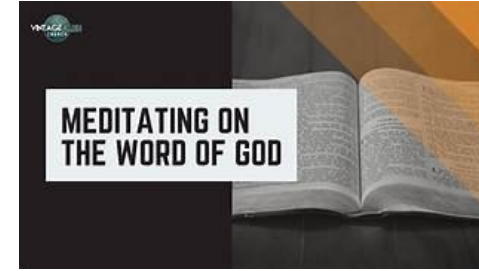
Jesus also said,

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



- **The way that we live out our Christian life matters and has the greatest impact on others**

2) Consistently making quality time to meditate on God's word



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)

The Apostle Paul 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)



- **It is so important that we allow the word of God to bring transformation to our hearts and lives as we consistently apply the word of God to our own lives**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Again, the Psalmist wrote, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)

3) Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a great key to consistently walking in the Spirit

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 continually filled with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is also a great safeguard to prevent deception from entering into our hearts and lives**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

4) Having a repentant heart and being always quick to repent of any known sin in our lives (This is a great key to maintaining a soft conscience)



The Apostle John wrote, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“He who covers his sins will not prosper,

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

AND



5) Being connected to and accountable to other mature believers. We cannot do the Christian Walk alone

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)



The Apostle John wrote, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)



Finally, in the book of Proverbs we read, “The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above.” (Proverbs 14:14)

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22)

- **THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**



I will finish with the words of Jesus,

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”
(Matthew 5:8)**

