

Maintaining the fire in our walk with the Lord



It is our passion for the things of God that will:

- i) Cause us to shine in this world for Christ
- ii) Empower us to lead others to faith in Christ
- iii) Keep us strong during the trials of life
- iv) Enable us to fulfil God's plan and destiny for our life, and
- v) *Cause us* to be catalysts to help other Christians to become passionate about their own walk with the Lord (To be revivalists)

- When we are on fire for the Lord, our lives can make a great difference in our world for eternity.
- The people in the world are now looking for a hope and stability that can only be found through putting their faith and trust in Christ alone.
- Our faith and passion for the things of God can help to encourage many others to come to Christ

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



- A lukewarm church will make no impact on it's community for the Kingdom Cause. This is why Jesus rebuked the church in Laodicea



Jesus Himself said to this church,

**"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."
(Revelation 3:15-16)**

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is what ignites the fire in our hearts to be effective in ministering to others

John the Baptist said in relation to Jesus,
“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” **(Matthew 3:11)**



It was when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1994 after being born again in 1991, that the fire of God came upon me and I began to preach to others

Jesus Himself said to His disciples prior to ascending back to Heaven,

“For John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:5)

“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)



- **On the day of Pentecost all of the believers in the upper room were baptized in the Holy Spirit**



“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1-4)**

- There are two distinct experiences of the Holy Spirit that we can have as believers



Firstly, the new birth experience of the Holy Spirit (All believers have this experience)

Jesus Himself said in relation to this,

“but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:14)

Secondly, we can receive the overflowing fullness experience of the Holy Spirit by being baptised in the Holy Spirit



Jesus said in relation to this,

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37b–38)

- **To experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit we need to simply ask in faith to receive it**

Jesus Himself said,

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! **(Luke 11:13)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“... that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” **(Galatians 3:14)**



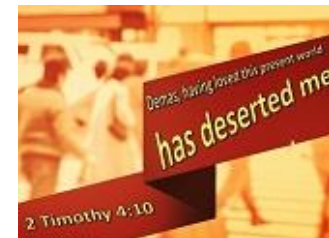
- **Having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire it is important that we continually maintain our passion for the things of God**

In the book of 2 Timothy we see how a man mightily used of the Lord, who was part of the Apostle Paul's ministry team, lost his passion for the things of God and was drawn back into the world



The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...” (2 Timothy 4:9-10)



- We are now living in the lawless days that Jesus spoke about in relation to the period of time just prior to the rapture of the saints and then His Second Coming.

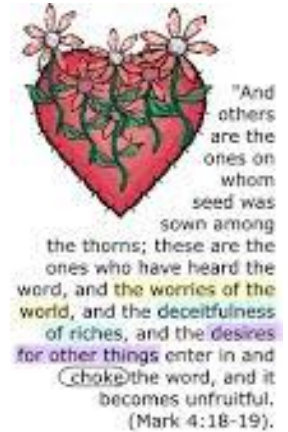


Jesus Himself said,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

I will now be looking at some keys that can help us to maintain our fire and passion for the things of God, so that we can impact the lives of many for eternity and leave a great legacy from our life

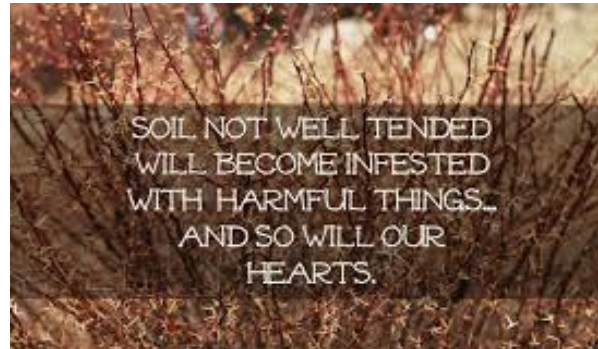
1) We must not allow the cares of this world and desires for other things to enter into our heart and choke the Word



- The real battle is for the mind.
- The enemy will continually target our mind with distracting and discouraging thoughts.
- We must be continually quick to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive.
- What we think upon will ultimately affect our heart attitudes and our passion for the things of God

- Jesus in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower made it clear that there are many things that can enter into our heart and undermine our faith so that we do not bear fruit in our lives

Jesus 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)**

- **Maintaining a right and offence free heart is crucial if we are to maintain our first love for the Lord**



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)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

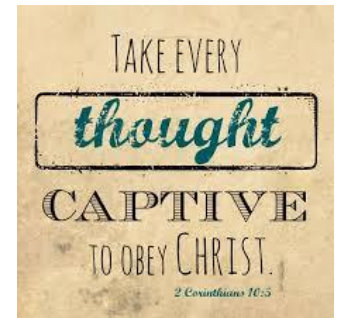
“Be angry, and do not sin”; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)

- **We must simply refuse to entertain wrong thoughts. We must learn to quickly replace all wrong thoughts 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)

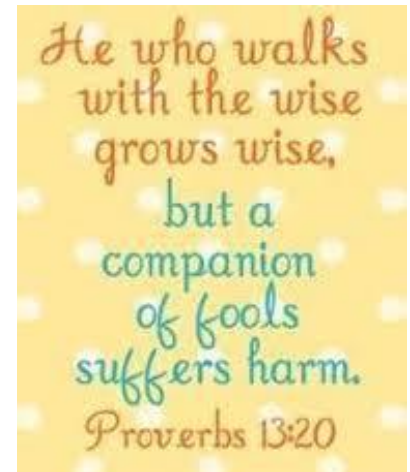
We must continually win the battle for the mind



2) We need to be careful about our choice of friends

Choose Your Friends Wisely!

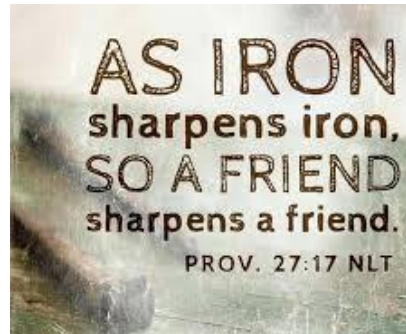
Wrong Associations Interrupt Your Life & Destiny



- The simple fact is our choice of friends have a great impact on our faith and walk with the Lord.
- Wrong friends have the potential to erode and undermine our character and zeal for the Lord

**The Apostle Paul made this clear when he wrote,
“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)**

- Good godly friends on the other hand have the potential to greatly encourage us to grow in our faith and to help us to become all that God has planned for our life



- We need to spend time with people who have a *great passion to love and serve the Lord* and avoid those who would try and quench our fire and passion for the things of God (wet blankets)
- We become like the company that we keep

3) We need to be continually quick to forgive others

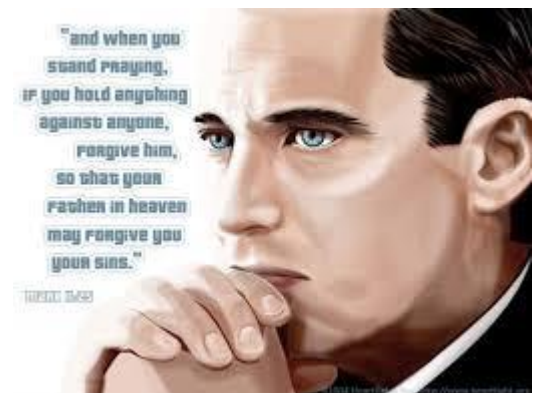


- Being unforgiving will negatively affect our relationships both with others and with God
- It is not possible to love God and to hate others at the same time
- This is why Jesus Himself clearly emphasised the importance of always forgiving others that have hurt us. Having the ability to continually forgive others is a great key to fulfilling our God given destiny

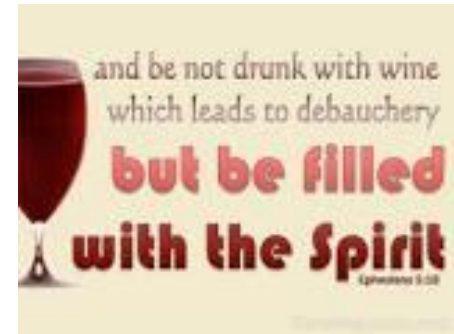


Jesus said,

“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)



4) We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.



- Being continually filled with all the fullness of God is a great key to maintaining our spiritual vitality.
- We need to live our lives and minister to others out of the overflowing fullness of the Holy Spirit in our own lives.
- The Holy Spirit is the oil that helps to keep our emotions healthy and our love for the Lord strong.

- **As we minister out to others we too need to be continually filled afresh with the Holy 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)**



5) We need to be continually committed in our spiritual disciplines – This is a great key to living a victorious and overcoming Christian life

- Living a disciplined Christian walk is a great key to maintaining our spiritual momentum and hunger for the things of God
- It is also a great key to continually having God's heart and *compassion* for others.
- The enemy will continually try and get us too busy to spend quality time in fellowship with the Lord and with other believers.



- The greater our love for God the more we will have His compassion for the lost and hurting
- It is God's compassion in our heart that compels us to reach out to others with the gospel and to make sacrifices for the Kingdom Cause.

We see Jesus' compassion for the lost and hurting in the gospel of Matthew



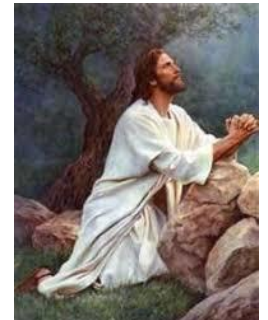
“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

(Matthew 9:35)



“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” **(Matthew 9:36-38)**



Like Jesus who often withdrew to pray to His Father in Heaven, we too need to be disciplined in our walk with the LORD and make our relationship with God our highest priority. This is a great key to always having God’s love for people

It is so important as Christians that we:

- i) Continually fellowship with other believers who are passionate for the things of God**

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)**



In the book of Psalms we read,

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. *To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*” (Psalm 92:13-15)



Being planted in a healthy local church fellowship helps us to grow strong in our faith and to be encouraged to be more bold in sharing our faith with others

ii) That we learn to be still before the Lord



The Psalmist wrote,

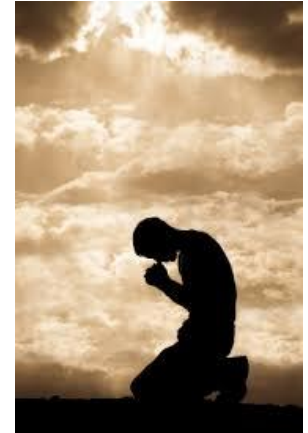
“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”
(Psalm 46:10)



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)**

- **Revelation from God comes in isolation.**
- One word from the Lord can be the key to the breakthrough in our lives
- **God's ways are higher than our ways**
- When we learn to spend quality time with the Lord, we find that these times with Him become the most rewarding part of our day
- **In His presence is fullness of joy**
- Spending intimate time in God's presence is also a great key to maintaining our peace 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)

“Wait on the Lord; Be of **good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14)**

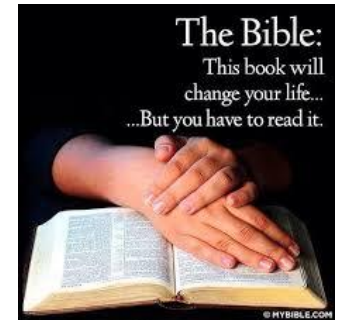


It is in the secret place with God that:



- Our strength is renewed as we wait upon the Lord (Isaiah 40:28-31)
- **We gain a greater understanding of God's will and plan for our life** (Proverbs 16:3)
- We can get relief from the storms of life and gain a heavenly perspective of our circumstances. God is always able to give us clarity in life and to help us in time of need, (Psalm 46:1) and
- **Dreams of greatness are birthed in our heart as we gain God's perspective of what He can and wants to do in and through our lives for His glory**

iii) That we regularly MEDITATE on the Word of God (This is a great key to having our faith CONTINUALLY built up and to building our lives on a firm foundation)

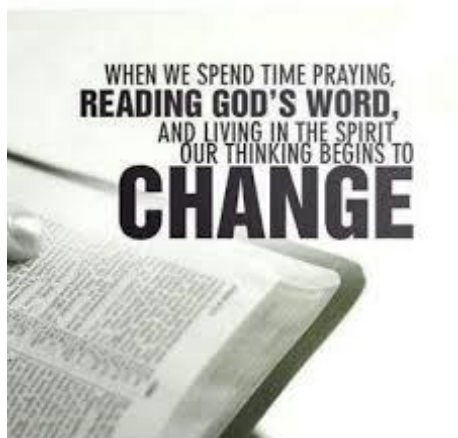


The Apostle Paul wrote,

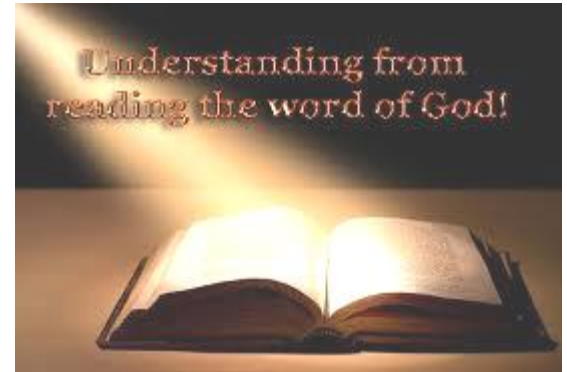
“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

We need to build our lives on the wisdom and promises contained in the Word of God. In the long run this is the key to seeing God’s blessing and favour upon our lives

The LORD said to Joshua just prior to him leading the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, “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)**



- Consistently meditating on the Word of God helps to keep our lives uncomplicated.



- The bible is full of wisdom and truths that can help us to continually make right choices in life so that our lives are built on a firm foundation

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”
(Psalm 119:129-130)

iv) That we have a lifestyle of prayer and worship



- Involving God in all of our plans (praying without ceasing) and having a lifestyle of worship helps us to stay in the will of God for our lives and to grow in our relationship with Him
- Worship and prayer also helps us to connect with the heart of God. King David was a man of prayer and had a great heart for worship. He was called a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) His great love for God can be seen in his psalms



In Psalm 63 King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you;

My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” (Psalm 63:1-7) and



v) The importance of being continually clothed in the full armour of God

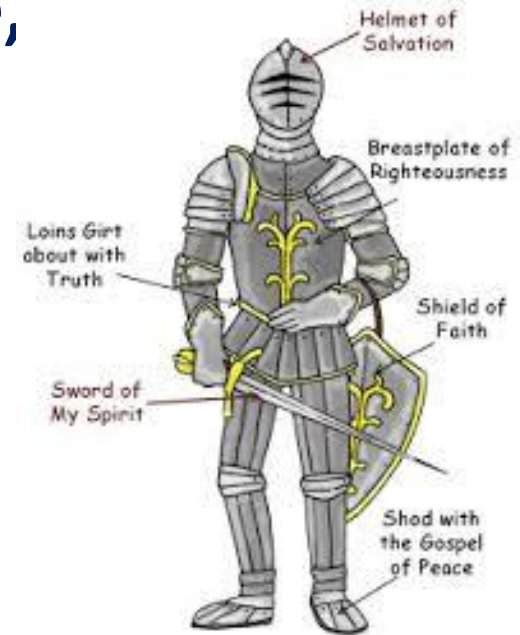
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” **(Ephesians 6:10-13)**



The Apostle Paul then outlined what the armour of God was when he wrote,

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” **(Ephesians 6:14-17)**



The following prayer is just one example of how we can put on the full armour of God

The Helmet of Salvation

Thank you, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You, and I declare that nothing can separate me now from the love of Christ and the place I shall ever have in Your kingdom.



The Breastplate of Righteousness

And yes, Lord, I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Fit me with Your holiness and purity— defend me from all assaults against my heart.



The Belt of Truth

Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Show me the truths I so desperately need today. Expose the lies that I am not even aware that I believe.



The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

I do choose to live for the gospel at any moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Do not let me become slack in my walk.



The Shield of Faith

Jesus, I lift the confidence that You are good against every lie and every assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me.



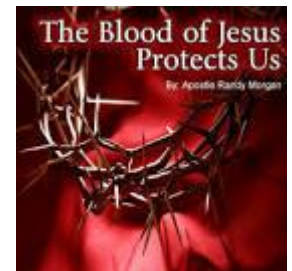
The Sword of the Spirit

Holy Spirit, show me specifically today the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the snares of the enemy. Bring them to mind throughout the day.



We can then conclude this prayer by praying,

Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything I do and in all my prayers as my spirit communes with You throughout the day. I also plead the Blood of Jesus from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet and over my family members, finances and possessions, Amen



- It is in pursuing these spiritual disciplines that we grow in our walk with the Lord and **get to know God in a real and intimate way**. Being continually built up in our faith and clothed in the armour of God helps us to live an overcoming Christian life
- The more we cultivate our relationship with the Lord the more fulfilled we will become in life

Jesus Himself said,



“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Jesus also said, “I am the bread of life, He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” **(John 6:35)**

It is only in knowing Christ intimately and in living for Him that we are truly satisfied in life

King David wrote, “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.” **(Psalm 34:1)**

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!” **(Psalm 34:8)**



6) We need to simply trust the Lord at all times and in all circumstances and pursue God's will and plan for our life

- Fear is the opposite of faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
- Fear and anxiety will steal our joy and stop us from wholeheartedly embracing God's plan for our life. (Ephesians 2:10)
- Pursuing the will of God for our life is a great key to experiencing the fullness of life that Jesus spoke of. His plan for our life is the best plan



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 God’s plan for our life that will give us great purpose and meaning in life

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)

We can be assured that God will help us to fulfil His plan for our life IF we simply let Him lead at ALL times



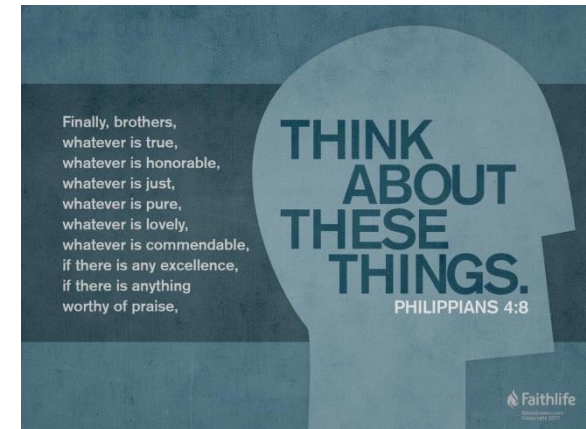
7) We must be careful what we focus on

- We are now living in a world that is full of ungodly temptations and distractions
- We need to continually purposely keep our focus on things above and on things that will uplift our faith
- What we focus on will greatly influence our heart attitudes and choices in life
- The enemy will continually try and get our focus off what God has planned for our life to waste and if possible destroy our lives (1 Peter 5:8-9)

The Apostle Paul emphasised what we should meditate on in life in the book of Philippians to help us to remain strong in our faith.

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)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“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)



It is so important that we always keep our focus on the eternal things and on helping to see God's Kingdom being expanded here on earth by sharing the good news of the gospel with others

8) The importance of living a lifestyle of obedience

- Continual disobedience will harden our hearts to the things of God
- The more we disobey the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the less sensitive we become in hearing His voice and the more likely we are to begin to drift away from God's best plan for our life
- The more we align our will to God's will for our life, the more joy and purpose we have in life



- **If we continually sin and walk in disobedience it will affect our heart and undermine our faith**

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)**



Walking in obedience on the other hand:

- Keeps our *heart soft and sensitive to God's voice*
- Helps us to enjoy peace and joy in our heart
- Helps us to enjoy continual ongoing sweet fellowship with the Lord, and
- Helps us to stay in the will of God for our life. A great key to living a life of great purpose



It is in having an abiding relationship with Christ and in following God's plan for our life, (Ephesians 2:10) that we can as believers CONTINUALLY enjoy the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of. **Truly God has a great plan for every believer's life**

- So in conclusion may I encourage you to never lose your fire and passion for the things of God. Because in doing this your life will make a great difference in the lives of many for ETERNITY
- God has so much planned for our future. As we flow in our own unique gifts and calling, our lives will touch the lives of many for eternity

**I will finish with three final Scriptures.
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)



The angel Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus, “For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)



God is never limited by our ability, only our availability. As we *make ourselves available* He will use us in a great way to touch the lives of many for eternity. So may I encourage you to never lose your passion and fire for the things of God