

Making our life count



- We have one life to make an eternal difference in the lives of many
- EVERY believer has the potential to make a great impact in this world for eternity



- More than ever before we are living in world that is in need of hope. As Christians we have the answer, Christ in us, the hope of glory



- However we are now also living in increasingly ungodly days, in the last of the last days



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)



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)



As Christians we have been saved for a purpose:

i) To help reconcile the lost to God by leading them into a relationship with Jesus Christ

- The world is full of people who need hope
- There are multitudes in the valley of decision who do not yet know Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

“that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” **(2 Corinthians 5:19-20)**



- **As Christians we have been called to help lead others to Christ. What a privilege we have to do so**



ii) To bring the goodness of God into the world around us so that we help to encourage others to come to Christ. That we are salt and light in our world.

- As Christians we can help to bring transformation to the world around us as we demonstrate love and kindness to those around us

Jesus Himself said,

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



iii) To help disciple and encourage other believers to grow in their walk with the Lord (We all have a mission field)



Jesus Himself said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20) **AND**



iv. To flow in God's unique plan and purpose for our life so that we can help to see God's Kingdom established here on earth (Ephesians 2:10)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)**

- **Every believer has an important ministry and role to play in the Body of Christ**

Today I will be sharing some keys to help you to make your life count for all eternity;

- 1) We need to be committed to living for the Kingdom Cause (It is so important that we always live our lives with eternity in mind)

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)**



2) The importance of using our time wisely

- We have one life to store up treasures in heaven
- For this reason it is crucial that we know and follow God's will for our life so that we do not squander months and even years of our life



The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Jesus Himself said,

“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)



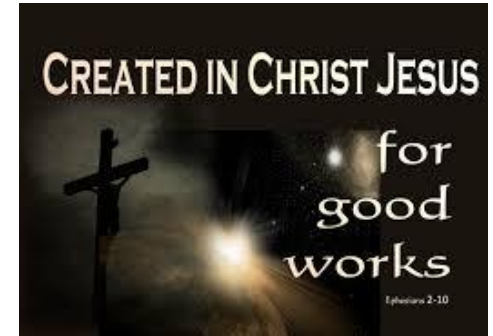
3) The importance of connecting with God's plan for our life

- We are the most fulfilled and fruitful in our life when we flow in God's plan for our life
- God has a unique UNFOLDING plan for every believer's life
- One day Jesus will reward us for what we have done for Him in this 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)**



- **There is a big difference between our career and our calling. We want to do BOTH well**
- Our career is how we make a living to pay for our everyday expenses. Our calling is HOW we glorify God with our life and help others to come to Christ and to grow in their faith

Jesus Himself said,

*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 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)*



4) Continually trusting in the faithfulness of God – We can depend upon Him at all times

The Psalmist wrote,

“God is our refuge and strength, *A very present help in trouble*. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.”

(Psalm 46:1-2)



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 must simply be committed to trusting God at all times and in all circumstances and to doing things His way. “For with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37)**

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be
like a tree planted by the waters, Which
spreads out its roots by the river, And will not
fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be
green, And will not be anxious in the year of
drought, Nor will cease
from yielding fruit.”

(Jeremiah 17:7-8)



5) Learning to involve God in all that we do

- God's ways are higher than our way
- God always knows what is best for us in the LONG run



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)

6) Living a life that is fully surrendered to God (We will never come second putting God first)

- Having a walk of simple obedience is a key to experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives
- If we are faithful in the little things God can entrust to us greater responsibilities and privileges



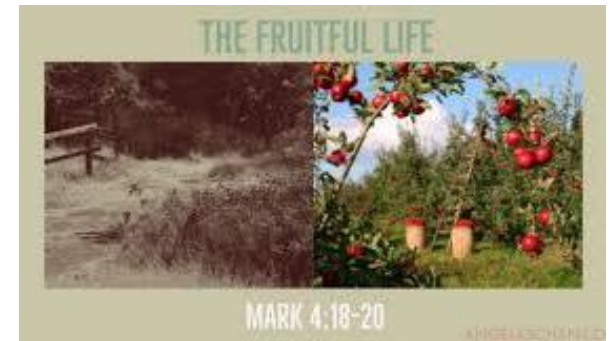
In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

- Living a surrendered life helps us to not be distracted by the cares and pleasures of this world

Jesus Himself said in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower,

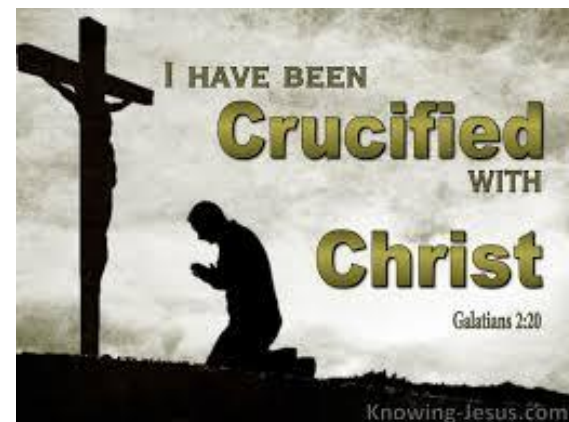
“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” **(Mark 4:18-20)**



The Apostle Paul who accomplished so much for God's Kingdom during his time here on earth 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)



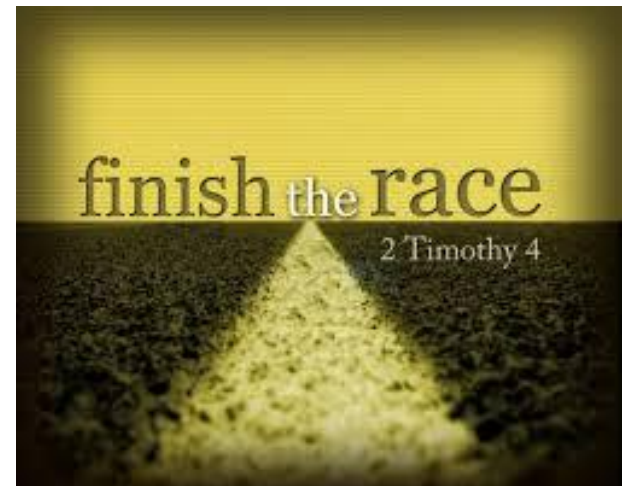
7) Our love for Christ needs to be always our greatest priority

- Fruitfulness in our Christian walk will flow out of having an intimate walk with the Lord
- Jesus warned that the love of many would grow cold in the times that we are now living in
- The most important thing is that we finish our Christian walk well



Near the end of his time here on earth the Apostle Paul wrote, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

(2 Timothy 4:7-8)



- Knowing Christ in a real and personal way is the key to experiencing the fullness of life that God wants us all to experience

- Israel's greatest King was a man after God's own heart



- King David had a great love for God and was a mere shepherd boy when God through the prophet Samuel anointed him to be Israel's next King. He was just 17 years old at this time

- After going through many trials and challenges, (a wilderness season as God prepared David to lead the Children of Israel) he eventually became Israel's greatest King
- It is our love for God that will help us to remain strong during the trials and challenges of life and that will help us to overcome the temptations that we all experience in life
- Our love for Jesus will help us to shine in the world around us
- Like King David it is important that we know the love of Christ in a *real and personal* way



King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in
a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see
Your power and Your glory. Because Your
lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall
praise You.” **(Psalm 63:1-3)**



Psalm 63:1-3, 7
My Soul Thirsts for You

- As we continually maintain our first love for Jesus, He will birth things in our heart to help us to make a great difference in this world for eternity

King David wrote,

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



- May I encourage you to always keep the main thing the main thing. To simply love God and to love others with His love

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.”

“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)**



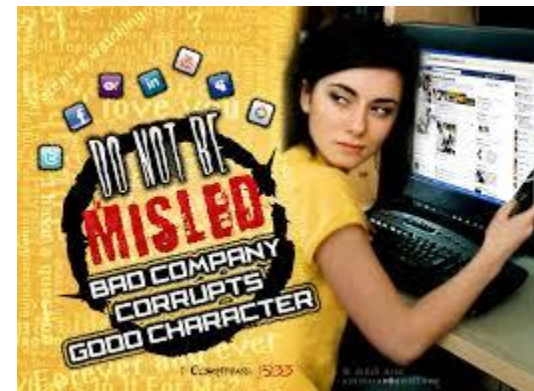
- **As Christians we can make a great difference in this world as we care for others and share about God’s love to those around us**

8) We need to choose our friends wisely

- Who we associate with will greatly determine the outcome of our life and the degree to which we realise our full potential in Christ

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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



In the book of Proverbs we read,
“The righteous should choose his friends
carefully, For the way of the wicked leads
them astray.” **(Proverbs 12:26)**



9) The importance of having Godly mentors in our life and a teachable spirit

- Learning from Godly mentors and being open to correction will help us to avoid many wrong choices in life



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)



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



“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)**

- **Being teachable is crucial to realising our full potential in Christ**
- **It is always better to learn from other people's experiences than from our own mistakes**



10) We need to be people of faith who embrace God given opportunities in life

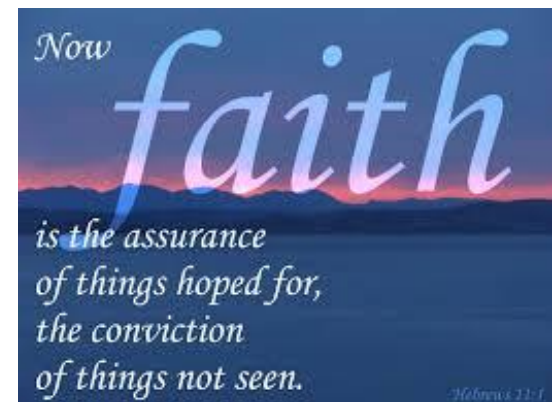
- What God has planned for our life will always involve taking steps of faith at times and stepping out to do new things
- When we step out to do the new things that God puts on our heart to do, we can depend upon His faithfulness to help us to succeed
- God moves when we move and step out by faith to do those things that He has called us to do



In the book of Hebrews we 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)

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



11)We need to continually build our lives on a foundation of the word of God and prayer

- Life is continually full of choices. Daily we need God's wisdom to make right choices. One wrong choice has the potential to cause much pain and suffering in our life

In the book of James we read,

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



- **Persevering prayer is also a great key to seeing breakthroughs in our life**



Jesus Himself said, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

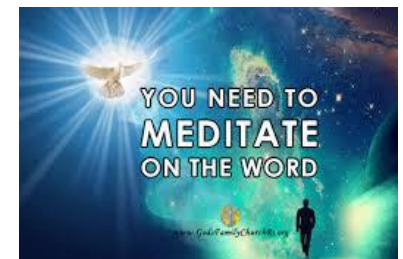
“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)**

- The bible is full of wisdom and promises to help us to do life well. God knows what is best for us in every area of our life



- It is in the hearing and doing of God's word that we can prosper and succeed in every area of our life

The LORD said to Joshua before he was about to lead 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)



- Jesus also emphasised the importance of applying the word of God to our lives; that we are consistently both hearers and doers of God's word

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”
(Matthew 7:24-25)



“But **everyone** who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”
(Matthew 7:26-27)



- Spending time in the word of God and prayer is crucial if we are to become all that God has planned for our life

12) We need to be simply available to be used of God.

- True purpose and meaning in life only comes from knowing Christ intimately and in following His plan for our life
- Our past does not define our future
- God does not look at our ability
- All God looks for is our ONGOING availability
- When we respond to God's calling upon our life He then empowers us to succeed in our God given assignments



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“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)**



- **There is no better time than now to break open our lives to live for the Lord. Truly the harvest is ripe but the labourers are few**



- **Just believe that your life can make a great eternal difference in the lives of many in the days to come**

The LORD said to the prophet Jeremiah,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

- **God has so much planned for each of our lives as believers**
- **But the question is are you available for Him to use you for His glory?**



- I will conclude with one important key to making our lives count. We need to live our lives depending on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit in all that we do

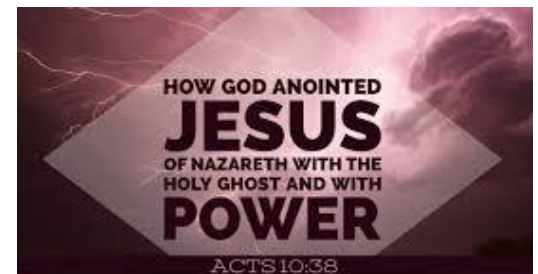


The Apostle Paul wrote, “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians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

Jesus Himself said, “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)**

Jesus Himself during His ministry here on earth depended upon the Holy Spirit. We see this in the book of Acts

“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 important for all Christians to be active in sharing their faith. The reality is that people will be spending all eternity either with Jesus or separated from Him in a place called hell depending upon whether or not they were *born again* believers



**This is why in the book of Proverbs we read,
“... And he who wins souls is wise.”
(Proverbs 11:30)**

- Jesus emphasised the importance of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to be effective in witnessing to and preaching to others

In the book of Acts we read the words of Jesus,
“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)**



- Shortly after the Day of Pentecost had fully come and after all of the about 120 disciples in the upper room had been filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter preached a message which saw about 3,000 people coming to faith
- This is why the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of being filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19)

**I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,
“And do not be drunk with wine,
in which is dissipation; but be filled
with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)**

