

SEVEN KEYS TO GREATNESS IN GOD'S KINGDOM



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Best
VERSION
of you

EXPECT GREAT
THINGS FROM
GOD,
ATTEMPT GREAT
THINGS FOR GOD.

- I will begin this message with a few introductory thoughts
- Firstly, Greatness in God's Kingdom does not necessarily come from how much we have done, but certainly being productive with our time is important
- But rather greatness in God's Kingdom comes from being faithful in what God has called us to do in life, and from being faithful in the little things
- Every believer has an important unique unfolding ministry for their life

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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)

In the book of Isaiah we read, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

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- **So, fulfilling our highest potential in life comes from being faithful to fulfilling God’s unique plan for our lives**

- Every believer has an important function to play in the body of Christ. We all need one another in the body of Christ, just as the body is not one member but many

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The Apostle Paul wrote, “For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? “And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?” **(1 Corinthians 12:14-17)**

“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” **(1 Corinthians 12:18-22)**

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- So too God has placed every believer in the body of Christ with a unique ministry and calling to help the entire body of Christ to be effective in impacting the world with the gospel message



- Within the context of the body of Christ each believer has a unique function and part to play

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)**

- So true greatness in God's Kingdom comes from being faithful and diligent in fulfilling your God given assignment during your time here on earth

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- That you give your best to what God has called you to do in life
- That your heart is always to serve others with your gifts and talents with a motivation of love

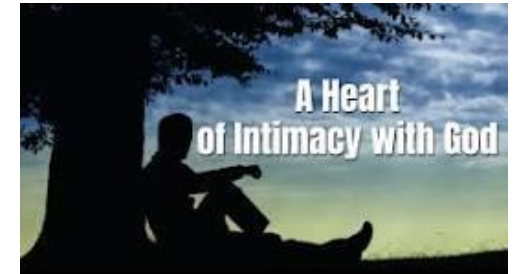
EXPECT GREAT
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- I WILL NOW LOOK AT 7 IMPORTANT KEYS THAT CAN HELP US TO FULFIL OUR GOD GIVEN ASSIGNMENT HERE ON EARTH AND TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR HIS GLORY

1) INTIMACY WITH GOD (Practicing His presence)

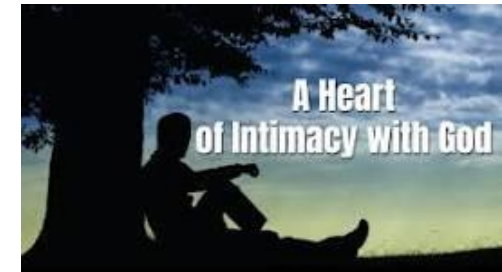
Intimacy with the LORD is a key to:

- Gaining God's heart and compassion for the lost
- To knowing God in a real and personal way
- To having boldness in our Christian walk
- To growing in Christlike character (The way that we live our life matters)
- To knowing and following God's will for our lives, and
- To achieving great things for God's glory



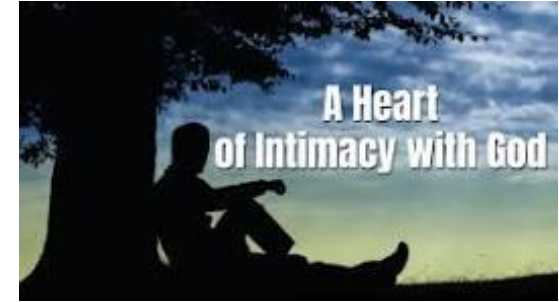
Jesus Himself said,

“‘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)**

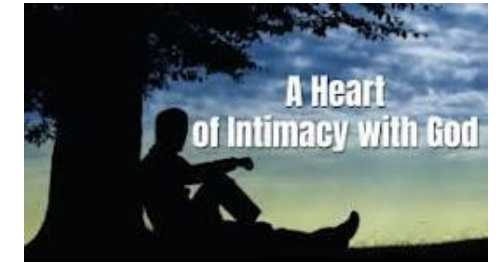


- It is so important that our love for Christ is always our greatest priority, especially given the lawless times that we are now living in

- It is in maintaining an ongoing intimate walk with the Lord that we gain God's heart of compassion for the lost and hurting.



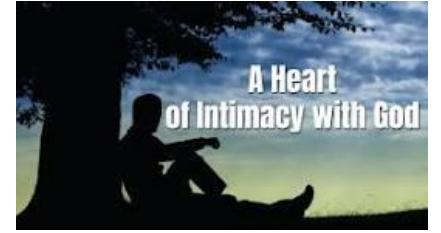
- It is this compassion for the lost and hurting that helps us to be powerful and effective when preaching the gospel to the lost



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)**

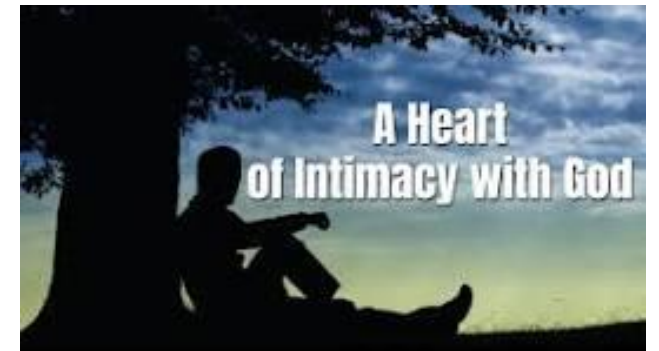
- David was to become Israel's greatest King



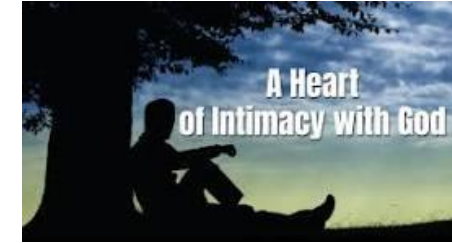
- He knew the power of God in His life when he was confronted by Goliath early in his life

We see this in 1 Samuel Chapter 17, “Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” (1 Samuel 17:45)

“This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” **(1 Samuel 17:46)**



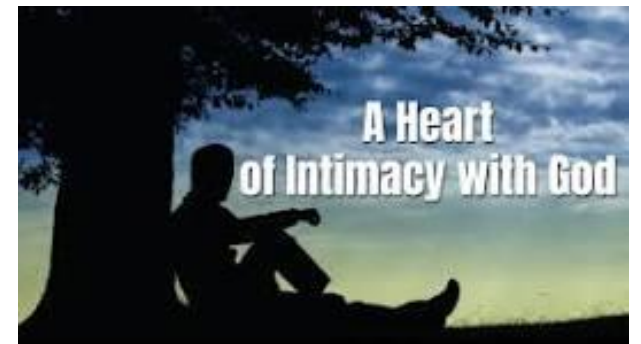
- **King David's greatest desire was to always know God intimately**



King David wrote in Psalm 63, “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)

In the book of Acts we read,

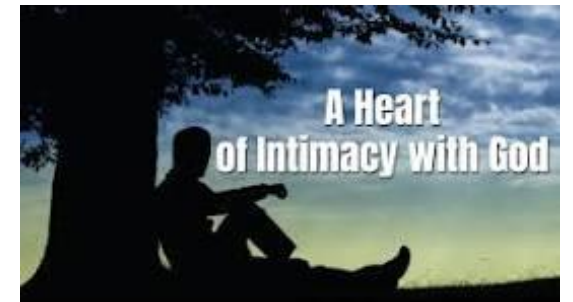
“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)



Jesus Himself said,

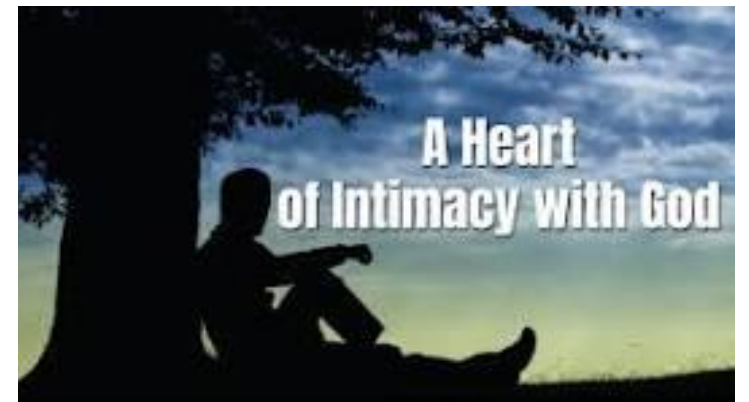
“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
(John 15:4-5)

AND



Finally 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)**



2) Building our lives on the foundation of the word of God



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)

- **Building our lives on the foundation of the word of God is such a great key to realizing our full potential in Christ**

- Especially given the ungodly and lawless times that we are now living in, it is crucial that we do not allow the ways of the world to influence the way that we live our lives
- In a world full of negativity and secular values, it is crucial that we continually build our lives on the foundation of God's word
- This is such a great key to maintaining a strong faith and to living a victorious and overcoming Christian life



- Spending quality time in God's word helps us to grow in Christlike character so that we can realise our full potential in Christ
- Having godly character is a prerequisite for promotion in God's Kingdom



The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “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)

- Spending quality time in God's word AND applying it to our lives' is the key to being blessed and prosperous in the world that we are now living in



In the book of Joshua we read,

“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)

- Building our lives on the promises of God in His word gives us the ability to fully embrace all that God has planned for our lives



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20) The Apostle Paul also wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)



- Building our lives on the foundation of the word of God is therefore a great key to our lives making a great impact in this world for eternity

3) HAVING A SERVANT HEART



- Jesus made it clear that true greatness in God's Kingdom comes from serving others
- It is in serving others with our gifts and talents that we leave a lasting legacy from our time here on earth
- Having a servant heart helps us to always maintain a right motivation for ministry



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)**



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)

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)



- Continually having a motivation of serving others with our gifts and talents is therefore a great key to greatness in God's Kingdom and to leaving a lasting legacy from our time here on earth

- It is so important that we invest our lives in the next generation so that we can help to raise up the next generation of Christian leaders and evangelists and soul winners



The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,
“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” **(2 Timothy 2:2)**

4) Continually winning the battle for the mind

- The real battle is for the mind
- To fulfil our God given destiny we will need to continually win the battle for the mind
- The Devil will continually bombard our minds with discouraging and distracting thoughts to try and pull our focus of our God given assignment here on earth



- Our ability to fulfil our God given assignment here on earth will ultimately depend upon our ability to discipline our thought life, by continually replacing wrong and negative thoughts with Christ centred thoughts



- What we think upon will ultimately influence the outcome of our life, either for the good, or for the bad

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



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)

- It is so important that we are always quick to take all wrong thoughts captive, before they take us captive and become strongholds in our mind**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the American philosopher wrote,
“Sow a thought and you reap an action;
Sow an act and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit and you reap a character;
Sow a character and you reap a destiny.”



- So, a great key to realising our full God given potential during our time here on earth, is that we continually win the battle for the mind by quickly replacing all wrong and negative thoughts with Christ centred thoughts

5) CONTINUALLY HAVING THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN OUR INNER CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

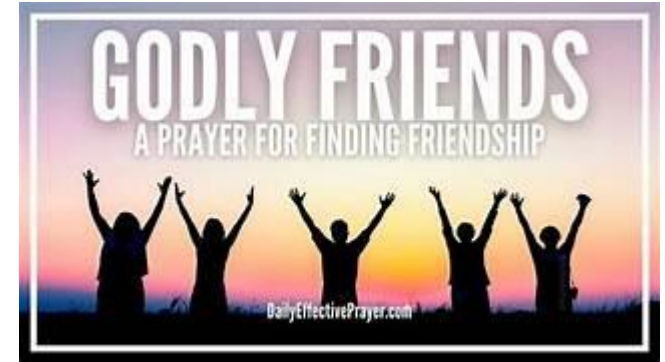


In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

- It is crucial that we only allow the right people into our inner circle of friends. The simple fact is that we become like the company that we keep

- Whilst we must always have a great love for all people, it is also so crucial that the significant people in our inner circle of friends are people of Godly character and people who have a passion to live for God



- If we want to become people of destiny, we need to have the right associations in our life
- We become like the company that we keep



- If you want to become an eagle, you need to associate with people who have an eagle mindset. People who have a desire to do great things for God and who have a victorious and overcoming attitude to life



- On the other hand, if we spend considerable time with people that always see the problems in life and the glass as always being half empty, we can begin to get a turkey mentality where we accept mediocrity as a way of life and never fully embrace our God given potential in life

- One well known pastor said, “show me your friends and I will show you your future”



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

- **It takes a long time to earn a good reputation but not long to lose it**

In the book of Proverbs, we also read,

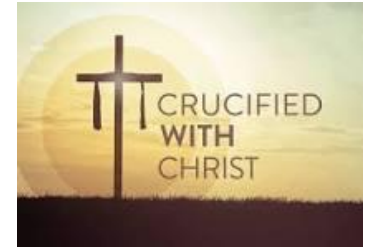
“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)

- **Having right associations and right friends in our circle of contacts is there such a great key to greatness in God’s Kingdom**



**"You will never have
a better friend
than a friend
who points you
to Christ."**

6) Being prepared to live a crucified life



We are now living in the times when 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 24:12-13)

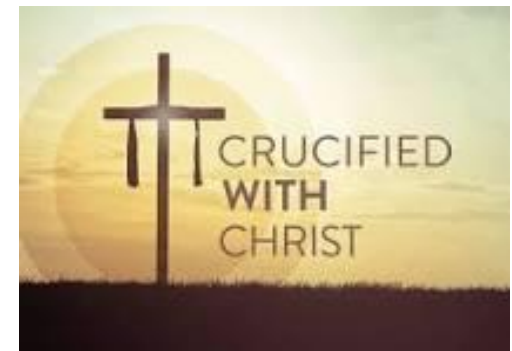
- With the world now becoming more and more lawless and materialistic it is crucial that we daily choose to live for the Kingdom Cause

- The world, the flesh, and the devil are all hindrances to living for the Kingdom Cause
- Without a clearcut commitment to living for the Kingdom Cause the influences in the world will invariably pull people away from fulfilling their God given assignment here on earth
- In many respects the Christian walk is one of CONTINUALLY rowing upstream against the tide of this world that would try and pull us away from living wholeheartedly for the Lord



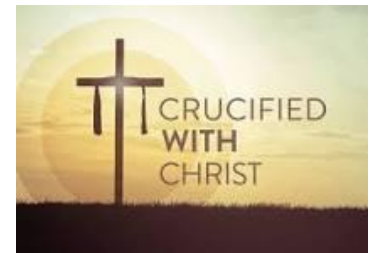
Jesus Himself said,

**“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)**



The Apostle Paul who achieved so much during his time here on earth including writing 28% of the New Testament 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)**



Jesus made it clear that our lives will only make a great impact in this world for eternity if we are prepared to die to self and to live wholeheartedly for the Kingdom Cause.



Jesus 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.” **(John 12:24)**

“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 12:25-26)**



- **With the world in such need of genuine hope, what a time now as believers to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ, AND**

7) Being prepared to take steps of faith

- God's plan for our life will always require taking steps of faith
- But we can be assured that where God guides, He provides
- We will at times be forced to confront our fears to fully embrace all that God has planned for 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)**

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)

- It is so important that we do not limit what God wants to do in and through our lives



- We need to be simply prepared to just do what Jesus tells us to do
- We can depend upon God's faithfulness at all times

- God will always anoint and empower us and resource us to do the things that He calls us to do in life



- It is as we begin to move that we then begin to see God moving on our behalf

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)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”
(2 Corinthians 9:8)**



- As Christians we can be assured that as we step out and follow God’s will for our life that every NEED will be met. God’s will, God’s bill**

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 can depend upon the faithfulness of God

- So may I encourage you to fully connect with God's plan for your life in the coming days and to be prepared to take steps of faith as the Lord directs you to do so
- We have only one gift of life to make a great impact in this world for eternity



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)**



- **Just believe that your life can make a great impact in this world for eternity in the times that we are now living in if you are simple available to be used by God**

- God does not look at our ability. ALL He needs is our availability
- Are we prepared to live WHOLEHEARTEDLY for the Kingdom Cause

I will finish with the words of the Prophet Isaiah,

“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)**

