

SOME KEYS TO REALIZING OUR FULL GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL IN CHRIST



Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

The bible clearly emphasises the importance of having godly wisdom in our life. The bible is full of wisdom to help us to do life well. Without exercising godly wisdom in our life we can make many poor choices in life that have the potential to rob us from experiencing God’s best for our life

In the book of Hosea we read, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” **(Hosea 4:6)**

In this leadership study I will be looking at a number of bible based principles (keys) that can help us to realise our full potential in life. For each key (or principle) I have included one or more related Scriptures from the bible. God has the best plan for our life.

Following are some keys that can help us to become all that God has planned for our life:

- 1) We need to make prayer and the study of the word of God a priority in our life so that our life is built on a firm foundation (Philippians 4:6-7) (Luke 18:1-8) (Mark 11:22-24) (1 Thessalonians 5:17) (1 John 5:14-15) (Joshua 1:8) (2 Timothy 3:16-17) (Romans 10:17) (Matthew 7:24-27) (James 1:21-25) (Psalm 119:105) (Romans 12:2)**
- 2) We need to learn to depend on the Holy Spirit’s enabling power in all that we do in life (Acts 10:38) (Luke 24:49) (Acts 1:8) (Ephesians 5:18) We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:19)**

- 3) **We need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps in life.** Life is full of important choices. Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)** it is crucial that we hear from God and make right choices in life **(John 14:26) (John 16:13)**
- 4) **We need to stay focused on doing what God has called us to do in life.** Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to fulfil God's plan for our life **(Ephesians 2:10) (Jeremiah 33:3) (Proverbs 29:18) (Habakkuk 2:2-3)**
- 5) **The importance of flowing in our own unique gifts and calling.** We are most fulfilled and energised in life when we are operating in our own unique gifts and calling. For this reason we need to just become the best us. When we are actively using our spiritual gifts we are the greatest blessing to the body of Christ and to those around us. Actively participating in God's calling upon our lives and using our spiritual gifts is a great key to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus spoke of. **(Romans 12:3-8) (1 Corinthians 12:12-28)**
- 6) **We need to be planted in a local church fellowship.** This is a great key to leading a fruitful life. The Lord will give us His peace when we are planted in the church fellowship of His choosing **(Hebrews 10:23-25) (Psalm 92:13-15)** Being planted in a local church fellowship helps us to be accountable to other Christians. This is a great safeguard to help stop us from making wrong choices in life

- 7) **The importance of having godly mentors in our life (Proverbs 15:22) (1 Peter 5:1-5) (Proverbs 13:20) (Proverbs 11:14) (Titus 2:3-5)** Having mature Christians speaking into our lives helps us to grow more quickly in our faith and to avoid making many unnecessary mistakes in our life

- 8) **Avoid time wasters and people who will sidetrack you from fulfilling God's plan for your life. (Ephesians 5:15-17) (Psalm 90:12)** Our time is our most precious resource. Every day once lived cannot be regained. The enemy loves to squander our time and lives on unproductive things. For this reason we need to have healthy boundaries in our life so that we do not allow others to cause us to waste our time on unproductive things. We must learn to number our days

- 9) **Don't procrastinate in life. When God puts on our heart to do something, we must simply just do it. Procrastination is the thief of time (James 4:17) (Proverbs 20:4) (Luke 9:59-62) (Proverbs 14:23)** If we continually procrastinate in life we can miss the God given opportunities that come our way in life. We must all choose to respond to God's call upon our life.
We must not allow fear, the negative opinions of others, or even our circumstances to stop us from doing what God has called us to do. This is why it is so important to set dates and to make plans when God puts on our heart to do something **(Proverbs 21:5)**

10) We need to give our best in what God has called us to do in each season of our life. (Daniel 6:3) (Proverbs 18:9) In the secular world and in competitive sports people strive for excellence. How much more should we as Christians serving the greatest cause look to be excellent in the way that we live our life and in the way that we serve the Lord with our gifts and talents **(Colossians 3:23-24)**

11) Always choose to be a God pleaser rather than a man pleaser. If we are always trying to please people we will never win and we will invariably be drawn away from God's best plan for our life. We are also more likely to be controlled by people if we are always trying to please people. The simple fact is that God wants the best for us and has a unique plan and purpose for our lives.

We need to be more focused on pleasing God by doing His will for our life than constantly trying to please people. One day we will all be standing before the Lord to give an account of our life here on earth. How we all want to hear from the Lord the words "well done My good and faithful servant" when we give an account of our life here on earth **(Galatians 1:10) (1 Thessalonians 2:4) (John 12:43)**

12) The importance of learning to be faithful in the little things. Promotion in God's Kingdom always comes from above after we have proved to be faithful in the little things **(Luke 16:10) (Matthew 25:14-23)**

13) Let all that you do in life be undergirded by LOVE. People do not care how much we know but they do want know how much we care (**1 Corinthians 13:1-8**) (**John 13:34-35**) (**1 Corinthians 14:1**) (**Romans 12:9-11**) (**1 John 4:7-8**) (**James 2:8**)

14) We must choose our friends wisely. Our significant friends have the potential to greatly affect the outcome of our life. One well known pastor emphasized this fact in one of his sermons when he said, “show me your friends and I will show you your future.” It is so important that we have God connections in our life. People whom God has brought into our life to help us to fulfil our God given destiny in life (**Proverbs 12:26**) (**Proverbs 22:24**) (**1 Corinthians 15:33**) (**Proverbs 27:6**)

15) The importance of valuing and appreciating our family and friends. It is so important that we never take our family, church family and friends for granted and that we actively look for opportunities to thank and encourage those who are in our life. Investing quality time in our significant relationships is a great key to maintaining healthy relationships.

Having good healthy relationships in our life is a major key to enjoying the abundant life that Jesus spoke of. Our ability to love others unconditionally flows out of our own relationship with God. When Christ is our first love we will have the unconditional love required to build healthy relationships with others (**Mark 12:30-31**)

- 16) Always maintain a humble dependence on God and always give all the glory to Him when we succeed and prosper in life (Psalm 37:11) (James 4:10) (Proverbs 16:18) (1 Corinthians 10:31) (James 4:13-16) (Philippians 2:5-9)**

Jesus Himself said, “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)

The bible makes it clear that pride always precedes a fall and that humility is a prerequisite for promotion in God’s Kingdom. Pride is very subtle and can manifest itself in a number of different ways including an inability to say that I am sorry to others, or being unable to receive loving correction from others. It is so important to always maintain a humble dependence on God.

- 17) Our focus needs to be always primarily on living for God and for others. We must be prepared to sacrificially give of ourselves. (Matthew 20:25-28) (Galatians 2:20) (Luke 9:23-25) (John 12:24-26) (Matthew 16:27) Without this commitment our lives will bear little or no eternal fruit. Jesus Himself was the Servant King who gave His life as a ransom for us so that many could inherit eternal life.**
- 18) We must always be quick to forgive others that have hurt us, or who have let us down in life. (Mark 11:25-26) (Matthew 18:21-35) We must refuse to allow offences to lodge in our heart as what is in our heart will be reflected in the way that we relate to and speak to others (Proverbs 4:23) (Luke 6:45)**

- 19) We must choose to have a teachable spirit and be prepared to have other mature Christians speaking into our life. There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors (Proverbs 12:1) (Proverbs 10:17) (Proverbs 19:8)**
- 20) We must be continually careful about what we allow into our eye and ear gates.** What we allow into our eye and ear gates will greatly affect the degree to which we walk in victory as a Christian **(2 Samuel 11:1-17) (James 1:12-16) (Philippians 4:8)**
- 21) We must always be quick to take ALL wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive.** The real battle is for the mind. The enemy, (the Devil and his demons) will continually bombard our minds with negative and wrong thoughts. We need to be continually disciplined in replacing all wrong thoughts with Christ centred thoughts if we are to win the battle for the mind and walk in victory as a believer **(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)**
- 22) We must always have a right attitude towards money.** That money is always our servant and not our master. Our focus must always be on storing up treasures in heaven. **(Proverbs 28:22) (Matthew 6:19-21 & 6:24) (Luke 16:11) (1 Timothy 6:6-10) (Luke 6:38)** Jesus made it clear that we cannot serve God and mammon. What we focus on and what is in our heart will greatly affect our life's choices and how we use our money and resources. It is so important that we always keep our focus on the eternal things and His Kingdom Cause. This is a great key to having a right attitude towards money.

We will never out give God when He puts on our heart to give into His work or to others in need.

In the book of Malachi we read,

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the LORD of hosts;”
(Malachi 3:10-11)

23) We must not allow our past to define our future. We have all made mistakes in life. We must simply let go of our past failures and disappointments and fully embrace the future that God has planned for our life by allowing Jesus Christ to be truly Lord of our life and future
(Philippians 3:12-14) (Psalm 103:2-5) (Isaiah 43:18-19)

24) We must lead a lifestyle of simple trust and obedience. Trust and obey, for there is no other way. God’s ways are higher than our ways. God always knows what is best for us in the LONG RUN
(Isaiah 55:8-9) (Isaiah 1:19) (Luke 11:27-28)

25) We must simply accept the fact that nothing is impossible with God. God is able to make a way even where there seems no way if we simply put Jesus Christ first in our lives and plans and let Him lead. WE CAN DEPEND ON GOD’S FAITHFULNESS
(Mark 9:23) (Luke 1:37) (Mark 11:22-24) (Psalm 37:3-5) (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

- 26) We need to be prepared to take steps of faith and to overcome our fears by simply stepping out to do those things that God is putting on our heart to do.** God moves when we move. It is as we step out by faith to do what God tells us to do, that we see the miracles and breakthroughs and God working on our behalf **(Hebrews 11:1) (John 2:1-11) *Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)*** We must refuse to limit what God wants to do in and through our lives through unbelief. God promises to meet our every need in life when Jesus is truly Lord of our life **(Matthew 6:31-33)**
- 27) We must never give up on God's plan for our life. He promises to finish what He started in our life if we simply remain faithful to Him (Galatians 6:9) (Philippians 1:6)**
- 28) The importance of commitment and consistency in our walk with the Lord.** That we commit to starting those things that God calls us to do in life and that we consistently do those things that are required to fulfil God's plan for our life **(1 Corinthians 15:58), and**
- 29) Cultivating intimacy in our walk with the Lord. That Jesus becomes our best friend.** Having a lifestyle of worship is a great key to maintaining intimacy in our walk with the Lord and in keeping our passion for the things of God alive in our life. King David was a worshipper who wrote many of the Psalms. He was the only person in the bible referred to as being a man after God's own heart. **(Acts 13:22)**

It is so important that we continually make time to spend alone in the presence of God to keep our love and passion for Jesus alive. In His presence is fullness of joy. **(Psalm 16:11)**

When Christ is the first love of our life we will never be devastated when we are rejected by others. The simple fact is that people will let us down in life but the LORD will never leave nor forsake us. **(Hebrews 13:5-6)** In a world full of uncertainties it is crucial that we never lose our first love for Christ, who is The Rock on which we can build our life on a firm foundation **(Mark 12:30) (John 4:23-24) (Psalm 46:1-2) (Psalm 37:4) (Psalm 63:1-7) (Philippians 3:7-8)**

Our love for God must always be our greatest priority in life and greater than our love for any other person if we are to have ongoing stability in our life and the ability to love others unconditionally. **(Luke 14:25-27)**

It is also important that we do not allow any other relationship to negatively affect our walk with the Lord.

Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth,

“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)**