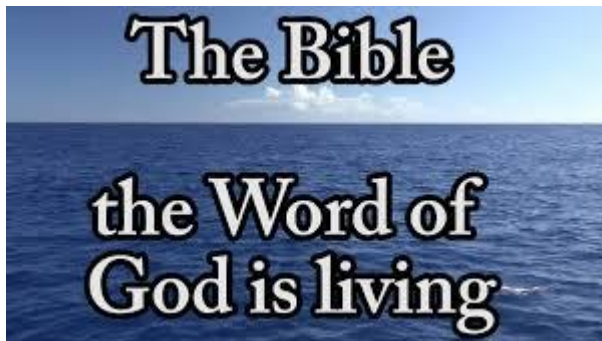


The power of God's Word to transform lives



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **(Hebrews 4:12)**

- There is power in the Word of God to bring transformation to our lives and to build up our faith
- The Word of God also helps to convict us of wrong attitudes and habits that could cause us to stumble and fall in our walk with the Lord
- Meditating on the Word of God helps to feed our spirit and enables us to grow strong in our walk with the Lord
- There is life in the Word of God



- Spending time in God's Word helps to liberate us from wrong mindsets so that we can enjoy the fullness of life that Jesus spoke of



Jesus Himself said,

“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

GIVEN THAT THERE IS POWER IN THE WORD OF GOD TO CHANGE OUR LIVES, THE ENEMY WILL CONTINUALLY TRY AND DISTRACT US FROM SPENDING TIME IN GOD'S WORD

There are many reasons why we need as believers to be continually disciplined in meditating on the Word of God.

i) We are now living in a world which is full of many negative and ungodly influences

We are now living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote of where we are now seeing increased lawlessness in our world



The values of the world are now so different to Christian values.

Meditating on the Word of God helps us not to become conformed to the ways of the world

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)**

ii) It is a key to building up our faith to believe for miracles when we pray

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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



Praying with faith in our heart is a great key to seeing our prayers being answered.

Jesus said,

“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”
(Mark 9:23)

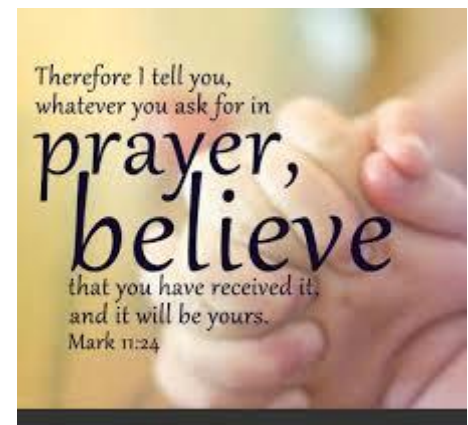


Jesus also said,

“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)



iii) It helps us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God, which is a great key to helping us to be more effective in our own ministry calling. God has a unique plan and ministry 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)



For we are
His masterpiece,
created in
Christ Jesus
for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
in order that we would walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10

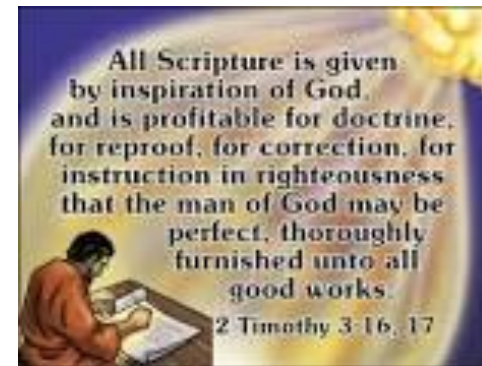


We Are God's
Masterpiece

(Eph. 2:10)

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- Spending time in God's Words helps us to become strong in our walk with the Lord and to be equipped to be effective in our own unique ministry calling



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)

iv) Because the moment we come into the world we have a very real adversary, the Devil, who is out to destroy our lives

The Apostle Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

(1 Peter 5:8-9)

We continually need God’s wisdom to make right choices in life. The bible is full of wisdom to help us to do life well



v) Because none of us have had a perfect upbringing. Like us, our parents were also not perfect having been themselves *influenced* and *affected* by their own bad experiences and disappointments in life and their own upbringing

The word of God helps us to be transformed into who God created us to be as we learn to build our lives based on God's wisdom and promises in His Word

There is power in the Word of God to bring transformation to our lives



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)



“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10a-12)

However when we come to Christ we can become a *positive influence* to those around us, as we allow Christ to change us through meditating on the Word of God and through yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit in our life.

vi) Because peer group pressure and a fear of being rejected by others can cause people to compromise in life and to adopt wrong mindsets and habits in life. The enemy particularly targets the youth in this area

The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

Regularly meditating on the Word of God helps to bring correction into our lives so that we can fully embrace all that God has planned for our life. God’s ways are higher than ours



vii) We continually have choices to make in life

We continually need God's help and guidance to make right choices in life that are in line with His will for our life. God will speak clearly to us through His Word



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.”

(Psalm 119:133) AND

viii)The world is becoming increasingly more challenging and complex to live in

Due to the increasing complexity of life, so often children are now having their mid-life crisis in their teenage years

Reading and applying the Word of God to our lives helps to keep our life uncomplicated



Spending time in God's Word helps us to gain wisdom to do life well and to make good choices that are in line with God's will for our life

Jesus Himself said,

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)



- The longer a person lives in this world without Christ the more wrong mindsets they will invariably develop



- The enemy is continually working on the minds of all people to discourage them and to cause them to live in a manner contrary to the ways of God.
- So the older we are when we come to Christ the more important it is that we spend much time in the Word of God to renew our mind

- The bible makes it clear than when we come to Christ we have the ability to reconnect again with God's design for our life and to enjoy a life that is full of purpose and meaning

...Forget not all his benefits.

King David wrote,

Psalms 103:2

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalms 103:2-5)**

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.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

*For I know the
plans I have for you,”*
DECLARES
the Lord, plans to give you
 **HOPE** *and a*
FUTURE 

- When we come to Christ we have a power within, (the Holy Spirit) to change and to become all that God has planned for our life.

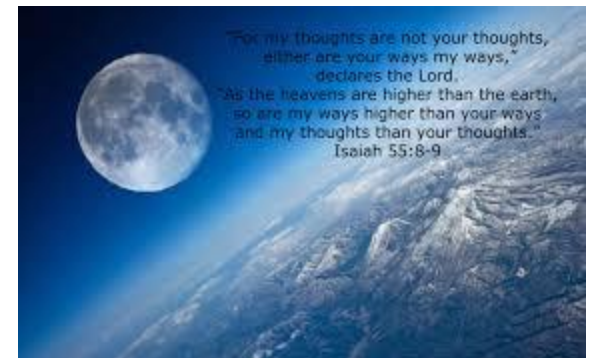
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

Continually renewing our mind with the Word of God helps us to realise our full potential in Christ as we live our life based on what God says about our life



- The bible makes it clear that God's ways are higher than ours and that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37) (Mark 9:23)



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)

So when we come to Christ we need to begin to replace our old dysfunctional and limited way of thinking with Kingdom thinking by Meditating on the Word of God



The Apostle Paul wrote,

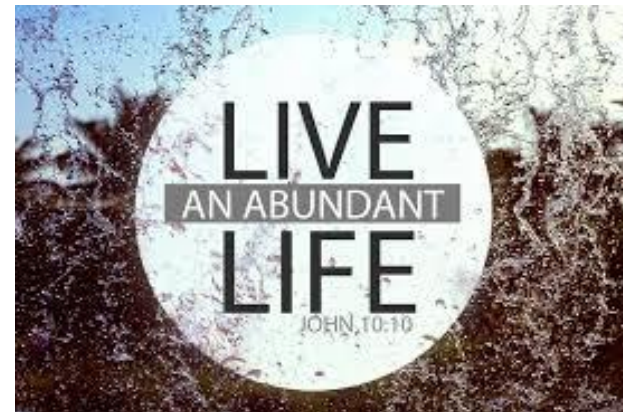
“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

- The LORD emphasised to Joshua just prior to him leading the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, the importance of meditating on the Word of God when He said,

“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)**



- So too with us as believers, meditating on the Word of God is a great key to us fully embracing the wonderful future that God has planned for our life.



Jesus Himself 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)

I will now finish by just quickly looking at how we can allow the Word of God to bring transformation to our lives so that we can become all that God has planned for our life

1) The importance of making time to spend in the Word of God

We must not allow the busyness of life to stop us from spending quality time in God's Word

We must purposely make time to spend in God's Word. (Listening to bible on tape is one way of doing this)



- It is in spending quality time in God's presence and in His Word that we gain a greater understanding of His great love for us

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

It is in spending quality time in God's Word that we also gain a greater understanding of God's great faithfulness and grow in intimacy in our relationship with Him. That we get to know the God of the bible



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**



2) The importance of meditating on the Word of God



We need to allow the Word of God to go from our head into our heart. *That the Word of God brings transformation to our hearts and lives.*

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)

Continually meditating on the Word of God will help to replace our old dysfunctional mindsets with Kingdom thinking

3) The importance of having a good study bible which contains commentaries from mature men and women of God

This is a great key to growing more quickly in our walk with the Lord and to gaining a greater understanding of the Word of God as we learn to read scriptures in the context of the whole bible

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **(2 Timothy 2:15)**



4) The importance of praying to God for Him to speak to us through His Word before we begin reading the bible



The Lord always has a NOW word for us. A word in season. A word of encouragement.

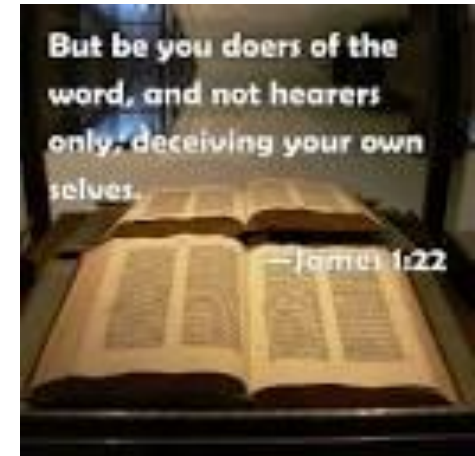
When we read the bible we need to have an expectation that God will speak to us clearly through His Word

The Psalmist wrote,

“The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)

5) The importance of being both hearers and doers of the Word of God

It is crucial that we actually CONTINUALLY apply the Word of God to our own lives



It is in applying the Word of God to our lives that we build our lives on a firm foundation

Whenever we compromise with God's Word there will always be consequences. There are always consequences when we sin

Jesus Himself said,

“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.



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 7:24-27)**

- Walking in obedience to God's Word is also a great key to enjoying God's blessings in our own life

Jesus Himself said,

“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)



6) That we speak God's Word over our future and in our prayers



This is a great key to having faith to believe for answered prayers because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

The Apostle Paul wrote,



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

- Memorising scripture helps us to continually speak words of life



- The more scripture that we have in our heart, the more we will instinctively speak words of life. Jesus made it clear that what is in our heart will be reflected in the words that we speak.

Jesus Himself said,

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

(Luke 6:45)

- We need to speak God's promises over our future. That we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13)
- The words that we speak over our life and future invariably have a self fulfilling effect on the way that our life turns out
- The words that we speak have a powerful effect on the outcome our life.



In the book of Proverbs we read, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21)

- We need to choose to CONTINUALLY speak God's promises in His word over our life and future, (what God says about our life), ESPECIALLY when under pressure and when going through trials and challenges in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

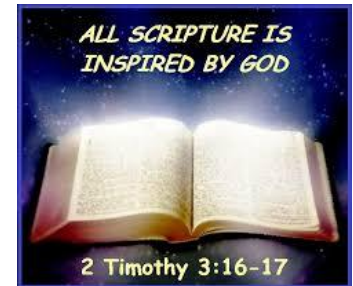
“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)



We need to continually frame our future by speaking God's promises over our life, **AND**

7) We need to simply accept the fact that the Bible is the absolute inspired truth of God

As Christians we need to simply accept the fact that the entire bible was written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and that we can confidently build our lives based on the truth contained in God's Word



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)

So in conclusion, God has blessed us with His Word *so that we can*;

- i) Continually gain godly wisdom for our life to help us to make good choices in life**
- ii) Be built up and strengthened in our faith**
- iii) Know God's incredible love for us, and**
- iv) Receive guidance and direction from God as He speaks a NOW word to us through His Word**

So that our lives can be transformed into what God created us to be, so that we can realise our full potential in Christ and make a great difference in this world for eternity

