

UGANDA CONFERENCE



- **INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS**
- BODY ministry (All believers doing their part)

I will begin with four important things that the LORD has put on my heart to share in relation to the times that we are now living in:

1. We need to have a passion for winning souls to Christ



In the book of Proverbs we read, "... And he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30a)

Jesus Himself said,

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35)



2. We need to have a hunger and passion to know God intimately at a time when Jesus said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold”



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)

3. As pastors and leaders, we need to have a commitment to helping all Christians to become disciples



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)

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) **AND****



4. The importance of finishing our Christian walk well (As the Apostle Paul did)



The Apostle Paul wrote at the end of his life 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)

- I will now quickly share 10 things that the Lord put on my heart to share as introductory thoughts for this conference



- Important things in relation to fulfilling our God given destiny and things that matter to God
- This includes some important Kingdom principles that we can learn from reading 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 to 14

i. Continually seeking God's guidance (Life is full of important choices) Not my will, but Thy will be done



- In the ungodly world that we are now living in, we continually need God's wisdom to make right choices in life
- We must always allow the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions in 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)



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)



Jesus Himself said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)



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)**



- We continually need God's wisdom and guidance in the ungodly and lawless times that we are now living in to consistently make right choices in life

ii. Being careful to be not entangled by the things of this world. We are to be in the world, but not of it

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1)



Jesus Himself in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower 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)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote to the young pastor Timothy,



“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.” (1 Timothy 6:6, 7, 9)

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” **(1 Timothy 6:10)**



“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called...” **(1 Timothy 6:11-12)**



iii. The importance of knowing and following God's will and plan for our lives and ministries in this season (It is closing time)



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)



iv. The importance of helping all Christians to grow from being a convert into a disciple maker

**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)**

- It is so important that we help all Christians, especially new believers, to become strong and grounded in their walk with the Lord**



v. The importance of pastors and leaders being encouraged and strengthened in their faith

- If the Devil can smite the shepherd, he can scatter the sheep



- The simple fact is the more responsibility God gives us, the greater the warfare we will also experience from the enemy

- A key focus for conferences like this is to help encourage and strengthen pastors and leaders so that they can in turn help to disciple and build up those in their own congregations



- We all need encouragement in our walk with the Lord. It is within the context of having fellowship with other pastors and leaders that we can help encourage each other to remain strong in our ministry callings

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)



vi. The importance of unity with every believer finding their fit in the body of Christ and working together in unity with other believers

- Unity is the key to seeing God's blessing and power in our church meetings
- We all need one another in the body of Christ
- It is as we work together in unity that the church makes a great impact in this world



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)



King David wrote, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing –Life forevermore.”
(Psalm 133:1-3)



vii.IT IS A SEASON FOR NEW BEGINNINGS (The importance of drawing aside to seek the Lord for His will for our lives and ministries in this season)



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)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)



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)



- **One great key to fully embracing the new things that God has planned for this season, is that we need to be prepared to let go of some of the old things as well as the hurts and disappointments that we have experienced in the past**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,”
(Philippians 3:12-14)

viii. The value of every soul to God (The world is full of hurting individuals)



- Truly God's heart is that none would perish
- We must not forget the value of every soul to God
- We need to seek to always have God's heart and compassion for the lost

Jesus Himself said,

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10)



The Apostle Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Jesus Himself also said,

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing.” (Luke 15:4-5)



“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which is lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” **(Luke 15:6-7)**



ix. THE GREATEST IS LOVE



- It is our genuine love for others that will make the greatest impact in this world for eternity
- The way that we live our lives and relate to others matters
- A great key to helping people to come to faith is our genuine agape love for our brothers and sisters in the Lord

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)



“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” **(1 Corinthians 13:3)**

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” **(1 Corinthians 13:13)**

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

(1 Corinthians 14:1)



Jesus Himself said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)



Jesus also said, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.” (John 15:11-14)



The Apostle Peter wrote, “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:7-9)

AND



x. Some important Kingdom principles and keys that we can learn when we take a look at 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 to 14 (BODY ministry - All believers doing their part)

- The importance of flowing in our own unique gifts and callings



- There are different ways of doing ministry. God has a unique plan for every believer's life

- Continually living a Spirit filled Christian life where we flow in the gifts of the Spirit



- It is so important that we are always ministering out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- As we give out to others, we need to be continually filled afresh with the Holy Spirit

The Apostle Paul wrote, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

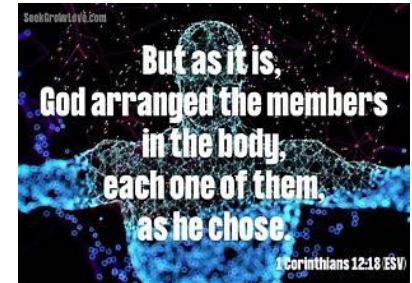


In 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 the Apostle Paul compares the church to the human body and how having a wide diversity of gifts helps to assure unity in the church as each gift contributes something that is necessary to the common life and growth of the whole. With this in mind:



- The importance of being positioned where God has placed us in the body of Christ

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.” (1 Corinthians 12:18)

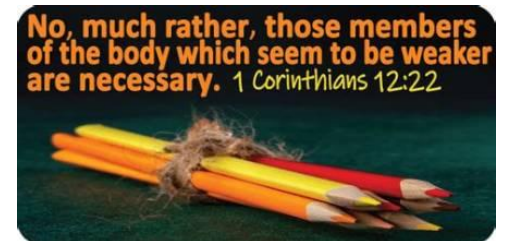


- The importance of working together in unity with other Christians in the body of Christ (We all need one another)



The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

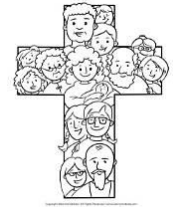


“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, variety of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:27-28)



- Every believer has an important role to play in the body of Christ**

- The importance of giving our best to what God has called us to do. The role that He has assigned for us to do within the body of Christ. The importance of staying in our own lane



- Not my will, but Thy will be done in my life and ministry



- Always having a motivation of genuine love in all that we do in life and ministry

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

(1 Corinthians 12:26)



- That we rejoice with those who are doing well in ministry and appreciate the giftings of others. (A great key to seeing unity in the body of Christ)

- Realising that if one suffers in the body of Christ, it affects us all



- Every believer has an important part to play in the body of Christ

- We all need one another



- That we actively encourage and support other believers who are going through trials and sufferings in their lives and ministries



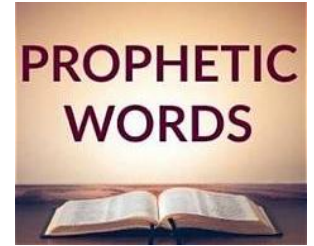
- We need to live our lives with the motivation of serving others with our own unique gifts and callings

The Apostle Paul 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)



- **The importance of sharing prophetic words with others when the Lord puts on your heart a word to share with them**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

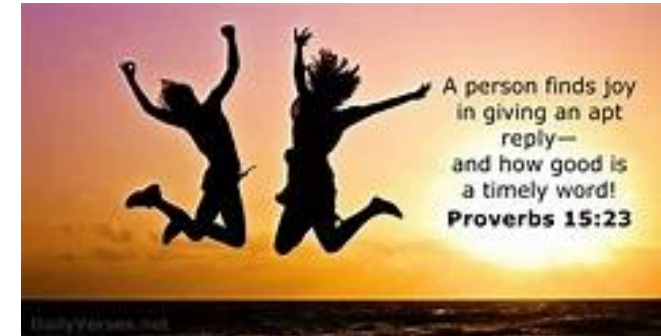
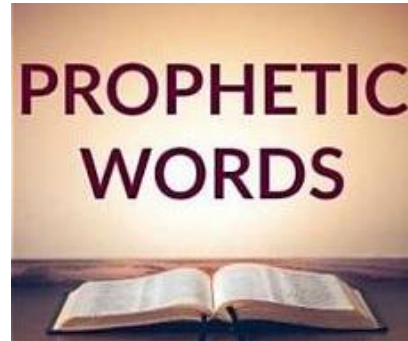
“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1)

- Sometimes a word from the Lord can be the key to someone not giving up on their calling on the point of a breakthrough in their lives. **Hence the importance of sharing the prophecies that God gives to you to encourage others**

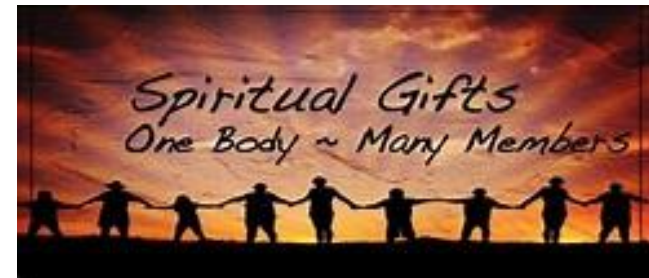
In the book of Proverbs we read,

**“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”
(Proverbs 15:23)**

AND



- Always having a motivation of living for the Kingdom Cause and in helping to see the body of Christ encouraged and edified and built up as you flow in your own unique gifts and callings



- That you simply give your best to what God has called you to do during your time here on earth

**I will finish again with the words of the
Apostle Paul,**

**“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)**

