

THREE GREAT KEYS TO FULFILLING OUR GOD GIVEN ASSIGNMENT HERE ON EARTH

- Every believer has an important ministry and role to play in the Body of Christ
- For this reason, it is so important that ALL believers fully connect with their God given assignment here on earth
- For this reason, I felt today to share three very important keys to fulfilling our God given assignment here on earth
- It is in living out these three keys to fulfilling our God given destiny that our lives can make a great impact in this world for eternity
- I will now look at these three keys

1) The importance of fully connecting with our OWN unique calling (Not my will but Thy will be done in my life and ministry)

Jesus Himself said during His time here on earth,

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” **(John 4:34)**

- I will begin however first with one important introductory thought in relation to the times that we are now living in

- **IT IS HARVEST TIME**

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)**

- With this in mind how important it is that we always have a souls’ focus, especially given the times that we are now living in when we can see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers
- Every believer has been given the ministry of reconciliation

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, 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 5:18-20)**

- **Given that every believer has a mission's field, (friends, family, work colleagues, fellow students and neighbourhoods), how important it is as leaders that we actively encourage and EQUIP all believers to be proactive in sharing their faith with others**

To help pastors and leaders to equip their leaders and congregational members to become more effective soul winners, we have put together a free "Run your own evangelism School" page on our Church of Hope website. Following is the link to go to this page on our Church of Hope website:

[www.coh.org.au/Run Evangelism School](http://www.coh.org.au/Run_Evangelism_School)

- I will now focus on the importance of every believer fully connecting with their unique God given calling during their time here on earth. We have one gift of life to store up treasures in heaven
- It is therefore so important that we are not continually distracted by the cares of this world and the demands of ministry and even the opinions of others, so that we do not fully connect with God's unique plan and purpose for our lives

- We are the greatest blessing to all people when we fully connect with God's plan and calling for our lives and when we flow in our own spiritual gifts
- We are also the most fulfilled in our Christian walk when we fully connect with our calling in life
- Other people's destinies are also connected to us being faithful in what God has called us to do in life
- Especially given the nearness of the rapture of all true believers, how important it is that we fully connect with our own UNIQUE God given calling in the times that we are now living in and are good stewards of our spiritual gifts and talents
- Our lives and ministries will be the most fruitful when we stay fully connected to God's calling for our lives and ministries

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**)

- Given that we are the most effective and the greatest blessing to others when we fully connect with our God given calling in life and flow in our own unique spiritual gifts, how important it is in each season of our life that we know the will of God for our lives and ministries
- This is particularly important in the season (times) that we are now living in when multitudes are in the valley of decision and as we see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers

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)

- So especially given the times that we are now living in when there are so many people in need of salvation and true hope, how important it is that we spend time alone with the Lord to get clarity of vision for our lives and ministries in this season
- We only have so much time and energy to invest into the lives of others and in serving the Lord

- SO HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE CONTINUALLY INVEST OUR TIME AND ENERGY INTO WHOLEHEARTEDLY PURSUING GOD'S UNIQUE CALLING FOR OUR LIVES
- That we fully connect with our calling. THAT WE GIVE OUR BEST TO WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO IN OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY and that we are not moved away from our calling as a result of the opinions and expectations of others
- Having a clear God given vision for our lives is such a great key to fully embracing all that God has planned for our lives and ministries and to helping us to always remain connected to our God given calling in life

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

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

- **Having clarity of vision helps us to know what to say “Yes” to and what to say “No” to, so that we do not get pulled away from our God given calling in life**

2) The importance of continually growing in Christlike character. Greater levels greater devils (the more warfare we will experience)

- Having godly character is crucial to finishing our Christian walk well
- Having godly character is also a great key to promotion in God's Kingdom. For this reason, it is so important that we continually maintain a right heart towards God and others
- God always first prepares the man before He gives them the ministry
- Promotion in God's Kingdom always comes from above

In the book of 1 Samuel we read,

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

The Psalmist wrote,

“For exaltation *comes* neither from the east
Nor from the west nor from the south.
But God *is* the Judge:
He puts down one,
And exalts another.” (Psalm 75:6-7)

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

- As pastors and leaders, it is so important that we model what it is to live the Christian life to those who have been entrusted to our care

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

- So given the importance of growing in godly character as a believer, I felt the Lord put upon my heart to quickly share 5 important disciplines to help us to continually grow in Christlike character especially given the ungodly and materialistic times that we are now living in
 - i. Making the study of the word of God a great priority in our lives (Especially given the continual access to the smart phone)
- The Lord spoke to me clearly when on a recent mission’s trip of the importance of all believers coming back to the reading and study of the word of God)

- It is so important that we continually build our lives on the foundation of the word of God and that we do not allow the ways of the world to influence the way that we live our lives

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 said to Joshua as 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)**

The Apostle Paul also 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)**

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.” **(Matthew 7:24-25)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” **(1 Timothy 4:13-16)**

- ii. Maintaining intimacy in our walk with the Lord. That practicing God's presence in our lives must be our greatest priority
- King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart

King David wrote,

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

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)

- It is so important that we continually allow the Lord to search our heart to reveal the true condition of our heart spiritually and the true nature of our motivations by spending quality time in intimate fellowship with Him
- **The simple fact is that the bible makes it clear that the heart is deceitful above all things**

Again, in the book of Jeremiah we read,

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

- **King David always had a desire to have a right heart towards God**
- **We see this in many of the Psalms that he wrote**

In Psalm 139 King David wrote,

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

- **Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in, how important it is that we live a lifestyle of prayer**
- **We continually need wisdom from God to make right choices in life and to avoid the pitfalls of life**
- **We especially need wisdom from God in relation to who we are to connect with and to have in our inner circle of contacts**

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)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

iii. That we continually maintain a repentant heart and have short accounts with God

- This is such a great key to always maintaining a clear pipeline of communication with God and a soft conscience

The Apostle John wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

iv. That money is always our servant rather than our master. Money can have a beguiling effect on many people’s hearts and lives

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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. 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 6:6, 7, 9-10)

- At a time when the Apostle Paul wrote that “... men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, ...” (We see this in 2 Timothy 3:2) how important it is that we do not allow the ways of the world, the culture of the world, to influence the way that we live our lives. **That money is always our servant and not our master**

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)**

- God knows our every need in life and ministry
- There is no better place than being in the will of God for our lives
- We will never lack what we need in our life and ministry if we continually put Christ and God’s plan for our life first place in our lives and ministries
- It is therefore so important that our focus is not therefore always on money and whether or not we will have enough and that we do not allow the materialism of this world to take hold of our heart, but that our focus is continually on the eternal things
- The simple fact is “God’s will, God’s bill” and “where God guides, He provides”

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) AND**

v. The importance of having a teachable spirit

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” **(Proverbs 9:8-9)**

- Being teachable is such a great key to growing in godly wisdom and character and to avoiding the pitfalls of life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

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

- How important it is that we seek to continually grow in Christlike character in the lawless times that we are now living in **AND**

3) The importance of continually depending upon the Holy Spirit’s guidance and power in the times that we are now living in

- Life is full of important choices
- Especially given the ungodly and deceptive times that we are now living in, how important it is that we continually allow the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth to give us guidance and direction in all that we do in life and ministry

Jesus Himself said,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“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)**

- **The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord the more sensitive we are to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit**
- **We must always allow the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions in life**
- We can see the consequences of going against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit in Acts Chapter 27 when Paul perceived that the ship that he was on would come to disaster if they were to set sail out of the harbour
- What he perceived did eventuate as the crew of the ship failed to heed Paul’s warning and set sail in the ship that he was on

- We see the account of this in Acts Chapter 27

“When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty of Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.

Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.

Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbour of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.

When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.”
(Acts 27:7-14)

In these passages of Scripture, we can see:

- The importance of listening to the right voices (We need to receive wisdom and guidance from people who hear from God)
- It can even seem logical to do some things (the harbour was not suitable to winter in)
- That even the majority can be wrong, and
- That we can even be misled based on the appearances of things. (The south wind blew softly)

- As Paul had perceived, after the tempestuous head wind arose eventually the ship that he was on did become shipwrecked

In the book of Acts we read,

“When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.” (Acts 27:39-41)

- The simple fact is that whenever we do not have peace about a course of action there will always be consequences from going against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit
- How important it is that we are always guided and directed by the Holy Spirit in all of our decisions and that we always allow the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions
- **It is so important that we ALSO live our lives and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, especially given the lawless and secular times that we are now living in**

- We need to continually minister in the power of the Holy Spirit if we are to see people's lives being transformed by the gospel message

Jesus Himself continually ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. We see this in the book of Acts

In the book of Acts we read, “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 so important that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit and that as we give out to others, we are also ourselves continually filled afresh with the Holy Spirit

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

- **It is so important that we are always ministering out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives**
- **Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of believers being baptised in the Holy Spirit**
- After their born-again experience on Resurrection Sunday, Jesus said to His disciples that there was still a greater experience of the Holy Spirit to come

Jesus said to His disciples, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” **(Luke 24:49)**

“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)**

- **The church was then birthed in the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost**

In Acts chapter 2 verses 1-4 we read,

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **(Acts 2:1-4)**

- **Being baptised in the Holy Spirit and continually filled with the Holy Spirit empowers a believer to be effective in witnessing to and preaching to others and to realising their full potential in Christ**

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. 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 3:17-20)**

- **Depending upon the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit is therefore such a great key to fulfilling our God given DESTINY here on earth**

- I will now conclude with one great key to seeing revival in our communities. That we have a genuine love and compassion for people and in particular the lost and hurting

- Jesus Himself was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes like sheep having no shepherd

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)**

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

- So how important it is in the times that we are now living in that we hunger for more of God’s presence, more of His compassion and more of His power
- So may I conclude by encouraging everyone today to fully connect with your unique calling and to not limit what God wants to do through your life and ministry in the days to come

- That you would not allow the trials and challenges of life to pull you away from just doing what Jesus tells you to do in the days to come
- That you would fulfil your God given destiny in the days to come