

LEADERSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP *MANUAL EXCERPTS*



(Teachings for Evangelism School)

Notes compiled by: Conrad Fenton

Covering Church: Church of Hope Inc.

GPO Box 3552, Melbourne, 3001

No copyright. Please reproduce as much as you want.

Web Site: www.coh.org.au

LEADERSHIP TRAINING MANUAL EXCERPTS

		Page No.
Teaching No. 1	Every great Christian Leader has a clear vision for their life and church	4
Teaching No. 9	A good leader mentors others	6
Teaching No. 10	A good leader needs wisdom in appointing other leaders	16
Teaching No. 18	A good church leader knows the importance of having small groups	25
Teaching No. 19	A good leader is a role model to others	35

DISCIPLESHIP TEACHINGS MANUAL EXCERPTS

		Page No.
Introduction	Building your life on the Word of God	39
Teaching No. 2	Having an overcoming Faith	45
Teaching No. 3	God's heart for the lost	52
Teaching No. 6	We are called to serve	63
Teaching No. 8	Kingdom Power	68
Teaching No. 20	The importance of loving and serving others	75
Teaching No. 26	An overview of what is important for all church leaders	80
Teaching No. 30	Some keys to answered prayer	89
Teaching No. 31	Attributes of a healthy church	91

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



MANUAL

(Excerpts)

Teaching No. 1

EVERY GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADER HAS A CLEAR VISION FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH

The LORD said to Habakkuk, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." (Habakkuk 2:2)

A CLEAR VISION FROM GOD HELPS TO KEEP A LEADER FOCUSED AND DISCIPLINED. A God given vision will help a leader to live a life of fruitfulness.

The book of Proverbs says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law." (Proverbs 29:18) NKJV

The King James Version says:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18)

A GOD GIVEN VISION HELPS LEADERS TO LIVE A DISCIPLINED AND GODLY LIFE. PEOPLE WITHOUT A VISION CAN EASILY MAKE WRONG CHOICES AND HAVE THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS DESTROYED. (1 Peter 5:8) (John 10:10)

ALL CHURCH LEADERS SHOULD HAVE AN ONGOING FOCUS AND VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (Luke 15:1-7)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(John 3:16)

EVERY CHURCH LEADER MUST ENSURE THAT THE CHURCH THEY ARE SHEPHERDING HAS A VISION FOR BOTH REACHING THE LOST AND MAKING DISCIPLES. THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH MUST ALSO HAVE A CLEAR VISION AND FOCUS FOR THEIR OWN LIFE.

Having a clearly defined vision for our life is a key to preventing the devil from sidetracking us from God's best plan for our life. (Ephesians 2:10)

HAVING A CLEAR VISION FOR OUR LIFE ALSO HELPS US TO GET THROUGH THOSE TIMES IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING EITHER DISCOURAGEMENT OR GREAT TRIALS AND TRIBULATION.

EVERY GOD GIVEN VISION WILL INVOLVE HELPING OTHERS TO FULFILL THEIR OWN GOD GIVEN DESTINY

Jesus Himself said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Jesus also 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)

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE IS FAR GREATER THAN WE COULD EVER THINK OR IMAGINE. (Ephesians 3:20) WE MUST COMMIT OUR PLANS TO THE LORD (Proverbs 16:3) AND SEEK HIS VISION FOR OUR LIFE AND CHURCH.

A LEADER OF VISION IS COMMITTED TO FINDING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH (Ephesians 2:10)

WITH A VISION > LEADERS CAN PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD FOR HIS PLANS AND STRATEGIES > AND THEN STEP OUT IN FAITH TO ACT UPON HIS GUIDANCE > RESULTING IN SOULS BEING SAVED AND MATURE DISCIPLES BEING RAISED UP WHO ARE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED FOR MINISTRY

Teaching No. 9

A GOOD LEADER MENTORS OTHERS

(A good leader invests in the lives of other believers and leaders)

A GOOD LEADER IS A MULTIPLIER (Who will help to raise up many spiritual sons and daughters)

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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 2:1-2)

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS A FATHER IN THE FAITH AND ENCOURAGED MANY OTHERS TO FULFIL THEIR GOD GIVEN DESTINY

A great leader will mentor and encourage many others to fulfil God's destiny for their life. (Acts 14:21-22)
(Acts 11:21-26)

All church leaders and Pastors need to invest in the lives of the next generation of leaders. (Psalm 145:4)

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Corinth,

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, to imitate me.

For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

JESUS EMPHASISED THE NEED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus said to His disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

EVERY GOOD LEADER MUST HAVE A COMMITMENT TO SEEING ALL BELIEVERS IN HIS CHURCH BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES (and acknowledges the importance of small groups in preparing mature disciples)

Pastor John Luliano from the Chatswood Assemblies of God in Sydney NSW, did a study on what Jesus taught His disciples as He prepared them for ministry. He found that of all the 350 things that Jesus commanded His disciples to do, he could summarise them into just seven major Core Values.

SEVEN CORE VALUES OF A MATURE DISCIPLE

A DISCIPLE

i) Loves God

“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)

ii) Loves People

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

iii) Loves a Godly Lifestyle

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

iv) Loves Telling Others

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

v) Loves God's Family

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

vi) Loves God's Kingdom

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33) AND

vii) Loves to Give

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE ABILITY TO TRAIN UP AND MENTOR OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES WHO WILL IN TURN BE ABLE TO HELP OTHER CHRISTIANS TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES WITH FRUITFUL MINISTRIES (2 Timothy 2:2)

A good Leader will help and encourage many other Christians to have a passionate love for God and a genuine love for people of all backgrounds. A good leader will also help to foster in others a commitment to becoming more Christlike.

They will also help to train up and equip disciples who know the importance of sharing the gospel with the unsaved, who have a heart to encourage all other believers, who have a passion for the things of God and who give generously to the work of God.

GREAT LEADERS WILL TRAIN UP MANY OTHER LEADERS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE FRUITFUL MINISTRIES LONG AFTER THEY THEMSELVES HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD.

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRAIN UP MANY OTHERS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN UP OTHERS ALSO, THEREBY LEAVING AN ONGOING LEGACY OF THEIR MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH.

THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS. IN HIS SHORT TIME IN MINISTRY HE TRAINED UP A SMALL GROUP OF DISCIPLES WHO HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE EARLY CHURCH. THE CHURCH IS STILL GROWING TODAY.

JESUS IN HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH DEMONSTRATED A FOUR STEP PROCESS FOR RAISING UP MATURE DISCIPLES

DURING HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH JESUS RAISED UP A TEAM OF DISCIPLES AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Jesus first GATHERED a group of people whom He believed would become disciples (Mark 1:16-18) (Mark 1:19-20) (Mark 2:14)

- 2) After Jesus had gathered His disciples, He then took them on preaching tours and MODELLED the following for them:
 - i) The importance of finding and fulfilling God's purpose for their life (Mark 1:38)

 - ii) How to preach the gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:39)

 - iii) How to serve people by casting our demons and healing the sick (Mark 1:39-41) and

 - iv) How to live a genuine God-glorifying life (Mark 1:38-42)

AS HE MODELLED WHAT TRUE KINGDOM LIFE WAS LIKE, HE ALSO CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGED THE DISCIPLES THAT GOD WAS DOING A WORK IN THEIR LIFE, AND THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD PREACH, HEAL AND CAST DEMONS OUT THEMSELVES. JESUS APPOINTED THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WOULD BE DOING IN THE FUTURE. (Mark 3:13-15)

As disciple makers, we must give people a vision of what they can become. We must then teach them what it is like to be a real disciple by both showing and explaining to them what it is to be a true disciple

3) Jesus then began to MENTOR the twelve disciples

Although appointed in Mark 3:13, the disciples were not officially sent out by Jesus until Mark 6:7

“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.”
(Mark 6:7)

When they had finished their mission trips, they returned and reported back to their mentor

“Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.”
(Mark 6:30)

THE REPORT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTORING PROCESS. JESUS WAS INTERESTED BOTH IN:

- i) What they had done, and
- ii) What they had taught

No person will ever do things perfect the first time. A person must be allowed to make mistakes and create room for correction. A DISCIPLE MAKER MUST LEARN TO BECOME AN EQUIPPER. When giving an assessment for a completed task, mentors must address three issues:

- i) What was done well
- ii) What could be done better, and
- iii) What needs to be done next time which was not done this time

MENTORING IS A PROCESS DESIGNED TO “ENRICH” PEOPLE. The Apostle Paul emphasised the need for more Fathers of the faith to help encourage believers to become mature disciples. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PASTORS INTENSIVE HANDBOOK OUTLINES SIX KEYS TO BEING AN EFFECTIVE MENTOR WHO IS ABLE TO “ENRICH” THOSE WHO THEY ARE MENTORING.

A GOOD MENTOR WILL:

i) **E**ncourage those whom they are mentoring

(The meaning of the word encourage, is to give courage. Encouragement helps people to overcome their failures, fears and insecurities)

ii) **N**urture those whom they are mentoring

(Nurtured people are strong people, whereas neglected people can become weak, picking up wrong mindsets)

iii) **R**esource people with their knowledge, gifts, talents and abilities as well as providing resource materials

iv) **I**nvest their life in the lives of other people

(We need to have a genuine commitment to and love for others)

v) **C**oach those whom they are mentoring, (Advising but not Manipulating, Leading but not controlling) and

vi) **H**ang in with those who they are mentoring (We must never give up on people, no matter what is happening to them)

4) Finally, before ascending to heaven, Jesus MOBILISED the disciples to do what He had trained them to do.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

A disciple of Christ is not complete until he has been mobilised and released to become a disciple maker.

Mobilisation produces the “DNA” of multiplication. However many churches fail at this point because they try to get mobilisation happening without first spending enough time on the MODELLING and MENTORING phase of training up new leaders (disciples).

Before Jesus had got to the mobilisation stage, He had already spent approximately three years in correctly training up His disciples for the work of the ministry

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERS INVEST IN THIS GENERATION OF YOUTH, WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Teaching No. 10

1) A GOOD LEADER NEEDS WISDOM IN APPOINTING OTHER LEADERS

- i) Do not hastily promote people into positions of leadership. They need to have first proved themselves in serving others (1 Timothy 5:22) (Luke 16:12) (John 12:26) (Matthew 20:25-28)

THE BIBLE SHOWS HOW THE GREAT LEADERS ALWAYS FIRST SERVED ANOTHER LEADER

MOSES SERVED JETHRO (Caring for his flocks)
(Exodus 3:1)

JOSHUA SERVED MOSES AS HIS ASSISTANT
(Exodus 24:13) (Joshua 1:1)

ELISHA SUCCEDED ELIJAH (Elisha poured water on the hands of Elijah) (2 Kings 3:11)

DAVID WAS SAUL'S ARMOUR BEARER
(1 Samuel 16:21)

ii) We need to be wary of placing people in leadership who have a controlling nature

- Those with a controlling spirit have the potential to block the move of God's spirit in church meetings
- Those with a controlling spirit have the potential to bring division into a church if they use manipulation to obtain favour for themselves
- Every church must guard against the Jezebel spirit entering leadership. This spirit particularly targets the worship and intercession ministries, and tries to gain favour and influence through siding with church leaders. Queen Jezebel gained power by marrying King Ahab and used his authority to see Naboth killed. (1 Kings 21:1-16)

USUALLY IT IS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ABUSED OR REJECTED WHEN GROWING UP, THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO ALLOW THE SPIRIT OF CONTROL TO OPERATE IN THEIR LIVES.

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL LEADERS HAVE BEEN HEALED OF PAST HURTS BEFORE BEING PLACED IN A LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND THAT THEIR IDENTITY COMES FROM WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST AND NOT FROM WHAT THEY DO OR ACHIEVE.

THOSE WHO HAVE COME OUT OF A BACKGROUND OF CONTROL MUST FIRST COME TO GENUINE REPENTANCE BEFORE BEING GIVEN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP

- iii) A good pastor is discerning and vigilant to prevent any divisive spirit from entering their church. The bible stresses the importance of removing from fellowship anyone that persists in trying to bring division into a church. (Titus 3:10-11)

- iv) A leader must be wary of those who are continually promoting themselves and be aware of anyone who has an Absalom spirit and who is forming an unhealthy clique within the church (2 Samuel 15:1-6)

- v) It is important that ALL those who are appointed to leadership have a teachable spirit. (Proverbs 19:20)
(1 Corinthians 3:1-3) (Proverbs 13:1) (Psalm 40:8)
(Psalm 27:11)

- vi) Humility must be evident in the lives of those who are appointed to positions of leadership. Jesus Himself said that humility was the prerequisite for promotion in God's Kingdom. (Luke 14:7-11) Jesus was the example of humility. (Philippians 2:5-9)

THE BIBLE STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF
WALKING IN HUMILITY (1 Peter 5:5) (Psalm 147:6)
(Isaiah 57:15) (Colossians 3:12) (Philippians 2:3)

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He
will lift you up." (James 4:10)

LEADERS WILL RECEIVE A STRICTOR JUDGEMENT BECAUSE THEY
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF
MANY OTHER CHRISTIANS. (James 3:1) THE APPOINTMENT OF
HUMBLE LEADERS WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT A CHURCH HAS
THE RIGHT FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREACHING FROM THE PULPIT AND
TRAINING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF BELIEVERS MUST
THEREFORE BE HUMBLE AND OF GOOD CHARACTER

Jesus Himself said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher,
have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one
another's feet. For I have given you an example, that
you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I
say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor
is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you
know these things, blessed are you if you do them."
(John 13:14-17)

JESUS WAS THE EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY

WHAT IS IN THE HEART OF THE LEADERS WILL IMPACT THE REST OF THE CHURCH CONGREGATION. CHOOSING HUMBLE LEADERS OF GOOD CHARACTER IS THEREFORE A KEY TO SEEING STRONG AND HEALTHY CHURCHES BEING ESTABLISHED.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the young pastor Timothy gave him the criteria for choosing and appointing church leaders.

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:2-6)

vii) HAVING LEADERS WHO HAVE A HEART FOR WORSHIP (Psalm 28:7) (Psalm 18:49) (Psalm 95:1-2)

The way a person worships the Lord is a good indicator of how close his relationship is with the Lord. Jesus Himself said,

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

LEADERS WHO ARE WORSHIPERS WILL GENERALLY HAVE A GREATER SENSITIVITY TO RECEIVING CORRECTION FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

KING DAVID WAS A WORSHIPER AND HAD A VERY TEACHABLE SPIRIT. HE WAS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART. AS WE DELIGHT OURSELVES IN THE LORD, HE GIVES US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART.

- viii) All leaders that are appointed need to have a kindred spirit. It is important that God has drawn them to the church leader's vision. (Psalm 127:1)
- ix) All those who are in leadership should become Sons in the House.

A SON OR A WORKER

The Assemblies of God Pastors Intensive manual highlights the differences between a WORKER AND A SON in the house. The Apostle Paul had many co-workers but not many whom he was able to call "a true son in the faith."

The Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy wrote, "To Timothy, a true son in the faith:" (1 Timothy 1:2) Timothy was a true son in the faith. Sons help to build the house because they have an ownership of the vision. (They have a real sense of belonging to the vision) They see what the worker cannot see.

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A SON AND A WORKER

Sons are faithful to the family. Workers are faithful to themselves.

Sons flow with the vision. Workers want to change the vision.

Sons bring peace and unity. Workers will split the family to better their cause.

Sons have a sweet spirit. They have learnt to put their hurts behind them. Workers have a spirit that is either syrupey or sour. They can never seem to overcome their past hurts and consequently judge the present through past hurts.

Sons build the family business. Workers do their jobs in it.

Sons will be loyal to the leader and church and will be prepared to serve and support the leader's vision

Sons stick it out in hard times. Workers run when it gets tough.

The following example illustrates the difference between a worker and a Son.

Three people working on a building site were asked the same question, "What are you doing?" One answered, "I am laying bricks." The second answered, "I am building a wall." The third answered, "I am building a cathedral." The first two responses were typical of a worker, but the final response typical of a Son.

This worker had a heart of a Son and though he was also laying bricks, he also had an ownership of the vision to see a House of Worship (cathedral) built.

- x) All leaders must be God given appointments. Promotion must always come from the Lord.
- xi) God's timing for appointing leaders is also vital. Leaders must not be appointed ahead of time. It is imperative that sufficient character has been developed in a person's life prior to them being appointed to a position of leadership.
- xii) However, no one will ever be perfect this side of heaven. We must therefore not first seek perfection in people before placing them into leadership, but be directed by the Lord as to when to appoint a person to leadership

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." (Philippians 3:12)

When the Lord places on the heart of a leader to appoint someone in their church into a position of leadership, they must trust the Lord and release that person into the leadership role. As they grow in their leadership role, they will also continue to grow in character as well.

All leadership appointments in the church should be made as the Lord Himself directs. The Apostle Paul acknowledged that it was the Lord Himself who counted him faithful calling him into ministry (1 Timothy 1:12)

THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT AS WE CONTINUE TO WALK WITH THE LORD, WE WILL ALL BE CONTINUALLY GROWING IN OUR CHRISTIAN CHARACTER. GOD OFTEN CHOOSES ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO ARE SIMPLY AVAILABLE, TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR HIM. IT IS GOD WHO QUALIFIES THOSE WHOM HE CALLS INTO MINISTRY

Teaching No. 18

A GOOD CHURCH LEADER KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUPS IN A CHURCH ARE THE KEY TO SEEING MATURE DISCIPLES BEING RAISED UP WHO CAN IN TURN MENTOR AND DISCIPLE OTHER BELIEVERS

(2 Timothy 2:2) (Acts 5:42) (Psalm 92:13-15)

Within the context of a small group, believers can encourage one another in their Christian walk and help to motivate each other to fully utilise their spiritual gifts. Within a loving home group, believers can be helped and encouraged to fulfil God's plan and purpose for their life.

When believers are encouraged in small groups to use their spiritual gifts, new believers will be added continually to the Church. (Acts 2:46-47)

A Church leader knows the importance of giving those in the church an opportunity of participating in a weekly home fellowship meeting or other small group. With work environments often being ungodly and without any other believers, attending a mid-week home fellowship group or bible study is crucial for every believer. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER REASONS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE SMALL GROUPS IN A LOCAL CHURCH:

- They help to see a church grow from a church of converts to a church of disciples
- They help to see new believers planted in the church. To have a fruitful life, it is imperative that a believer is committed to a local church. In a local church ministry gifts are recognised and developed in a believer. It is within the context of a local church that strong ministries are developed.

“Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,” (Psalm 92:13-14)

- Small groups help to connect church members to the life of the church. This enables them to become participants in the life of the church, with opportunities to use their ministry gifts, rather than just being attendees

- In small groups Christians can grow in their knowledge of God's love for them and how to love Him and others better (Mark 12:30-31)
- In small groups Christians can receive prayer support and encouragement when going through trials and struggles
- Small (Pastoral Care) groups enable the Senior Pastors to be more focused on the bigger picture areas of church growth.

As they focus on areas such as leadership training, church direction, preaching and teaching, the pastoral care ministry can be done by the lay leaders who run the home fellowship meetings.

- Small groups ensure that the Pastoral Care side of the church is not neglected.

In smaller groups people can be encouraged to address and overcome areas in their life such as fears of being rejected that would hold them back from experiencing the abundant life that Jesus offers every believer. In the context of a loving and caring Home Group, believers can address and overcome these areas so that they can begin to walk in victory in all areas of their life, as they grow in their Christian walk.

- Small groups enable all believers to have accountability to others.

This is a key to preventing Christians from making wrong choices in life and avoiding many of the pitfalls in life. (Proverbs 11:14) There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors. (Proverbs 15:22) (Proverbs 19:20)

- Within the context of a small group, a person's ministry gifts can be more easily identified.

Within the small group dynamics, a person can be encouraged to grow in their ministry gifts as they are given the opportunity to minister to others

- Small groups help in preparing and equipping Christians to share their faith with others and to help prepare them for greater ministry responsibilities. Small group leaders have the role of a lay pastor and in this role they can be raised up and equipped by the Senior Pastor to be future church planters

- Small group leadership classes enable the Senior Pastor to personally invest in the lives of the key leaders in the church. The Apostle Paul emphasised the need in the Body of Christ for more Fathers in the faith. (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)

A church can have many different types of small groups with different focuses.

HAVING A VISION AND PURPOSE FOR EACH SMALL GROUP IS VERY IMPORTANT (Habakkuk 2:2)

This will help to ensure that no small group ever just becomes a social group but continues to have a focus for developing and empowering believers for the work of the ministry. As Christians we all have a mission field. For some it is our workplace, for others our school friends and neighbours. Wherever we go we should be open to God given opportunities to share our faith in Jesus Christ.
(1 Peter 2:9) (1 Peter 3:15) (2 Timothy 4:2)

Each type of small group should serve a specific purpose within the church. All small groups should have the overall goal of helping to see Christians coming to maturity in their faith. Some types of small groups can have a specific training focus and last for only a set number of weeks, whilst others will have an ongoing Pastoral Care function and operate from week to week.

The overall purpose for running any small group should always be to equip and empower the church members to reach the community with the love of Christ and the gospel message, and to ensure that all believers become strong in their faith and follow God's plan for their life.

There are many different types of small groups that a church can run. These include:

i) Fellowship / Bible Study Home groups
(Hebrews 10:23-25) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

These should be the foundation on which a church establishes a strong Pastoral Care focus. These home groups of around 8-12 people enable Christians to receive pastoral care in a loving and caring atmosphere.

These small groups also enable new believers and new members to become an active part of church life as they connect with other believers from the church in the small group. These groups can also incorporate a regular outreach focus where non believers can be invited to special meetings, which have a focus of sharing the gospel in a relaxed and friendly informal way.

ii) Leadership Training Classes (2 Timothy 2:2)
(Hebrews 5:12-14)

iii) New Believers Classes (John 21:15-17)

Jesus gave Simon Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to the sheep. As Pastors and leaders we have the responsibility for seeing those who have been entrusted to us growing in their Christian walk (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

New believer's classes enable all new Christians to have a solid start to their Christian walk. These (normally) weekly classes can go for a set period of time during which time new believers are taught the six foundations of our Christian faith, promises for all believers, keys to walking in victory and how to maintain a vibrant spiritual walk with the Lord.

These classes are also a key to preventing a new Christian from going back to their old ways, when they experience trials and pressures in life. (Colossians 2:1-10)

iv) Evangelism Training Classes

Every Pastor and leader should BOTH preach the gospel (2 Timothy 4:5) and equip and empower their church members to preach the gospel. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

v) Spiritual Gifts Workshops

God has a unique plan for every believer's life (Ephesians 2:10) (1 Corinthians 1:18) and He has given each believer different gifts (Romans 12:3-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4) (1 Corinthians 12:7-11) and ministries (1 Corinthians 12:5-6)

Spiritual Gifts workshops help Christians to identify their spiritual gifts and to receive clearer direction BOTH in terms of what ministry God has for them now and in the future. This enables each believer to focus on their ministry strengths and to help prepare for God's call upon their life.

These workshops include a questionnaire which contains many different types of questions, which help to clarify what spiritual gifts are strongest for each believer.

IT IS GOOD FOR THE SENIOR PASTOR TO RUN THESE WORKSHOPS IF POSSIBLE, as they have the overall responsibility for ensuring that those entrusted to them are given every opportunity to fulfil their God given destinies.

vi) Prayer Groups (These groups give those with a gift of intercession the opportunity of meeting together to pray for their community and church)

vii) Walking in Freedom Courses

(I.e. Jack Hayford's 10 week Cleansing streams course. This course helps Christians to walk in victory and to be delivered from any demonic oppression or strongholds)

viii) Youth Groups

ix) Children's Clubs (Groups)

x) Ministry Outreach Teams

xi) Understanding Christianity Meetings
(Explaining Christianity to unbelievers)

I.e. THE ALPHA COURSE (These are run over 10 weeks)

xii) Special interest / focus small groups

- Worship Teams (Weekly Practice Nights)
- Knowing your bible classes (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Creative Arts Groups (For those with a heart to do creative outreaches and Sunday Service dramas / skits)
- Community Care Groups (For those who have a heart to plan and organise regular community outreaches)

xiii) Life Skills / Recovery Training Courses

(Run once a week for several weeks, or over a weekend)

- Anger Management Classes
- Divorce Recovery Groups
- Trauma Recovery Groups
- Overcoming Life Controlling Habits
- Overcoming Depression Support Groups
- Marriage Preparation Classes

Teaching No. 19

A GOOD LEADER IS A ROLE MODEL TO OTHERS (2 Corinthians 6:3-7)

The Apostle Paul wrote to 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)

A good leader:

- i) Is an example to others (1 Peter 5:2-4)
(John 13:13-17) (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

- ii) Continually encourages others (Hebrews 3:12-13)

- iii) Sees the best in others and has a commitment to and love for those people that the Lord has entrusted to them to oversee (Acts 20:28)

- iv) Is committed to training up and helping OTHERS to realise their God given destinies (Ephesians 4:11-12)

v) Is not critical and judgemental but continually wants the best for others. All discipline and correction is done by them in love (2 Timothy 23-25), and

vi) Has a humble dependence on God

(Matthew 23:12) (Psalm 147:6)

- Humility Cures Worldliness (James 4:7-10)
- Moses was a great but very humble leader. He was the most humble man on earth. (Numbers 12:3)
- Jesus was our example of Humility (Philippians 2:5-11)
- Jesus only did what His Father showed Him to do (John 5:19) (John 5:30) (John 17:4)
- Humility is the prerequisite for promotion in the Kingdom of God (1 Peter 5:6) and the mark of true greatness (Matthew 18:1-4)

GREAT LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON GOD. THEY KNOW THAT APART FROM HIM THEY CAN DO NOTHING (John 15:4-5) (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

“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)

THE LORD SAID TO THE PROPHET JEREMIAH WHILE HE WAS 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)

GOD’S WAYS ARE ALWAYS HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS.
(Isaiah 55:9)

DISCIPLESHIP TEACHINGS



MANUAL

(Excerpts)

INTRODUCTION

(Building your life on the Word of God)

This manual has been put together to help encourage and strengthen all believers in their walk with the Lord. As Christians we live in a world which is full of ungodly influences and at times even hostility to the things of God. The Bible has much to say on the importance of all believers being overcomers in this life. **(Revelation 21:7)**
(Revelation 2:11, 17, 26) (Revelation 3:5, 10-12, 21)

Jesus in His life here on earth said many things to His disciples to encourage them. Jesus said to His disciples, “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* **(John 16:33)**

Jesus said as He began talking about the end of this age,

“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)**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
(2 Timothy 3:12)

In this world there are both people who are under the sway of the Kingdom of Darkness (the sons of this world) **(Ephesians 2:1-3)** and people who belong to the Kingdom of God (those born again believers who belong to God’s family). **(1 Peter 2:9)**
(Ephesians 2:4-6) As Christians we need to live in this world but not be of this world. **(1 John 2:15-17)** We need to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven **(Matthew 5:16)** and not allow the spirit of this world to draw us away from our love for the things of God.

Jesus shared in his parable of the Wheat and the Tares that in this life here on earth we will be living both with those who love God (believers) and those who reject the things of God. **(Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43)** God has given us His Word to help us in this life to remain strong in our faith.

Building our life on the Word of God is the key to remaining strong in our Christian walk and in fulfilling our God given destiny. God has a unique plan and purpose for every Believer’s life **(Ephesians 2:10) (John 15:16)**

Meditating on the Word of God helps Believers to fulfil their God given destiny.

Before leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, the Lord said to Joshua, “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*)

Psalm one also emphasises the importance of meditating on God’s Word.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (*Psalm 1:1-3*)

Building our lives on the Word of God will also help us to remain strong during those times when we experience great trials or challenges in life.

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our life on the rock.

“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*)

The words “whoever” and “everyone” emphasise the absolute importance of building our life on the Word of God. The entire Bible is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16) and contains all that we need to live a life of fruitfulness here on earth. Jesus made it clear that all those who build their life on His teachings and wisdom will not fall when they go through times of trials and challenges.

What can also be seen in this passage of Scripture is that we will all at some time experience challenges and trials in our life. Both the wise man and the foolish man experienced storms (challenges) in their life.

This passage of Scripture also makes it clear that for those who disregard the teachings of Jesus and who do not build their life on the Word of God, when the trials and disappointments of life come upon them, they will be inadequately prepared and equipped to handle them.

The Word of God also helps us to be prepared and thoroughly equipped for all that God has planned for our life.

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)**

When we become Christians we need to replace our wrong mindsets with the truth that is contained in God’s Word.

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)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING OUR MINDS RENEWED WHEN WE BECOME A BELIEVER.

“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)**

“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)**

WHEN WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN WE BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:17), A CHILD OF GOD (John 1:12) AND WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY. (Romans 8:15-17)

AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN WE NEED TO GAIN A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INHERITANCE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST AND HOW WE CAN FULFIL OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST AS WE LEARN HOW TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD. (Romans 12:9-21) THE APOSTLE PAUL PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESES, THAT THEY WOULD GAIN GREATER REVELATION IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. (Ephesians 1:15-23)

When we begin to meditate on the Word of God we start to embrace God’s Kingdom values and attitudes in our life. For those who have come from abusive backgrounds or who have been raised up in other religious traditions, meditating on the Word of God will greatly empower them to have a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ and healthier relationships with others.

MANY BENEFITS ARE EXPERIENCED BY A BELIEVER WHEN THEY MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD. SOME OF THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **Receiving clear direction for our lives**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

- **Gaining Revelation from God’s Word**

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:129-130)

- **Maintaining peace during the storms of life**

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” (Psalm 119:165)

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)

- **We are assured of God’s great love for us**

The Bible says much about God’s great love for us. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

- **Gaining wisdom for everyday life**

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.” (Psalm 119:97-98)

- **Being purified and cleansed from our old habits**

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:9-11)

- **Having our faith encouraged and uplifted**

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

“This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.”
(Psalm 119:50)

THE WORD OF GOD IS FULL OF MANY PROMISES WHICH NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED BY FAITH (Hebrews 11:1)

- **Receiving encouragement as God speaks through His Word a word in season (Rhema Word)**

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

God can speak a rhema word to us as we read the Word of God. When we are praying for help or His direction in life, the Holy Spirit will often make a Scripture or passage of Scripture stand out (*a word in season*) to encourage us or to give us direction in life.

- **Being equipped and prepared for ministry**

“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)

- **Receiving correction to help us avoid unwanted pitfalls**

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

- **Being blessed and prosperous in life,**

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart.”
(Psalm 119:1)

- **Gaining Prophetic insight into what is to come as we draw near to the end of this age.** *The gospels, some of the epistles and the books of the minor and major prophets such as Daniel and Ezekiel and the book of Revelation contain much content in relation to what is still to come as we approach the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Millennial reign here on earth.*

- **Preventing us from drifting off into wrong doctrine**

“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)

and

- **Bringing revival into our lives as the Word fills our heart**

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” (Psalm 119:33-38, 40)

The following sermons and teachings are full of the Word of God. It is my prayer that as you read through this manual, you will be greatly encouraged in your Christian walk and that you will be inspired to fulfil God’s plan and destiny for your life as you wholeheartedly commit to loving and serving Him.

Teaching No. 2

Having an overcoming faith

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood

- Our battle is a spiritual one

- **The Apostle Paul said to the church in Ephesus**, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (**Ephesians 6:10-12**)

- **Jesus said Himself said**, “The thief (the devil) 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**)

- AS BELIEVERS WE WILL ENCOUNTER MANY CHALLENGES DURING OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

The Apostle Paul said to Timothy

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
(*2 Timothy 3:12*)

- AS BELIEVERS WE MUST OVERCOME MANY THINGS

- i) **Temptations**
- ii) **Our own sin nature**
- iii) **Our own fears and insecurities**
- iv) **Discouragement**
- v) **Broken relationships, and**
- vi) **The pressures and challenges that we face in this world**

“YET IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US” (Romans 8:37)

- **THE BIBLE SAYS MUCH ABOUT BEING AN OVERCOMER**

The Apostle Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
(Romans 8:18-19)

THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS SAYS MUCH ABOUT THE NEED FOR US TO BE OVERCOMERS IN OUR FAITH

Jesus said, “But Hold fast what you have till I come. And He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – ”
(Revelations 2:25-26)

THE OVERCOMER WIL SHARE IN CHRIST’S TRIUMPH OVER EVIL AND IN HIS MESSIANIC RULE

Jesus also said, “Because you have kept My command to **persevere**, I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” **(Revelation 3:10)**

“He who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” **(Revelation 3:12)**

THE LORD WILL PERMANANTLY HONOR HIS FAITHFUL BELIEVERS

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the **cowardly**, ***unbelieving***, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” **(Revelation 21:7-8)**

YOUR FAITH IS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING IN THE WORLD

Jesus said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” **(Matthew 16:26)**

SOME KEYS TO BEING AN OVERCOMER

1) MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD (BIBLE)

“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 thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

GOD'S WORD INSTRUCTS AND EQUIPS US

Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “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 8:31a-32)

GOD'S WORD SETS US FREE

The Lord said to Joshua, “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)

GOD'S WORD HELPS US TO PROSPER

2) HAVE INTIMACY WITH GOD

i) The key to fullness of joy

“You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy; At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

ii) Direction for our life

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself 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)

iii) Gives us peace during the storms of life

“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You. Because He trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)

iv) **Gives us strength** (The joy of the Lord is your strength)

“He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31)

v) **Keeps our first love for Jesus burning** (Matthew 5:16)

vi) **Empowers us to live a victorious life**

“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)

3) **HAVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

“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 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)

THE FIRST CHURCH MOVED IN POWER AND DAILY NEW BELIEVERS WERE ADDED TO THE CHURCH. FELLOWSHIP WAS A BIG PART OF THE EARLY CHURCH.

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

4) BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

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

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,” **(Jude 20)**

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” **(John 7:37b–38)**

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” **(Luke 11:13)**

5) THE POWER OF PRAYER

Jesus 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)

“**And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**” (John 14:13-14)

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” **(1 John 5:14-15)**

Jesus said, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” **(John 16:23-24)**

“**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)

6) HAVE A SURRENDERED WILL

i) Making right choices

“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**)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (**1 John 2:15-17**)

WE MUST BE CAREFUL THAT THE TEMPTATIONS AND PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD DO NOT STEAL OUR AFFECTIONS FOR GOD

“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**)

ii) Having right associations

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

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

iii) Following God’s plan for your life

“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.” (**Jeremiah 29:11**)

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-10)

WE NEED A VISION FROM GOD FOR LIFE

ABUNDANT LIFE COMES FROM FOLLOWING GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

iv) Walking in love and forgiveness

“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
(1 John 2:9-11)

7) PUT ON THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” **(Ephesians 6:14-17)**

FINALLY, KNOW THAT THE LORD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL AND UNCHANGING

“For He Himself has said, I will never leave nor forsake you.”

So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **(Hebrews 13:5a-6)**

The Lord said to Joshua,

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
(Joshua 1:9)

“IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?”
(Romans 8:31a)

Teaching No. 3

GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST

- It is so important as Pastors and Christian Leaders that we have a passion for seeing the lost come to Christ
- **Evangelism is more caught than taught.** If a Pastor has a passion for seeing his community coming to Christ, it will have a positive effect on encouraging the whole church to have a vision for reaching the lost.
- Every church must have *both an outreach and discipleship focus*. It is so important that as a church we have a *love for our community*. The apostle Paul wrote:
“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14)
- **Jesus was our example.** He reached out to the Tax Collectors and sinners and ate with them. He attended the wedding where he turned the water into wine. He spent time at the house of a chief tax collector called Zacchaeus.” When people complained Jesus said,
“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Matthew 9:12-13)
- EVERY HEALTHY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE AN OUTWARD FOCUS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH
- It is so important that we *reach out into our community* with the love of Christ **(Church in the streets)**
- We also need to look for God given opportunities of *servicing the community* **(Church of Hope)**
Jesus said, “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.
“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (John 13:13-17)

AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE EXAMPLES TO OUR CHURCH MEMBERS OF WHAT TRUE SERVANTHOOD IS. IF A PASTOR HAS A SERVANT HEART IT WILL PERMEATE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHOM HE SHEPHERDS

- AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS WE NEED TO HAVE A VISION AND A BURDEN TO REACH THE LOST AND THE HURTING.

- **IT BEGINS BY SEEKING GOD FOR HIS COMPASSION FOR LOST SOULS.** *The compassion which caused Jesus Christ to lay down His life as a ransom for many.*

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. “Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

JESUS THEN CALLED HIS TWELVE DISCIPLES AND BESTOWED UPON THEM THE DELEGATED POWER AND AUTHORITY THAT HE HAD, AND SENT THEM OUT TO FIND THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL.

As pastors we also need to be equipping and encouraging our church members to actively reach out to the lost and hurting, as we lead by EXAMPLE.

- **INTIMACY WITH JESUS IS THE KEY TO SEEING HIS HEART FOR THE LOST BECOMING A GREATER REALITY IN OUR OWN LIFE.**
- Our **love for our community** and commitment to reaching the lost grows as we make our relationship with Jesus Christ our first priority. (We cannot allow the busyness of ministry life to rob us of our time with the Lord)
- 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)

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

AS WE PRAY FOR THE LOST AND SEEK HIS FACE WE BEGIN TO GAIN GOD’S HEART FOR THE LOST

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” **(Hebrews 12:2)**

JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU AND ME. HE LAID IT DOWN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

- JESUS HIMSELF SHARED MUCH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR THE LOST. HE 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. 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 was lost!’

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” (Luke 15:17) AND

AND IN THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, HOW WHEN THE FATHER SAW HIS PRODIGAL SON IN THE DISTANCE RETURNING HOME HE,

“...had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)

AND RESTORED HIM TO FULL SONSHIP AND HAD A GREAT PARTY TO CELEBRATE HIS RETURN, SAYING,

“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:24)

- When we have Christ's compassion for the lost we begin to have a passion to reach the lost
- THE APOSTLE PAUL was not ashamed of the gospel.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

- He knew the importance of seeing souls saved and **ALSO** encouraging others to be active in the area of Evangelism. He said to the young Pastor Timothy who was his spiritual son,

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with long suffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2)

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5)

- **THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW THE HEART OF GOD FOR LOST SOULS BECAUSE HIS PASSION WAS TO KNOW CHRIST**

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:7-8)

- THIS LOVE FOR CHRIST compelled the Apostle Paul to preach the gospel and to share his faith in Christ.

“Now while Paul waited for them in Athens (that was for Silas and Timothy), his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.” (Acts 17:16-17)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16)

- THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW GOD’S HEART FOR EVERY SOUL. (He became all things to all men that he might by all means save some).

- The great revivalist John Wesley also wrote:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

- **WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH GOD HE WILL GIVE US HIS VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST (His heart to reach the lost)**

- Ministry is all about people. Evangelism is all about bringing a message of hope to the lost

- “The face of a killer started David Wilkerson (The founder of Teen Challenge) on his lonely crusade. One night in his country parsonage (his ministry living quarters) David picked up a Life magazine and saw the tormented face of a teenage gang member accused with six others of brutally murdering another teenager. **And David Wilkerson had to help.**

- EVERY VISION MUST LEAD TO STEPS OF ACTION TO SEE IT COME TO PASS
- **Armed only with the gospel, David Wilkerson went into the slums – and the miracles happened. Crime hardened gang leaders knelt in the streets to pray, frightened children sobbed out their loneliness and anger, and heroin addicts found the courage to break their addiction**
- **WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH THE LOST**

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:14-15)

- **AS CHRISTIAN LEADERS WE ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF HELPING TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP ALL OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS TO SHARE THIER FAITH. (So that all can share the love and hope that we have in Christ with the lost and hurting).**

“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.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- **We all have a part to play in seeing God’s Kingdom being established here on earth**

- WE MUST NEVER DOUBT THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO TRANSFORM OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES

- As we pray and intercede for our cities and villages we will have a compulsion to go into the harvest field to share the good news of the gospel, **speaking the truth in love**. THE HARVEST IS RIPE NOW

Jesus 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)

- After a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; they were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- Therefore those who were scattered WENT EVERYWHERE PREACHING THE WORD (Acts 8:4)

- Sometimes the trials that we experience help us to refocus on God or to **shake us up if we have become too settled in our comfort zones.** God always has **more** planned for our life and church

- PHILIP THE EVANGELIST WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS SCATTERED

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:5-8)

- The gospel is good news. It is the only hope for humanity. Only Jesus can save and set the captives free. He who the Son sets free is free indeed.

Jesus Himself said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul.” (Matthew 16:26)

- Backed by prayer and intercession, the gospel has the power to transform our cities. The city of Samaria was transformed by the gospel

- As we spend time in His presence, God will give us his strategy and heart for the lost in our cities and villages

- Like Gideon who defeated an army of 135,000 with just 300 men as he followed the LORD’s instructions, we too will experience success as we follow God’s strategy for reaching the lost in our communities.

- The Lord promises to be with us always, so we can step out in this confidence as we follow His vision for reaching our communities and preach the gospel.

- HOW WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST TO HELP SEE OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES COME TO CHRIST

- WE ARE A TEAM (We are all on the stage of redemption reaching out to an audience of lost souls)
- The first church moved in power and souls were added to the church daily

- **THEY WERE ALL OF ONE ACCORD** AND THEY HAD FAVOUR WITH ALL PEOPLE

“So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

- PSALM 133 says how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

UNITY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD

- Jesus fervently prayed to His Father that His followers would be brought to complete unity. (John 17:6-23)

- Jesus Himself said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another” (John 13:35)

- TODAY THERE IS A WORLD FULL OF LOST SOULS. In Europe only a small percentage of people are now believers. In India over one billion people do not know the love of Christ personally
- Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creatures. If we love our community we will respond to this call.

- The word of the Lord came to Jonah for him to **arise** and go to Nineveh, that great city, and to preach a message calling that city to repentance

- Jonah initially disregarded this call to preach to those in Nineveh and arose to flee to Tarshish

i) Whether it was because of fear

ii) Whether it was because he had no real concern for the lost in Nineveh (which was most likely the case as he later became angry when God showed mercy on Nineveh), or

iii) Whether it was because he had his own agenda

THE SIMPLE FACT WAS THAT JONAH WAS RUNNING FROM THE LORD'S CALL FOR HIM TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO WERE IN DANGER OF PERISHING IN NINEVEH

- ***All people were impacted by his decision not to preach at Nineveh***

- His life was in turmoil

- Those on the ship that he was travelling in were in danger of being destroyed, and

- Nineveh was about to be judged and destroyed

- How we must all respond to the call to reach the lost

- GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE AND HIS DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH

- There are now countless millions of precious souls that are heading down the broad path that is leading to hell and destruction (blinded by the little god of this world)

- Countless millions of youth are having their lives destroyed through drugs and alcohol as they try to live in world full of pain and suffering

- JONAH BEGAN PRAYING IN THE BELLY OF THE WHALE. After three days and three nights the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land

- After spending much time in prayer Jonah responded to the Lord's second call to go to Nineveh to preach to them the message of the Lord
- The people from Nineveh turned from their evil ways and were saved as God relented from bringing upon them the disaster that he had planned to bring
- **THERE ARE COUNTLESS MILLIONS IN NEED OF SALVATION.** People that Jesus Christ bled and died for.

- **AS PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

- i) We need to have a love for our community
- ii) We need to draw close to Jesus to get His heart and His compassion for the lost
- iii) We need to seek God for His vision and strategy to reach the lost in our city
- iv) We must believe in the power of the gospel to change lives and encourage all those in our church to share their faith
- v) We must seek to encourage other Pastors and believers as we strive to maintain unity within the Body of Christ. A key to experiencing God's favour and blessings, and
- vi) We must simply just step out in obedience and "Go" into all the world and share the gospel beginning with our own community

- **JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST**

- He gave His life for this cause
- The Harvest is ripe. There are multitudes in the valley of decision
- So too must we give our life to seeing those bound up by the devil being set free and becoming part of the family of God
- He who wins souls is wise, and
- Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever

I WILL NOW CONCLUDE BY SHARING ABOUT ONE MAN WHO HAD GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST

JOHN HARPER (A true hero of the faith)

- John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29th, 1872
- On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life
- Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ
- As John Harper's life unfolded he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God
- After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.
- This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members
- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14th of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in.

- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six year old daughter Nana.
- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat
- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved
- However this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no.
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man
- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ
- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE, **"Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."**

Teaching No. 6

WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

(Making our lives count: God's way)

Jesus told "THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS"

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. (Matthew 25:14-15)

"But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord's money." (Matthew 25:18)

"After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them." (Matthew 25:19)

"...He who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'" (Matthew 25:20)

"He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'" (Matthew 25:22)

The lord commended them both for being faithful over a few things, and made them ruler over many things and told them both to, enter into the joy of your Lord. (Matthew 25:21,23)

But to the servant who buried his talent (Who was referred to as a wicked and lazy servant), his lord said, "Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:28-30)

IN THIS PARABLE JESUS ADDRESSES THE FACT THAT GREAT JOY COMES FROM SERVING HIM, WHILST GREAT REMORSE AND REGRETS WILL COME FROM FORFEITING ONE'S REWARD FOR COMMITTED SERVICE IN GOD'S KINGDOM (*Through burying ones gifts and talents and not using them for God's glory*)

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”. (1 John 3:16)

“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*)

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another” (John 15:16-17)

JESUS WAS THE EXAMPLE (He said to His disciples)

“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 20:26-28*)

HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR LIVES COUNT (So that our lives will bear fruit for all eternity)

1) We must let our light so shine before men

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
(**Matthew 5:14-16**)

2) *By Serving Others (With God's love)*

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”
(Galatians 5:13)

GOD'S LOVE IS IN OUR HEARTS ONCE WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (Philippians 2:3)

3) *Using Our God Given Gifts and Abilities (We are all unique)*

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having than gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:”

“If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:3:8)

4) *Where God Places us*

“But now God has set the members each one of them, in the body just as He pleased...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 12:18,26)

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.” (Psalm 92:13-14)

5) To lead people to Christ and to build up others

LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

“And he who wins souls is wise.” (*Proverbs 11:30a*)

The Apostle Paul said to those in Colosse,

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labour, striving to His working which works in me mightily.” (**Colossians 1:28-29**)

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things.” (**Romans 10:15a**)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (**Romans 1:16**)

BUILDING UP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE LORD

“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**)

“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, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ 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 or itself in LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)**

WE ARE A TEAM

“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 10:24-25**)

6) *Through laying down our lives for others*

Jesus said **“For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.”** (Mark 3:35)

“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 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. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:23a-25)

7) *Knowing that your labour for the Lord is not in vain*

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

“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 12:26)

IN A WORLD FULL OF TEMPTATIONS AND DISTRACTIONS HOW DO WE KEEP UP OUR PASSION TO SERVE JESUS AND OTHERS

- 1) *Living for Jesus is a **DAILY CHOICE***
- 2) *We need to Delight ourselves in the Lord (A true worshipper)*
- 3) *We need to set our minds on things above (Keep our eyes on Jesus)*
- 4) *We have to guard our eyes and ears from worldly things*
- 5) *We need to meditate on things which are wholesome and edifying*
- 6) *We must **COMMIT** to following God’s plan for your life*
- 7) *We need to have an obedient and repentant heart (Keep short accounts with God)*
- 8) *We must continually choose to walk in love towards others*

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. **(Philippians 4:8)**

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” **(Psalm 37:4)** “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” **(Matthew 9:37a)**

KINGDOM POWER

- **When we become Christians we become joint heirs with Jesus Christ**

“For you **did not receive** the spirit of bondage again **to fear**, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The **Spirit Himself** bears witness with our spirit **that we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:15-17)

- **As Believers we have been called to reign with Jesus Christ here on earth**

“And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, tongue and people and nation, **And have made us kings and priests to our God; AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH.**” (Revelation 5:9-10)

- **WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST’S AMBASSADORS HERE ON EARTH**

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN GOD’S STRENGTH AND POWER

The word of the Lord to Zerubbabel also applies to the lives of all Believers, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the Lord of Hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

THE FIRST CHURCH MOVED IN GOD’S POWER

(Even the shadow of Peter healed people, such was God’s power working through him)

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.**” (Acts 5:14-16)

JESUS HIMSELF ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIANS OPERATING IN THE **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

IT IS JESUS HIMSELF WHO BAPTISES BELIEVERS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID AS HE WAS BAPTISING PEOPLE WITH WATER,

“I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke 3:16)

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending to Heaven:

“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)

THIS POWER WAS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

“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)

THIS EXPERIENCE IN RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES

They turned from being a group of disciples full of character flaws, who had just fled following the arrest of Jesus, to a group of disciples who turned the world upside down with the gospel

THE APOSTLE PAUL HIMSELF PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESUS THAT THEY WOULD:

“know the love of Christ which passes knowledge”

AND

“that they would be filled with all the fullness of God”

I WILL NOW SHARE ABOUT A NUMBER OF AREAS RELATING TO KINGDOM POWER

1) GOD'S WORD

“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**)

-God's Word will not return void

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (**Isaiah 55:11**)

-There is power in the preached word

The Apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (**Romans 10:17**)

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “For I am not ashamed of *the gospel* of Christ, for it is the *power of God* to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (**Romans 1:16**)

“So the **word** of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (**Acts 19:20**)

-Abiding in God's word sets people free

Jesus 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**)

- HOWEVER, DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IS A “RESISTER” TO GOD'S POWER OPERATING FULLY IN OUR LIFE

2) GOD'S POWER FLOWS THROUGH US (We are like a tap. When we begin to preach the tap is turned on and God's power flows through us)

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.” (**2 Corinthians 3:5**)

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (**Philippians 4:13**)

GOD ANOINTS US AND EMPOWERS US FOR EVERY TASK HE GIVES US TO DO. THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID TO THOSE IN CORINTH,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (**1 Corinthians 2:3-5**)

3) **GOD'S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS**

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)

The Lord said to Apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

4) **THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL**

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

AND

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

HOWEVER THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The apostle Paul wrote:

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

AND TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

“For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power,” (1 Corinthians 2:2-4)

WHEN PHILIP THE EVANGELIST PREACHED IN SAMARIA MULTITUDES BECAME CHRISTIANS

HEALINGS AND DELIVERANCES ACCOMPANIED THE PREACHING OF THE WORD

THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and **seeing the miracles** which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” (Acts 8:4-8)

5) THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

WHEN PAUL AND SILAS WERE THROWN IN JAIL AFTER RECEIVING MANY STRIPES, THEY BEGAN TO PRAY AND SING HYMNS

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” (Acts 16:25-26)

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER AND HIS HOUSEHOLD WERE ALL THEN SAVED

6) JESUS EMPOWERS AND GIVES AUTHORITY TO BELIEVERS TO OPERATE IN KINGDOM POWER

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ABIDE IN HIM.

(Jesus must always be our first love) {John 15:4-5}

THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

(The Name above all Names)

Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus also said to his disciples “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

THE FIRST DISCIPLES TARRYED IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Then they began to operate in power as they preached the gospel.

As believers it is so important that we live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continually be filled with His power.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit a believer must simply ask their heavenly Father for the special gift of the Holy Spirit.

“If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:13)

Like the gift of salvation it is to be received – By Grace – Through Faith – Not of Works

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A believer must simply receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by FAITH

“...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14)

HOWEVER

FAITH IS NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE. TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS MANIFESTED IN OBEDIENCE.

The apostle Peter focused on the obedience aspect of genuine faith in his defence to the Jewish council.

“And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32)

SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) & 2) Repentance and being Baptized

The first two steps are stated by the Apostle Peter. These are genuine repentance and being water baptized upon becoming a believer.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

3) Being Hungry and thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” **(John 7:37-38)**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” **(Matthew 5:6)**

4) Asking our Heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father *give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!* **(Luke 11:13)**

5) We must receive the Holy Spirit (DRINK)

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” **(John 7:37)**

“**Drinking**” represents an active process of receiving. The infilling of the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a negative or passive attitude, just as no one can drink with a closed mouth. The Lord says, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” **(Psalm 81:10)** *God cannot fill a closed mouth. We must open our mouth to receive the fullness of the Spirit*

6) We must “yield” ourselves to God

The apostle Paul speaks to Christians of a two- fold surrender to God:

“But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:13)

- The first surrender is the “surrender of the will and the personality”
YOURSELVES
- The second surrender involves the surrender of our PHYSICAL MEMBERS

In surrendering our physical members, we can no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of us. We must simply hand over unreserved control of our physical members and allow God to use them according to His own will and purpose without demanding to understand what God is doing or why He is doing it.

The particular member He takes full control of is that unruly member which no man can tame – the tongue. Thus the yielding of our tongue to the Spirit represents the ultimate surrender of one’s members and by this we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The above six Scriptural steps of obedience and faith are not always fulfilled when some believers receive the Holy Spirit, but they are important steps to be taught to those believers desiring to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Teaching No. 20

The importance of loving and serving others

There is a common saying that people do not care how much you know but they want to know how much you care. In a world which is full of self-centredness and superficial relationships, our ability to love and care for the people in our lives and community will have a great impact in helping to see our friends, colleagues, villages, cities and nations coming to Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "...Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." **(1 Corinthians 8:1)**

Jesus Himself said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." **(John 12:35)**

Jesus also said, "...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 20:26-28)**

THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST AND LOVING AND SERVING OTHERS, WILL MAKE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF MANY OTHERS.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." **(Matthew 5:16)**

PEOPLE LIKE MOTHER THERESE WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIFE FOR OTHERS HAVE HAD AN INCREDIBLE IMPACT NOT ONLY ON COMMUNITIES BUT NATIONS.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US HAS ONE LIFE IN WHICH WE CAN STORE UP TREASURES FOR ETERNITY.

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)**

AT THE END OF EVERY PERSONS LIFE THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS “WHERE WILL THEY SPEND ETERNITY”

IF WE DON'T MAKE A DELIBERATE DAILY CHOICE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST AND TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS AS WE LOVE AND SERVE THEM, THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD WILL SO EASILY DISTRACT US FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE, HELPING TO SEE OTHERS COME TO CHRIST AND THEN BECOMING MATURE BELIEVERS

The book of Proverbs says, “...And he who wins souls is wise.” (**Proverbs 11:30**)

The bible also says, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn **many to righteousness like the stars forever** and ever.” (**Daniel 12:3**)

THE BIBLE SAYS MUCH ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVING AND SERVING OTHERS

- **LOVE FULFILLS THE LAW** (Galatians 5:13-15)
- **THE GREATEST GIFT IS LOVE** (1 Corinthians 13)
- **THE IMPERATIVE OF LOVE** (1 John 3:10-15)
- **THE OUTWORKING OF LOVE** (1 John 3:16-23)
- **JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE** (Matthew 20:20-28)
- **LOVE IS ALSO PRACTICAL AND IS DEMONSTRATED WHEN WE CHOOSE TO HELP AND SERVE OTHERS.** (Acts 4:32-35)
- **LOVE IS TRULY MANIFESTED WHEN WE LEARN TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES TO ENCOURAGE AND SERVE OTHERS** (John 15:13) (John 12:24-26) (Galatians 2:20)

ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES IN LIFE INVOLVES THE ENEMY TARGETING OUR MINDS AND THOUGHT LIFE. FOR CHRISTIANS, THIS BATTLE INTENSIFIES THE MOMENT WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN AND PARTICULARLY WHEN WE BEGIN TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS.

When we become a Christian, the Devil no longer has dominion (control) over our life. We have been set free and become a part of God’s family, and have a God ordained destiny and plan for our life. (**Ephesians 2:10**)

However the Devil will try and distract us from fulfilling our God given destiny, as every Believer has the potential to help see many others coming to Christ as they share the Gospel in love with others throughout their life.

Our love for others is the key to seeing unbelievers coming to Christ. This is why the devil will try and cause Christians to develop strongholds in their mind such as unforgiveness towards certain people, which when not dealt with, will ultimately develop into negative and critical heart ATTITUDES towards others. The Bible makes it clear that what is in our heart has a great impact on what we say (**Matthew 12:34**) and how we relate to others and what we become in life. During trials we can become either better or bitter.

The Book of Proverbs says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (**Proverbs 4:23**) The devil knows the best way of sidetracking Christians and stopping them from laying down their lives fully for the cause of Christ. Typically the devil will target certain areas in the life of a Christian to try and prevent them from wholeheartedly living for Christ and from loving others with the unconditional love of Christ.

TYPICALLY THE DEVIL WILL TARGET THE MINDS OF CHRISTIANS TO TRY AND PREVENT THEM FROM LOVING OTHERS WITH THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF CHRIST AS WELL AS TRYING TO STOP THEM FROM SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS BY:

- **Making the things (pleasures) of this world look attractive**
- **Trying to make people envious or jealous of others**
- **By filling people with pride**
- **Creating a barrier between people through unforgiveness**
- **Using fear to prevent people from reaching out to others**
- **Magnifying the cares of this world to preoccupy the minds of Christians, or**
- **By filling a Christian’s life with ceaseless activity which prevents them from spending enough time with God to get His heart and love for the lost.**

THERE ARE SEVERAL KEYS AND DISCIPLINES WHICH CAN HELP US TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

FIRSTLY, THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT FOR CHRISTIANS, HIS (GOD’S) LOVE IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS (Romans 5:5)

HOW THEN CAN WE ENSURE THAT THIS LOVE CONTINUES TO FLOW THROUGH OUR LIVES TO ENCOURAGE AND BUILD UP OTHERS:

1) WE MUST CONTINUALLY CHOOSE TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT
(Galatians 5:16) (Galatians 5:25)

2) WE MUST BE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22-23) (Ephesians 1:17-18)

It is the key to having the grace and love to bear with the faults and differences in others

3) WE NEED TO RENEW OUR MINDS WITH THE WORD OF GOD
(Romans 12:2) (Joshua 1:8)

4) THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A WORSHIPPER (John 4:23-24)
(Acts 16:19-22 & Acts 16:25-26)

5) THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTEEMING OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELF (Philippians 2:2-4) (James 3:13-16) (Matthew 16:24-25)

6) OUR LOVE AND AFFECTION FOR JESUS MUST ALWAYS BE OUR GREATEST PRIORITY (Mark 12:30) (Psalm 37:4) (John 15:4-5)
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

7) WE MUST CHOOSE DAILY TO DIE TO SELF AND TO LIVE FOR CHRIST (Luke 9:23)

8) THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER (SEEKING GOD'S HELP TO CHANGE) (Ephesians 3:14-19) (Ephesians 1:15-23) (Colossians 1:9-11)

9) THE IMPORTANCE OF PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD
(Ephesians 6:10-17, 19-20)

**10) THE IMPORTANCE OF PLEADING THE BLOOD OF JESUS
OVER OUR FINANCES, EMOTIONS, MIND, WILL AND BODY**

11) THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING OUR FRIENDS WISELY
(Proverbs 12:26) (Proverbs 16:28) (Proverbs 22:24-25) (1 Corinthians 15:33)

- The importance of spending time with people who have good fruit in their life and Godly character. The book of proverbs says, “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom...” (**Proverbs 10:31**)

- We must guard against allowing ungodly associations or influences into our life. We must not spend too much time with people who are gossips, (**Proverbs 16:28**) who are constantly angry and contentious (**Proverbs 17:1**) or who are prone to being constantly judgmental of others. (**Proverbs 10:18**) (**Matthew 7:1-5**)

- The importance of having Godly partnerships, especially when choosing a marriage partner as a Believer. (**2 Corinthians 6:14**)

Teaching No. 26

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

1) Having a vision to reach the lost

Jesus 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 the harvest.

“And he who **reaps** receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that **both** he who **sows** and he who **reaps** may **rejoice together**. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps’” (**John 4:35-37**)

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE HARVESTING OF LOST SOULS

Every soul is precious to God. Every church should have a clear vision and plan for reaching the lost

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.” (**Habakkuk 2:2**)

2) Having a vision for equipping leaders

(Building the Kingdom of God focus)

Every leader must invest time in helping to develop the next group of leaders. Mentoring and discipling future leaders will ensure the ongoing expansion of God’s Kingdom

The apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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 2:1-2**)

3) Mobilising all Christians in their ministry gifts

Every Believer has a ministry and mission field. (Ephesians 2:10)

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (**Romans 12:4-8**)

“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)

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAYS

“And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

It is important that all Christians are equipped and encouraged to use their ministry gifts and shown how to effectively share their faith with unbelievers.

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 the 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.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- 4) We need to start with what we have. We must not despise the day of small beginnings. If we are faithful with the little He will entrust to us greater responsibilities and resources**

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.” (Luke 16:10)

SEE ALSO MATTHEW 25:14-29

- 5) We need to have a firm belief in the POWER of the Gospel to SAVE and CHANGE lives**

The apostle Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

“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 lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who **satisfies your mouth with good things**, So that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle’s. (Psalm 103:2-5)

SEE ALSO ACTS 8:4-8

6) **The importance of PERSEVERENCE**

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “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 2:3**)

Any God given vision will come to pass if we do not grow weary while doing good and if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9) (Philippians 1:6)

7) **The importance of making disciples** (Feeding the sheep)

All Pastors have a responsibility for looking after those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them. (**Acts 20:28**)

As part of this responsibility, pastors should be teaching and shepherding their flock to ensure that all the members in the church are given the opportunity to grow strong in their faith.

Every pastor should also be aware of the importance of their own Lives being a role model to those who have been entrusted to their care.

The apostle Peter wrote, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, servicing as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (**1 Peter 5:2-5**)

Jesus Himself said, “Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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.” (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Jesus gave the apostle Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to His sheep when He restored Peter.

“Feed My lambs”,

“Tend My sheep”, and

“Feed My sheep” (**John 21:15-17**)

8) WE NEED TO HAVE GOD’S HEART FOR LOST SOULS (The compassion of Jesus)

As Christians it is so important that we seek to have the same compassion for the lost that Jesus had. It is our compassion for the lost which will give us the passion to preach the gospel to the lost and to witness to others. As we read the gospels we can see the great love of Jesus for the lost and broken.

“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.

Then he said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send our labourers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:35-38)

JESUS REBUKED THE LOVELESS CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Despite all their good works Jesus said, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” (Revelation 2:4)

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ABIDE IN HIS PRESENCE IF WE ARE TO HAVE THE SAME COMPASSION THAT JESUS HAD FOR THE LOST. JESUS 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)

9) Having a knowledge that God’s plan for our life is far bigger than we could imagine

The LORD said to the Prophet Jeremiah whilst he was in jail,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

GOD’S WAYS ARE ALWAYS HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS.

THE LORD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH TO ISRAEL,

“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)

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Ephesus,

“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)

- **We must not allow our past traditions or current comfort zones to prevent us from moving into the new things of God**
- **We must not allow our fears to stop us from getting out of the boat and becoming a water walking disciple**
- **We need to learn to walk in obedience to God’s blue print for our life as we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, and**
- **We must have a simple childlike trust in God’s faithfulness**

KNOWING THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

10) We must continue to live in the FAITH REALM and be continually LED by the Holy Spirit

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

THE OLD TESTAMENT IS FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after Joshua and his men of war and seven priests encircled them. On the seventh day the ark of the LORD also encircled the city prior to the walls of Jericho falling down flat. (Joshua 6:1-20)

By faith Moses forsook Egypt and by faith he led Israel through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians attempting to do so were drowned. (**Exodus 2:15, Exodus 14:19-30**)

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED MUCH ABOUT THE FAITH FILLED LIFE

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (**John 14:12-14**)

“...for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (**Matthew 17:20**)

OTHER FAITH STATEMENTS (Matthew 6:33) (Mark 11:22-24)

11) The importance of leaders having a servant’s heart (Leading by example and being prepared to go the extra mile)

- Living for others

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**)

- Helping others to fulfil God’s destiny for their lives (MARK 10:35-45)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (**Mark 10:45**)

12) The absolute importance of maintaining unity in the church (Building the Kingdom of God together)

- A key to experiencing God’s blessings (**Psalm 133:1-3**)
- Helps in building a strong church (**Acts 2:46-47**)
- A key to experiencing God’s power (**Acts 4:24 & 31**)
- Helps to bring God’s presence in our meetings (**Acts 1:14**), and
- Helps in creating an atmosphere of love in the church in which people can be saved, healed and encouraged to grow in their Christian walk

13) **The importance of Prayer (Having a lifestyle of Prayer)**

THERE ARE MANY PROMISES OF ANSWERED PRAYER IN GOD'S WORD.

(Mark 11:24) (James 5:14-18) (John 16:23-24)

As leaders pastors need to have a lifestyle of prayer in which they continually seek the Lord for His direction for their lives and church. Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it. **(Psalm 127:1)**

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask **anything according to His will**, He **hears us**. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” **(1 John 5:14-15)**

Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the *Father in My name* He may give you. **(John 15:16)**

14) **Continually maintaining a heart of worship and intimacy with Jesus Christ. Jesus must continually be our first love**

Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

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)**

15) **All great leaders live a crucified life**

- A life of obedience to God's plan for their life **(Luke 14:26-27, 33)**

- **IT IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING THE MANY DISTRACTIONS IN THIS LIFE THAT CAN STEER CHRISTIANS OFF TRACK AND ROB THEM OF GOD'S BEST**

- Abundant life can only be experienced by Believers when they deny themselves and follow Jesus' plan for their life. **(Matthew 16:24-27)**

Jesus Himself said,

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:34-38)

The apostle Paul 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)

16) We must depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us for ministry

- The importance of praying in the Spirit

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20)

- Preaching and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul wrote, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:2-5) *and*

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending back to Heaven,

“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 Holy Spirit makes our prayers effective**

The apostle Paul wrote, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26)

- **We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit**

The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:17-18)

- **Jesus Himself ministered through the power of the Holy Spirit**

“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)

- **Jesus went about teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. People brought to Him all the sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. (Matthew 4:23-24)**

Jesus said to His disciples, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you as anything in My name I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:

‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts.”
(Zechariah 4:6)

17) The importance of connecting with and being accountable to other mature Christians and Leaders

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

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

Teaching No. 30

SOME KEYS TO ANSWERED PRAYER

(The “ASK formula” based on a message by John Hagee)

Jesus Himself said much about the importance of prayer and for the need to ask for those things that are needed in life. Asking God for His direction in our life and His help in meeting our needs demonstrates our dependence on and trust in Him. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.” (Jeremiah 17:7)

Jesus said to His disciples, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (John 16:23-24)

Jesus also said, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:13-14)

The book of James also says, “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2)

As Christians we need to have a childlike dependency on God, with prayer being an integral part of our everyday life. I will now look at nine keys which are mentioned in the bible in relation to prayer.

NINE BIBLICAL KEYS THAT RELATE TO PRAYER AND WHICH HELP TO SEE OUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED:

1) Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus

(John 16:23-24) (John 15:16)

As Believers we have power and authority when using the Name of Jesus. (Mark 16:17-18) (Mark 14:14)

2) Pray with praise and thanksgiving

(Psalm 100:4) (Matthew 21:15-16) (Philippians 4:6) (Psalm 34:1)

3) Pray without any known sin in your life (1 Timothy 2:8)

**4) We must pray BELIEVING that God will answer our prayers
(Mark 11:23-24) (Matthew 21:21-22)**

- **Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**
(Romans 10:17)
- **The importance of meditating on and speaking out God's promises in His Word** (Joshua 1:8)
- **Not allowing the negative things of this world to undermine our faith** (Psalm 1:1-3) (Philippians 4:8) (Colossians 3:16)

**5) Pray with the right motive (For God's glory) That the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13)
(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

6) Right relationships (walking in forgiveness towards others (Mark 11:25) (1 Peter 3:7) and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)) Jesus emphasised the importance of continually walking in love. (John 13:34)

**7) Our prayers should be directed by the Holy Spirit
(Romans 8:26-27)**

**8) Praying according to God's Word and will for our life
(Isaiah 55:11) (Luke 1:38) (1 John 1:14)**

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

9) The Prayer of agreement (Matthew 18:19)

Teaching No. 31

ATTRIBUTES OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

- UNITY

“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)

“**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)**

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

“**But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.**” (Titus 3:9)

The Apostle Paul said to the church in Corinth, “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

- **A CHURCH WHICH KNOWS GOD’S GRACE**

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But **after faith has come**, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:24-26)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law *but by faith in Jesus Christ*, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be *justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law*; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” (Galatians 2:16)

- **A CHURCH WHICH PREACHES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE POWER OF REPENTANCE**

TRUE REPENTANCE IS THE DOORWAY TO GOD'S GRACE (Repentance is the foundation of, and *precedes faith*) JESUS MUST BE BOTH OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR

TRUE REPENTANCE (which involves a choice of the *will* to turn from all those things which are wrong and to follow God's ways and plan for our life) LIBERATES a new believer from all of the shame, guilt and regrets from the past. This then enables them to experience the joy and peace, which comes from following God's plan for their life, even during the storms of life.

A TRUE BELIEVER (WHO HAS REPENTED) WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN THEIR LIFE. Love, Joy, peace, kindness and self-control will become more and more evident in the life of a true believer as they begin to grow in their faith.

GOD CALLS ALL OF US TO REPENT:

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30)

Jesus said to the Jews (Who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices),

"Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:2-3)

Peter when preaching to the Jews said,

"REPENT THEREFORE AND BE CONVERTED, THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT, SO THAT TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD." (Acts 3:19)

The Apostle Paul said, "...I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, *repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Acts 20:20-21)

- A CHURCH WHICH WALKS IN LOVE

“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)

“If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself,’ you do well;” (James 2:8)

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.

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. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

The Apostle John also wrote, **“And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave commandment.”** (1 John 3:23)

- A CHURCH WHICH PREACHES THE WORD

“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)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in season, whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

- A WORSHIPPING CHURCH

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

“PRAISE the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. (Psalm 147:1)

“PRAISE the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints.” (Psalm 149:1)

“**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.**” (Psalm 150:6)

- A PLACE WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FREE TO MOVE IN THE MEETINGS

- WE MUST ALWAYS MINISTER THE TRUTH IN LOVE
- GOD’S WORD MUST ALWAYS BE MINISTERED IN A LIFE GIVING WAY
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BOTH THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH (1 John 4:6, John 16:13) AND THE SPIRIT OF LIFE (Romans 8:2)

Jesus said, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6)

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

“...This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

OUR CHURCH BELIEVES IN THE FULL OPERATION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

- **A CHURCH THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL CHRISTIANS MEETING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS ON A REGULAR BASIS**

“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 10:24-25)

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 4:12-13)

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

- **A CHURCH THAT EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL BELIEVERS REACHING OUT TO THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE NOW**

Jesus 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! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.” (John 4:35-36)

“**And he who wins souls is wise.**” (Proverbs 11:30a)

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15a)

Jesus said to His disciples,

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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;” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

We all have a mission field and a part to play in reaping the Harvest.

- **A CHURCH THAT ENCOURAGES ALL CHRISTIANS TO FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE**

This is the key to abundant life: **It is only in obeying the voice of the Lord, and following God's plan for our life, that we will experience the great joy and fulfilment that comes from doing His will, as we share in His sufferings.** (Philippians 3:7-10, James 1:2-3)

God wants all believers to have an intimate and loving relationship with Him. If we truly LOVE the Lord we will want to obey His will for our life.

God wants our lives to be full of meaning and purpose, and for our lives to bear much fruit, which will last for all eternity.

God also wants to use our lives to impact this hurting and sinful world with the truth of the gospel message:

“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)

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP ALWAYS INVOLVES GIVING ONE'S LIFE AWAY AND LIVING FOR JESUS CHRIST

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. 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 12:24-26)

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)

“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:33)

The apostle Paul said,

“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)

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

Our salvation and right standing with God comes through repentance and Faith in Jesus Christ. The Ten Commandments simply reveal that none of us are righteous and that we all need to come to Jesus Christ to receive His righteousness and the gift of eternal life.

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the *Law* and the *Prophets*, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:21-23)

“For what does the **Scripture** say? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)

“just as **David** also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those *whose lawless deeds are forgiven*, and whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the Lord *shall not impute sin.*’ (Romans 4:6-8)

The apostle Paul said, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*” (Romans 10:1-4)

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith, but after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (Galatians 3:24-25)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE TO WALK IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:18)

The person who is led by the Spirit (A TRUE BELIEVER) will do what is right freely, not by the compulsion of the law. Thus he is not under the law’s bondage and condemnation. A true believer, who loves Jesus, will freely want to obey His commands and His plan for their life.

OUR CHRISTIAN WALK IS AN ONGOING LIFE OF FAITH (Walking in the Spirit)

“...The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17b)

“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)

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; **only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another**. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: **You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**” (Galatians 5:13-14)

“I say then: *Walk in the Spirit*, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

THE LORDS DAY (SABBATH DAY)

Sabbath means rest. God gave the Sabbath day for our benefit. He made the Sabbath for man and not man for the Sabbath. We all need to spend one day a week resting with the Lord. (This day should be our best day)

The bible refers to three rests:

1) CREATION REST (Genesis 2:1-3)

God rested on the seventh day after finishing his work of creation. However His rest was interrupted by sin. This is why Jesus healed many on the Sabbath Day. Death and sickness resulted from sin entering the world.

After healing a man on the Sabbath, Jesus answered the Jews who were seeking to kill Him, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” (John 5:17)

Jesus also said, “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.” (John 9:4)

2) COVENANT REST (Exodus 31:13, 16)

The Old Testament Sabbath was for the Jews only. It was given to them to bless them and to give them rest, however they made many other laws in relation to the Sabbath that it became more of a burden than a blessing.

“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between ME and YOU throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’ (Exodus 31:13)

“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.” (Exodus 31:16)

3) CALVARY REST (For all new testament believers)

Jesus finished His work of redemption on the cross and entered His rest on the third day when He arose from the dead with the keys to Death and Hades. All believers enter into this Calvary rest when they are born again.

Jesus 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. (Matthew 11:28-29)

JESUS IS OUR FINISHED REST

Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week (A Sunday) and entered His rest.

Unlike the Jews, the New Testament Church celebrated the day of the Lord on a Sunday, (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, John 20:19-22, Acts 2:1, Rev. 1:10, Mark 16:9-11) but met regularly (even daily for some) (Acts 5:42) to have fellowship with one another. The Lord’s Day (Sabbath Day) is to **bless us** and to enable us to renew our strength (Spiritual and Physical) for the coming week’s work.

For the Lord’s Day to be our best day, we should endeavour to make it a:

- 1) **HOLY DAY** (Our focus is on the Lord. We make a habit of being in fellowship with the Lord and other believers). Children will grow up in the ways of the Lord if they see their parents making the Lord’s Day a special day.
- 2) **HEALTHY DAY** (We need to rest on this day. Sabbath means rest). We need to slow down and teach our children to experience tranquillity.
- 3) **HAPPY DAY** (Love / Not Legalism) We need to laugh / love / converse with our families. The Lord’s Day needs to be a day of liberty to do His thing. Some may ask what should I do and not do on this day. **SIMPLY ASK THE LORD**. He loves intimacy with you. **IT’S HIS DAY** (“**So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**” (Colossians 2:16-17)

HOWEVER, WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THREE THINGS:

- i) **To walk in obedience and to be in a close relationship with the Lord**. We need to be ready to meet with Him today, should he come to rapture His church.
- ii) **To raise up and build up the next generation of Christians, to ensure that the church continues to grow, and**
- iii) **THAT WE HAVE AN URGENCY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THOSE WHO ARE LOST**

May we all continue to love Jesus with all of our heart, soul and strength and to love each other as He loved us.