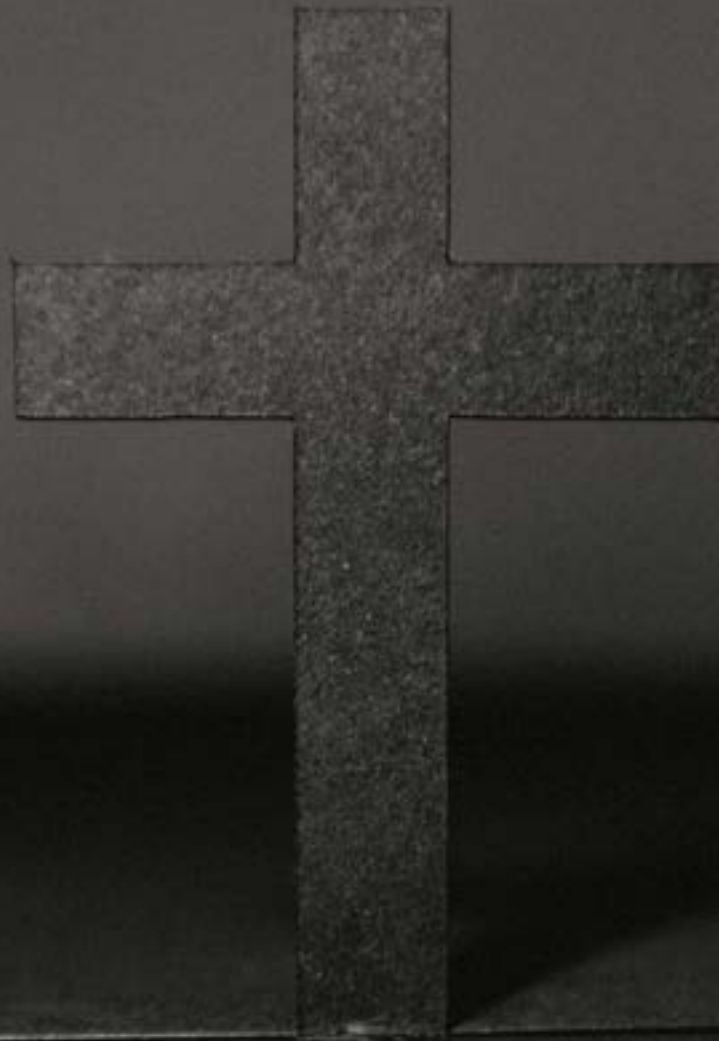


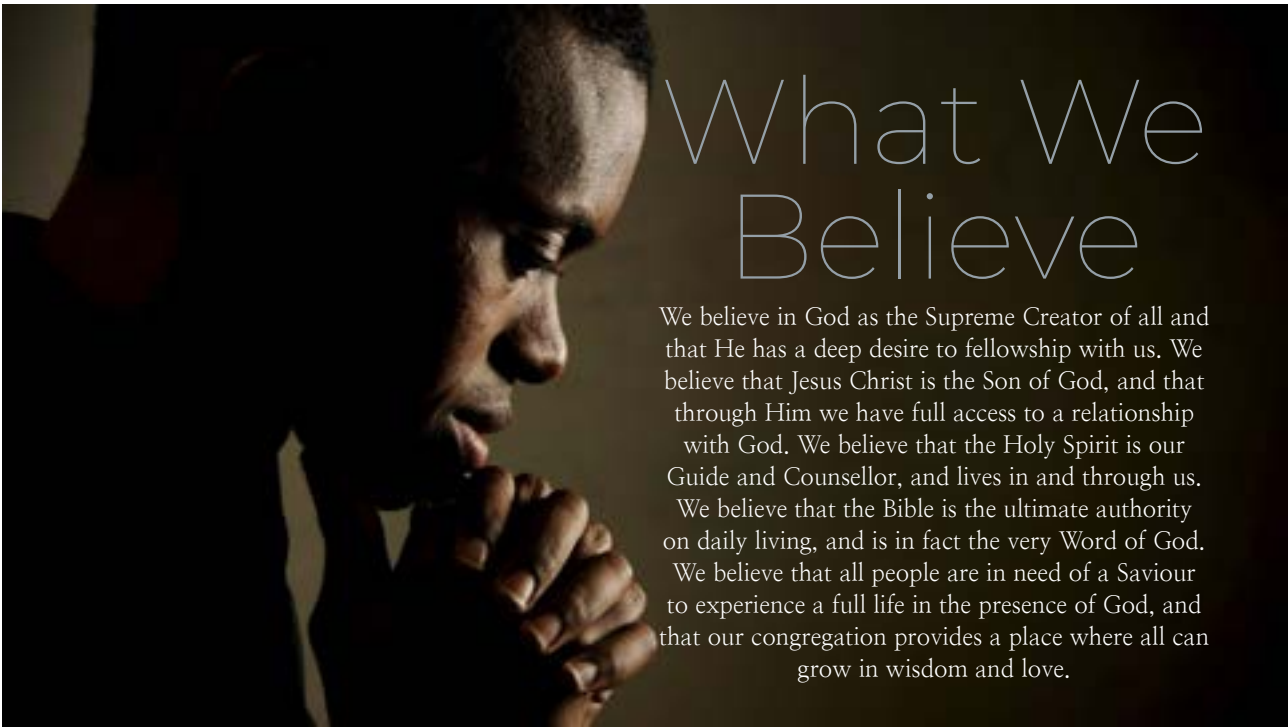
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April – June 2024
Issue No.35



Jesus said, "You don't have to wait until then. I am the Resurrection, and I am Life Eternal. Anyone who clings to me in faith, even though he dies, will live forever."



What We Believe

We believe in God as the Supreme Creator of all and that He has a deep desire to fellowship with us. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that through Him we have full access to a relationship with God. We believe that the Holy Spirit is our Guide and Counsellor, and lives in and through us. We believe that the Bible is the ultimate authority on daily living, and is in fact the very Word of God. We believe that all people are in need of a Saviour to experience a full life in the presence of God, and that our congregation provides a place where all can grow in wisdom and love.

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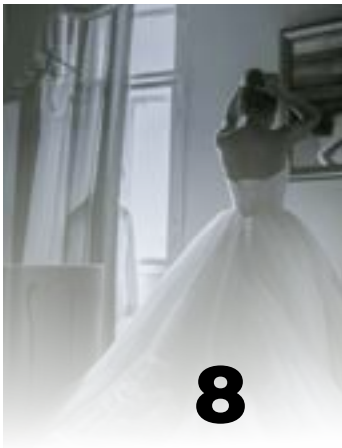


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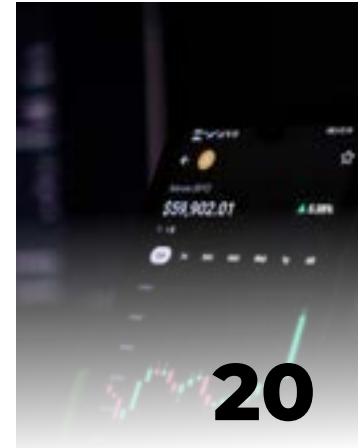


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EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

of my own fatherhood - to be the anchor, confidant, mentor, friend, and daddy to my children (even in adulthood!). In order for us to live up to all those expectations we need to redeem our time very carefully.

Opening my diary makes me realize also that I often fall short of this responsibility! Everyday life starts consuming the best of my time (and the best of my life), steals my greatest energy, and has the ability to refocus many of my wishes, goals and aims. I've come to see that my family should be taking up most entries in my daily schedule, that my most important thoughts should be focused on them, and that my efforts should be designed to benefit them. Somewhere I read once that no man on his deathbed would wish he had spent more time at the office - how true that rings today!

Yet there are times that I get it right, that I see the benefits of that extra hour of quality time, that moment of pocketing irritation to really sit still and listen, and the times of simply being a "fly on the wall" and observing my children. For this I have my Father in heaven to thank! The ultimate Daddy constantly reminds me that I am always on His mind: *How precious it is, Lord, to realize you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me; and when I waken in the morning you are still thinking of me! (Psalm 139:17-18 LB).*

So, to all our readers who are also mothers and fathers; my prayers are with you, that you may redeem the time and build your children and grandchildren. Our future is truly in our children (grandchildren and great-grandchildren) and our destiny is to see the dream of God fulfilled in them.

In the Southern Hemisphere the winter solstice is marked in June, [summer solstice for the Northern hemisphere], officially marking the half-way mark of the year. This issue falls with that time; as strange as it still feels that this is 2024, stranger yet is the fact that my brain tells me I am twenty-something, while chronologically speaking this is far from the truth! The older I get the faster time seems to go, and the more I look at my children who seemingly became adults overnight, and made me a grandfather, the more I realize the value of time.

In May we celebrate Mother's Day, while in June a day is also dedicated to fathers. While I am fortunate to celebrate a special day with my mother, my dad passed away over ten years ago so there is no phone call to make. This made me realize even more the importance

PROVERBS 17:28

**WHEN EVEN A FOOL BITES HIS TONGUE HE'S
CONSIDERED WISE. SO SHUT YOUR MOUTH
WHEN YOU ARE PROVOKED— IT WILL MAKE
YOU LOOK SMART.**

PSALMS 4:4

**TREMBLE IN AWE BEFORE THE LORD, AND DO
NOT SIN AGAINST HIM. BE STILL UPON YOUR
BED AND SEARCH YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM.
PAUSE IN HIS PRESENCE**

MARK 15:3

**THEN THE RULING PRIESTS, OVER AND OVER,
MADE BITTER ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM,
BUT HE REMAINED SILENT.**

REVELATION 8:1

**WHEN THE LAMB BROKE OPEN THE SEVENTH
SEAL, HEAVEN FELL SILENT FOR ABOUT HALF
AN HOUR.**



KEEP YOUR ETERNAL CONNECTION

André & Jenny Roebert

A little while ago the weather patterns across the earth seemed to be playing havoc on this planet. Of course, through the years we have all seen reports of the devastation tornados, hurricanes and the like have reeked on villages and cities. However, at this instance, it seemed that the devastation hit so many places simultaneously. I remember watching the horror of flooding and fires in one part of the world on the news and then driving a short distance away from our home and seeing entire communities underwater, with only the rooftops visible. Main roads were washed away, people lost their homes and businesses, their boats, and vehicles.

It made me think of how temporary everything in our world is. In the natural world nothing is forever is it? There is simply no guarantee that what we have in our possession today is going to be there tomorrow. This thought reminded me of the scripture in 1 Timothy 6:17 that tells us not to put our hope and trust in uncertain riches or things of this natural world, but to rather put our hope in God, Who is eternal!

When we really think about it, isn't it true how people place their security and their value on the possessions they accumulate? We automatically view someone who has many possessions and wealth to have more value than the man who has nothing of worth. That's human nature and the natural way of reasoning the value or worth of a person.

That's why Paul, writing to Timothy, urges us to not fall into the trap of placing our hope or security in natural things. Nothing in this natural world is permanent. We live in a fallen world that is under the controlling forces of our enemy the devil. He wields catastrophe and devastation on this planet through natural circumstances and this world will always be subject to these circumstances.

We Need an Eternal Connection

It is so important for us to place our hope and security in something that is eternal and not of this natural world! We need to put our hope in God Who is eternal!

The word eternal means a dimension that it is not conformed to the limitations or restrictions of the natural realm. Yet it can and does collide or intervene with the natural realm and has the power to influence it. Eternity is not limited to time and is never subject to natural circumstances. This is the realm where God lives.

A particular time and incident when eternity intervened with this natural world, was when God Himself walked on this earth in the form of a man. Jesus Christ, the Son of God lived among mankind

and demonstrated the heart and intensions of His eternal Father concerning us. He loved us, healed, restored, delivered, and took authority over the demonic forces and the natural circumstances. He showed us exactly how we could live, overcome all things and reign victorious over every circumstance in this natural world when we are secured in an eternal connection!

Jesus secured that eternal connection for anyone who would believe in Him and personally accept the sacrifice He made of Himself on the cross. According 1 Corinthians 6:17, anyone who is joined to The Lord Jesus, by accepting His Lordship and redeeming love through His shed blood, is indeed one spirit with Him!

There it is! Our eternal connection on this earth is our redeemed spirit that is one with the Spirit of God! That's why scripture tells us that God has placed eternity in our hearts!

Our spirits are intimately connected and one with the Spirit of God. It is because of His grace towards us, that by faith, we can enter this eternal connection and live just as Jesus demonstrated we should live. Because of God's grace, we no longer must live subject to this natural world and its circumstances.

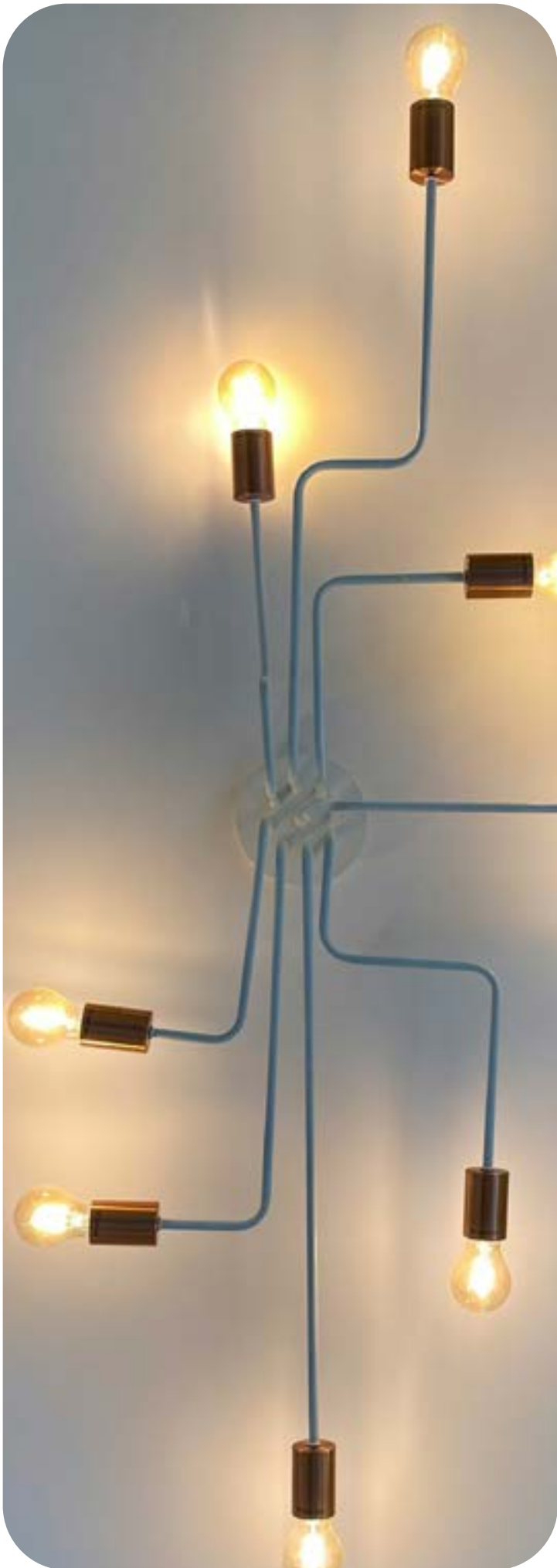
The Word of God is our Eternal Connection

It is true that every born-again believer has an eternal connection with the Spirit of God. We have every security that we are children of God, born into His kingdom of light. Even though we are in this natural world for a period, we are no longer of this world are we? No, we belong to the kingdom of God and heaven is our real home.

However, it is essential to understand that even though we have this eternal connection that secures our eternal position in heaven when we leave this natural world. Jesus came to this earth to show us just how we should live in this eternal connection while we are in this natural world.

The Mind, the Control Centre of our Lives

Because of God's grace, we are to operate by faith and live as His ambassadors of love, light and life while living on this earth. We are to operate in and through the power that is at work within our spirits that are connected to Him. To do this, we must pay great attention to the area of our minds. Why? Because the Bible teaches us that as a man thinks, so is he. In other words, our minds are the control center of our lives. What makes up our thought process today is the direction our lives will follow in our tomorrows.



A human mind is made up of our will, our intellect, and our emotions. The thoughts we entertain or allow to make up our thought process will have a direct effect on what we call our personal belief system. Those thoughts become our accepted reality. According to tested and proven scientific research, every thought that enters our minds comes from one of two origins. They are either faith-based thoughts or fear-based thoughts. Any thought that is based on fear will breed confusion, stress, and chaos in our lives, resulting in a lifestyle of defeat in a particular area of our lives. However, a thought that is based on faith from the truth of God's word will always produce life and peace, resulting in victory and joy in our lives.

Take Control, Keep Connected

So where does our eternal connection fit in with our minds? Well, scripture teaches us that God's written word, more commonly known as the "Bible", is God breathed or God inspired. That means that our eternal God was the Origin of all scripture. In fact, in 1 John 1, we read that God and His Word are one and the same. We are also taught in scripture that God honors His word as Himself. The book of Hebrews, chapter 6 speaks of how God's word is eternal and can never be refuted or revoked. It is non-negotiable and can never be altered or changed. God's Word has the same eternal nature as God Himself!

That is why Romans 12:2, tells us to constantly fill our minds and thoughts with the truth of God's Word.

"Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."

"For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)" 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

This scripture is telling us to take charge of every thought that enters our minds. We are to sift through them, casting out those that are fear based and contrary to the Bible and hold fast to those thoughts that are in line and agreeable to His written Word.

This way we secure our eternal connection in our minds. Our thought process is changed to see life through God's eternal perspective. We receive His wisdom and peace and operate in His authority on earth through keeping our minds renewed to His Word.

No matter what catastrophe or destructive force seems to be attacking your natural world now or in the future, God has given you an eternal connection that secures a sure and steadfast hope for you to not only endure but overcome any obstacle you may encounter. This is what it means to live in God's grace, to live in the power of His overcoming love and to speak to every circumstance with His mountain-moving authority.

GETTING WHAT YOU NEED?

Joyce Meyer

One time at a conference, I had a group of children come up on the stage to demonstrate a point. I gave each of them a gift, and each child gladly took what I handed them without hesitation. Several of them excitedly thanked me and a few even told me they love me.

These kids freely received my gifts to them. Not one of them said, "Wait a minute, Sister Joyce. I don't deserve this. I haven't been good this week and I can't take it." And none of them looked at me suspiciously, wondering why I wanted to give them something. They just received it with joy!

The same way these children received my gifts to them is the way God wants us to receive from Him – freely and with joy. *"Ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy (gladness, delight) may be full and complete"* (John 16:24 Amp).

If you're struggling with life, chances are you haven't freely received God's gifts, such as His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness, so you can have the life Jesus died to give you.

The Mentality That Keeps Us from Receiving from God

We tend to have a mentality of getting things, not receiving them. To get means, "to obtain by struggle and effort." If everything in life is a struggle and effort, you won't enjoy much of it and you'll be frustrated a lot.

Getting things puts the burden on us because we have to figure out how to manipulate circumstances to make them work out the way we want them to. But the Bible talks about receiving, not getting.

To receive means, "to act as a receptacle and take in what's offered." And we receive by faith, not through works. This is difficult for most people because we're taught in the world that we have to earn what we get.

But God is not for sale. We can't buy, earn or deserve Him. His gifts – forgiveness, mercy, grace, favour,

salvation – are free. And we could never do enough to earn them or deserve them. Jesus paid the price that we could never pay to provide these gifts for us. We simply have to receive them!

How a Religious Attitude Keeps Us from God's Goodness

I used to have a religious attitude and believed that my good works made me deserving of God's goodness. This actually kept me from receiving God's blessings because I was trying to earn them. I was judgmental and critical of others, too, and would get frustrated when someone who didn't seem deserving of it in my eyes was blessed.

I remember a long time ago when I had a neighbour who was a friend but I didn't think she was as spiritual as me. She didn't go to church as much as I did; she didn't pray as much as I did; she didn't give as much as I did. Well, at the time, I was praying for God to give me a fur coat. I wanted one so badly. Then one day she came over with a huge box in her hands. She was so excited! She said, "You won't believe what God gave me!" She opened that box and there was my fur coat! A woman we both knew had just delivered it to her, saying God told her to give her the coat.

Immediately, I was so angry and jealous. But I responded the way a good Christian would, saying, "Praise the Lord! I'm so happy for you!" At the same time I was thinking, God, You've got to get her out of my house. How could You possibly give her that coat? It's not fair. What about me?!

My heart wasn't right. My motives were selfish. God wanted to bless me with His gifts, but I couldn't receive them if I kept trying to earn them or deserve them. I had to learn to just receive.

We all need to ask God for His love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Just say, "God, please bless me. I receive Your blessings in my life, not because I'm good and have earned them, but because You are good!" Then your joy will be full.



GETTING THINGS PUTS THE BURDEN ON US BECAUSE WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MANIPULATE CIRCUMSTANCES TO MAKE THEM WORK OUT THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO. BUT THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT RECEIVING, NOT GETTING.

AN ORPHANED HEART

Martie Du Plessis

A mother phoned me shortly after their visit as a family to my hometown Clarens in the Eastern Free State. She told me how her son of 12 has lost his knife somewhere in town during the weekend. It was not an ordinary knife but one that he crafted himself with his dad after they went together for training on how to make knives.

The dad has, on many occasions, warned the boy about how he should handle and take care of his knife, but this incident has taught the young man a lesson of life. The dad, after this incident, spent a lot of time reflecting on how he warned the son in the past, how he trained him to treat his precious knife. It seemed to the father that all his warnings went unheeded and that his son showed no real understanding, yet now the pain of losing a precious object brought a keener appreciation. In turn this life lesson will become one of the significant teachings for the young man when he is a father himself one day. Although this experience is painful for the parents, they can see it as a life lesson and not a way to punish the son, or inflict guilt on him.

During each session when I help families I become more and more aware of how orphaned we are as people due to past relationships. I see people with wealth, degrees, beauty, and great gifting can act from places of deep heartache despite all their exterior success. If a person's core is not nurtured from young, this individual stays in lack his entire life; unless of course we allow God the Father, the Son and Spirit to make us whole as it was preordained through the action of the Cross.

I find in families where a parent (or both) is living with an orphaned spirit, a resulting difficulty to live in harmony. This is principally due to strife among family members because of lack of leadership from the father, either because he does not lead strong enough or because he does not lead at all. A great disunity is birthed due to a lack of a family vision and values. Often this lack of family values finds a negative breeding ground in the disciplining of the hearts of the children. In short, the children are not presented with clear guidelines which will ultimately lead to them being spoiled; children are capable of manipulation, or they simply do as they please.

To spoil a child can be the most traumatic single act in a person's life as the heart of this person has never learnt to honour, obey, or have self-control. Even good parents can make major errors due to the standing of their own hearts. Secure parents do not have issues with the disciplining of their children, as they understand that a person simply lives out what is already in their hearts.

I have done a lot of research over the years on why adults become so dysfunctional and why they cannot effectively take up their role as life givers. Parenting often fails when either one or both parents display a spirit of control. If a future father was raised in such a controlling environment, he will be unable to be successful in his role of parenting as well. Sadly, this father will be distant, retreating into a closed spirit, isolating his heart from outside influence. He will be incapable of real intimate relationships in his own family, and it could result in a next generation being orphaned in their hearts too.

One example where these kind of 'flawed' relationships would develop is where a very hardworking, conventional parent with strong views on ways in which they wanted tasks completed, tried to raise a very sensitive and compassionate child who did things at a slower pace. The fact that the two people (parent and child) have such different working preferences would escalate into major frustrations and personality incompatibilities. I am using these two disparate personality types to illustrate why parents, with sincere intentions of wanting the best for their family, can in fact hurt a person who is supposed pass on the baton to the next generation. We are often guilty of unnecessarily delaying the work of the Kingdom for many years.

It is easy for parents to accept the child when they share similar characteristics, styles, and values. However, what should be done in the case where they differ dramatically? The challenge is that parents must rely on God daily to give them an understanding about the purpose for each child. There will be a serious need for more patience and wisdom lest a sensitive child is negatively affected. For parents to celebrate and honour a child who is not like themselves is a great test. Honour involves a decision that is made to put love in action, and to give a person a position of high value and worth. If there is not honour, there is judgement, resentment, anger, sarcasm, criticism, comparisons, favouritism, envy and even racism. Parents can choose to dishonour or give the gift of honouring. Before one is either a parent or a child, one is human first, eternally stamped with the image and likeness of the Creator. Because all people are unique, we need to honour each other.

My suggestion to struggling parents is to find a mentor - somebody with the love of the Father, wise and graceful, but also a strict person who can give counsel according to the word of God. Parents must learn to share their life with a significant mentor who can model a life of intimate, caring and loving relationships, and to give guidance where changes in the raising of children can be instituted. These same virtues should also be emphasised in churches and life groups.

God wants parents to live a life of grace towards their families. Orphan thinking should be exchanged for God-thinking; in other words, the root of our deliberation should be as a child of God. The Father of Creation has a special place for each person He created. On the other hand, the father of lies (and maybe our own earthly father and mother) has caused an orphan spirit.

Satan wants to weaken the nations, and he does this by weakening families. He causes people to be neglected so they don't feel they have a home anymore, and at times as if they never had a home.

There is a new generation of families that I am working with - those are the families that take the education of their children seriously. These families allow God to change them as parents first and then they start practicing parenting from a true son and daughter relationship. While it does not make them perfect parents, it does allow them to operate from a place of forgiveness. They have forgiven their own parents - if they were not true reflections of the heart of the Father -and they are forgiving in their relationships with their own children. These parents that make a difference in the Kingdom are true children of God; Jesus said, *"Unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt 18: 3 -4).



THE MARKETPLACE

Angus Buchan

Doors are opening for us as believers to share our faith with those in the world. Luke 11:37 (NKJV) *“And as he spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. He went in and sat down to eat.”*

Jesus ate with a Pharisee in his home. The Pharisee was amazed that He would come into his home and eat with him. This is the case in so many instances today, where people become offended in the church because believers associate with the world. God has told us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. When we do that, we are often castigated by the church. The same thing happened with Jesus, He went wherever there was a need. He said I came for the sick and not for those that are healthy.

We need to get into the market place. Many young people want to go full time for the Lord. I always suggest to them that the best way is to get your degree, get your trade, get your qualifications and use that as an instrument to speak to the unbeliever. I know there are many witnesses for Jesus Christ in the Middle-East today, they go in as engineers, nurses, teachers etc. They would not get access to Muslim countries if they put on their application form; ‘evangelist or pastor’.

Paul, who I would say was one of the greatest evangelist in the Bible, was a tent maker by trade. As a result, he had access into that area purely because of the nature of his trade. God has give me wonderful access in amongst the country folk, because I am a farmer. When I receive invitations to preach, it is not because I am a great preacher, but rather that I am a farmer. Do not look down on your background and where you originate from; use everything that you have to bring people closer to Christ.

The most important part to remember is that the Lord says that we are in the world, but we are not part of the world. We need to be so careful that we don’t become as the world in order to win somebody to Christ. I remember myself as an unbeliever, I used to get so angry and so disappointed in ‘so-called Christians’ who would act more disrespectfully at parties and socials than the unbelievers, and then on Sunday, be in church and act “holier than thou”. This type of hypocrisy kept me out of the church. We need to be able to go into areas where people don’t know Jesus, but not change our standard or our principles in life.

So the bottom line is, before we accept an invitation to a party or to an event, we need to ask our Father if we have His permission and whether it will be beneficial to the Kingdom. If the answer is no, then don’t go. We need to be Christians seven days a week, not now and again. Whether we are in the work situation, whether we are in church, whether we are at a sports event, the same set of rules applies. Remember the world is looking to the believer to set the bar when it comes to things like morality, standards and ethics.

I remember reading the story of Peter Marshall many years ago. He told how he was invited to speak at a champagne breakfast in Washington DC, these men were all multi-millionaires. He thought the only reason that he was invited was because they wanted him to say grace. All the glasses were turned upwards and were filled with champagne, but he left his glass facing downwards. He told the waiter that he didn’t want any champagne and he drank fruit juice instead. The man sitting next to him said, “I see you are not drinking this fine imported champagne from Paris”. The preacher said, “No I’m not”. The gentleman wanted to know why. And the preacher asked him, “Are you asking me why because



you are trying to make conversation or because you really want to know?” He answered that he really wanted to know. He said; “Well, sir, I’m the minister at that big church down town in Washington DC and during the week, big limousines come and wealthy ladies get out of them and come and seek my counsel. Nine times out of ten, their tragedies in their lives are underlined by alcohol abuse. How can I counsel them if I am partaking myself?” The rich man went to see him a week later and committed his life to Christ.

It is not always what we say that impresses the world, but it is how we act when we are in the market place. Let us keep preaching the Gospel at all costs and if we really need to, use words (St Augustine).



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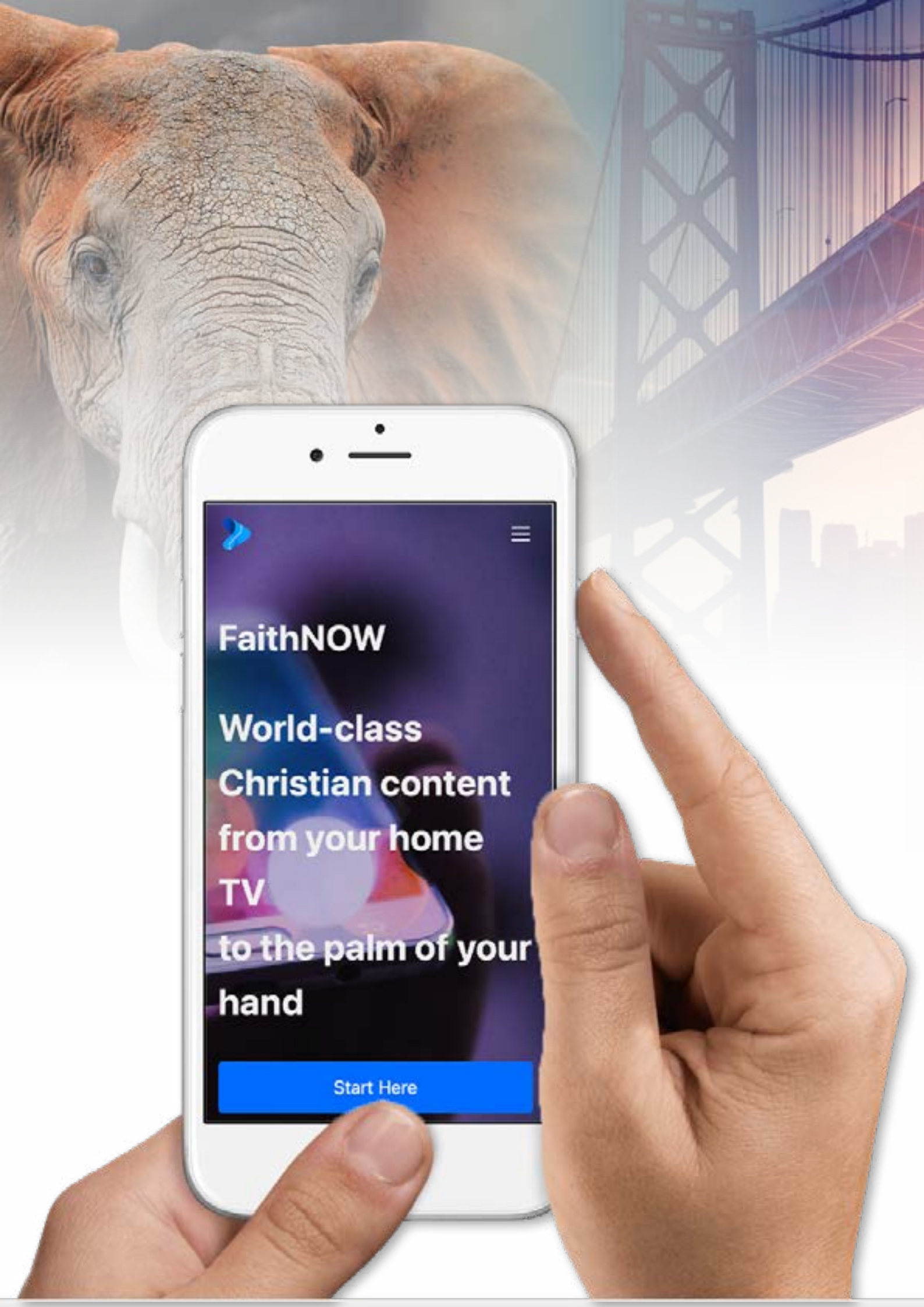


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A CHALLENGE FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS ABOUT

Phil Cooke

These days, it's pretty common for leaders of all kinds to study trends, cultural issues, or "pendulums" in an effort to predict or at least be ready for what's coming in the future. And the truth is, we do go through certain cycles – for instance, I was informed at Christmas by my daughters that bell bottoms were back in style.

Who knew?

But the truth that all the consultants won't tell you is that NOBODY knows what's coming. While there are a lot of "futurists" out there, no one can really predict the future.

I'm a member of the Producers Guild of America here in Hollywood. Every year before the Academy Awards, we interview the nominees, hoping they have insights and the keys to the future of the movie business. But by the next year, most of those "visionaries" have completely disappeared off the radar.

And remember that the advertising and entertainment industries spend hundreds of millions of dollars trying to determine what's coming, but time and time again, movies and advertising still fail.

**"I try not to get involved in the business of prediction. It's a quick way to look like an idiot."
– Warren Ellis, comic book and sci-fi writer**

But I believe that while we can't predict the future, we can position ourselves to be ready for whatever happens. As the great artist Michelangelo said, "I never stop learning." There's a reason there are so many "one-trick ponies" and only a few consistent, long-game players out there.

That reason isn't brilliance or the ability to know what's coming – it's the ability to prepare yourself to be resilient in the storm.

So, I recommend 5 ways to prepare yourself to handle the future and use it as an asset. Particularly with respect to the coming year, here's what I'd recommend:

1) Get comfortable with uncertainty. The future likely involves ambiguity and change across the social, technological, and economic landscapes. We're already experiencing changes faster than at any time in history, so get comfortable with the unexpected. Help your organization get better at exploring different scenarios

and adapting when needed. Get the team together and discuss alternative futures and how we would respond to each one. I wrote my most recent book "Ideas on a Deadline" for that very reason – to help leaders function brilliantly under pressure.

2) Focus on your team. It never ceases to amaze me how little leaders know and understand their team, so look closely at your people's capabilities and bandwidth. In most Christian organizations, a huge age transition is coming. Older and more experienced employees will be leaving, and you'll need to train a new generation. Recognize and reward achievements. Foster an innovative, collaborative, high-performing culture, because culture is far more important than vision. Never forget that none of us is as smart as all of us.

3) Reorient yourself toward action. Ultimately, creativity is about problem-solving, but remarkably few people are oriented toward taking action when a crisis happens. In a world of uncertainty, you can't always wait to see what happens; you need to act first. Stop ignoring problems, assuming someone else will deal with them. Instead, always be ready to make a plan and take action. It can certainly take time to recover from a major setback or loss, but nothing changes until you act.

4) Reflect on your vision and strategy. Review your organization's mission, goals, and plans. Update them if needed to align with emerging trends and priorities going into the year. Get outside advice and counsel. You'll have to articulate a clear vision to inspire and guide your team.

5) Learn to listen to different voices in the culture. If God could speak through a donkey or a burning bush, he can certainly speak through a rockstar, a filmmaker, or a novelist. Instead of automatically shutting those voices down, we need to open up and at least hear what they have to say. You don't have to agree with everyone, but you do need to know the temperature in the room. We should always be prepared to engage with culture, even when it's uncomfortable.

Personal preparation is everything because planning is often impossible. – Andrew Edmiston, Managing Director, IM Group

From my perspective, building resilient people is more important than predicting trends.

PREDICTING THE FUTURE



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THE CONCEPT OF 'EXTREME EDUCATION' WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL



WHAT MAKES YOUR PROGRAMME EXTREME AND ADVENTUROUS?

We offer students a wide range of extreme activities to participate in such as: sky diving, bungee jumping, scuba diving, mountain biking, abseiling, kayaking etc.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A GAP YEAR PROGRAMME?

A gap year gives young people time to reflect on what they think would be the college/varsity or career choice best suited to their needs. It allows them to clarify their interests and become aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

We also believe a gap year allows them to take advantage of learning that takes place outside the classroom and apply these skills in real life situations, within a protected environment. It is imperative that youths experience life in communities different from those in which they have been living and our extreme gap year programme offers them this experience. We further believe that gap years allow students to learn about a variety of careers before making a critical decision and to gain

maturity, initiative and resourcefulness, all valuable life skills.

WHAT OUTCOME DO YOU HOPE IS ACHIEVED IN EVERY STUDENT'S LIFE ONCE COMPLETING YOUR PROGRAMME?

Our programme is designed to meet, challenge and grow the complete individual, body, soul and spirit, as we train tomorrow's leaders today. Our desire is for the young person to have fun and 'discover themselves' as they are developed into a person with vision and purpose. We endeavour to take boys and girls and to mould them into young men and women that will have a positive influence on our society and the world.

DESCRIBE HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS - WHEN IS YOUR INTAKE, HOW LONG DOES IT LAST AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The Beyond Adventure Extreme Leadership Gap Year Programme was launched in 2001. We are located 100 kilometres north east of Port Elizabeth in Alicedale. We are situated close to some of the great game reserves such as Addo Elephant Park and Shamwari.

Our programme runs from the last week in January till November. The students are accommodated in rooms where they will learn to live with three other students. Cost enquires and further info can be obtained from our offices as well as our website, under the download section.

WHAT MAKES YOUR PROGRAMME UNIQUE AS OPPOSED TO OTHER GAP YEAR COURSES?

We believe the Beyond Adventure concept to be unique in South Africa. The concept of 'Extreme Education' was designed to provide a challenging environment for young people to discover and develop their leadership potential. Leadership deals with direction, vision, purpose and principles and our leadership programme focuses on building the students up, making them aware of other cultures, helping them with emotional bank account building and strengthening them as individuals functioning in a group context.

Most importantly, we run a programme that is founded on Biblical principles with Jesus Christ as the foundation stone.

For more info contact us on T: 042 231 8051 • F: 086 618 4803 • E: baregistrations@myriver.com
Beyond Adventure Campus • Bushman Sands Lodge & Golf Estate • Alicedale • Eastern Cape

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

A SYSTEM THAT WILL NEVER FAIL

Greg Clur

In a previous article I began to describe the futility of the world economic system, the incredibly magnetic attraction of mammon and the quiet desperation that many feel in pursuing the world's concept of success and financial achievement. In this article I wish to concentrate rather on the alternative which God provides for those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and are actively seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness with every fibre of their being.

We know that one of the principal priorities in God's plan for man is for us to seek the Kingdom of God His righteousness with all our hearts. It is only in this manner that we can really contemplate exercising and enjoying the dominion authority that He promises us in Genesis 1 v 26-28. The axis therefore that the world revolves on in God's Kingdom is the pursuit of the principles and priorities of His Kingdom and not the pursuit of material things. God concentrates on the pursuit of life as a priority and then "things" will follow. This was the promise of Jesus in Matthew 6 v 33. In this way God intends a life of deep satisfaction as opposed to quiet desperation.

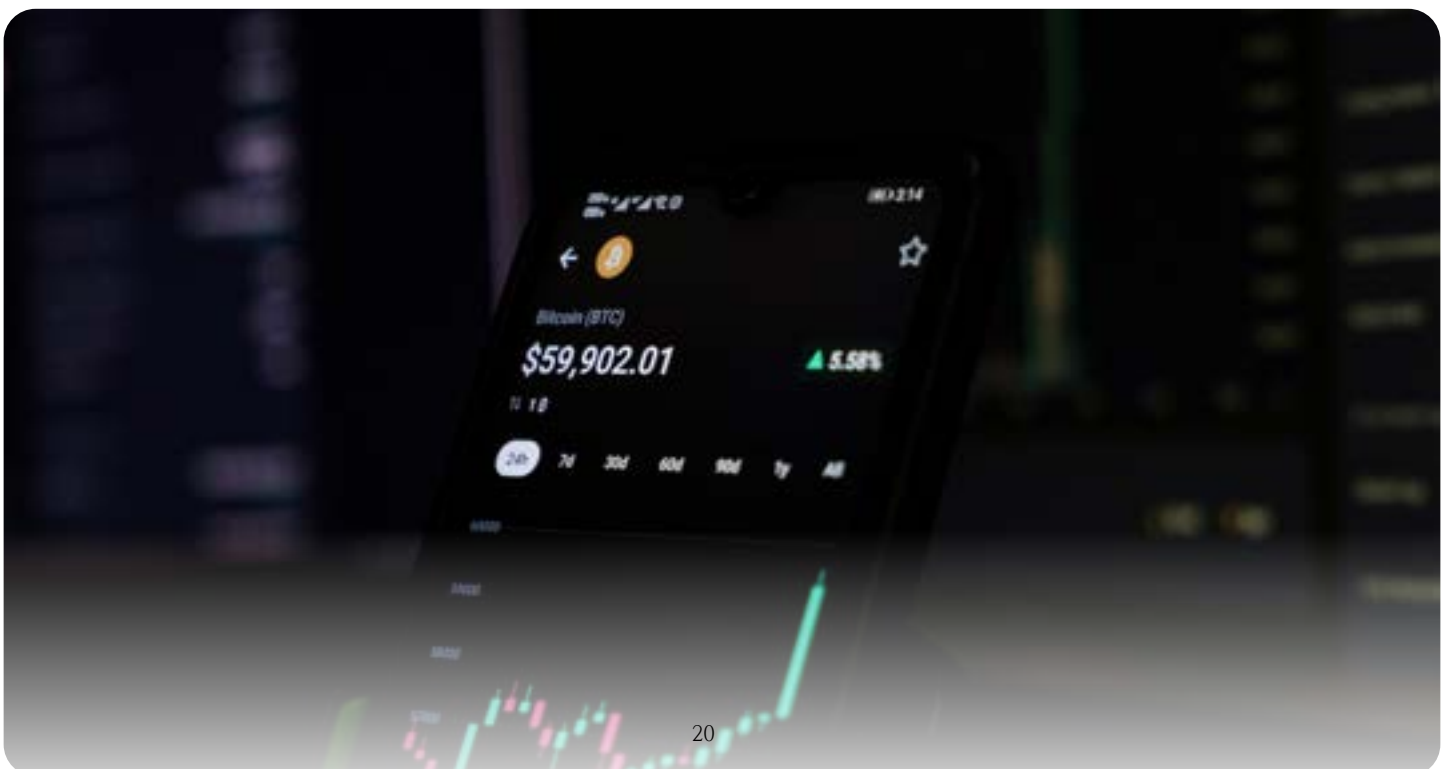
The journey of life can be tough and, really, God's system is designed for us to use our energy efficiently and protect our talents, abilities and gifts as opposed to the world system, which tends to use them up. God's system is so simple. When we realise that we are children of the King in a Kingdom, we are entitled to the blessings of the King. We do not have to strive for these

by effort, as is the way of the world system. We are entitled to the blessings of the King because we begin to operate in the dynamic of the favour of the King. The world system concentrates on the accumulation and ownership of material things whereas in the Kingdom, we are entitled to stewardship of unlimited provision, and we have access to it as opposed to ownership. God's thinking is fundamentally different to that of the world. We need to begin to think as he does.

In the world system, possessions tend to dictate our sense of self-worth. We accumulate these things by effort and strife. Our care and welfare are our responsibility. We achieve success by effort. Essentially, the pursuit of our purpose requires that we provide for our success. Many times, we seek a career and tend to dominate others.

In God's system Jesus and citizenship of His Kingdom represents our self-worth. We access provision by right and not strife. Our care and welfare is the King's responsibility. Our success is determined by favour. God funds His purpose for us, and our lives are characterised by servanthood as opposed to domination. Our lives are a calling!

What a wonderful plan. The requirement? – **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness with every fibre of our being.**



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DEALING WITH DIFFICULT

Cilnette Pienaar



I really am a “four-seasons-in-one-day” type of girl. This basically means that my emotional state fluctuates drastically from one hour to the next, and is highly influenced by what I do and who I engage with. Ask me how I am in the morning, and ask me how I am in the evening. You might think that you are speaking to a different human being. Add being poetic and female into that mix, and this tendency to experience every shade of emotion in one day makes for an interesting life. For those who believe in the spiritual realm – that has a massive impact on me too. I’m still figuring out when I’m going through something, or when some principality is up to something. Discernment is an interesting gift.

I have been through bouts of borderline depression (particularly associated with mourning), and I have been through seasons of mountain-top joy. I have made peace with the fact that I will always have a slight roller-coaster personality. As long as it doesn’t affect people around me too much, I think that’s just going to have to be ok.

However.

It’s been a particular interesting season, and I don’t think the complete revelation of its purpose has shone through. But it always helps me to unpack a few of the questions that my heart sometimes agonises over, and in the process, perhaps help other hearts understand, or at least voice, their own

questions.

One of the main things that have been perplexing to me over the past season is the conduct of love in the context of truth.

My question is as follows: Does loving a person imply always telling them the complete truth? I don’t mean “the Truth” in terms of pointing them to the Gospel or giving Biblical advice. I mean: should we always be honest about our own feelings in every relational context? Or are their times where love means that you just suck it up and deny yourself?

Consider the implications of both sides. Integrity is at stake. But so is responsibility and maturity.

I don’t have an answer. It’s just a question I’m currently perplexed over.

Another thing that has been popping up recently, is the issue of humility. I’m sure most people have been tempted to say to someone “Do you not know who I am?”, or it’s equally self-righteous equivalent “Who do you think you are?”. I’ve been a bit tempted to throw those lines on a few odd occasions over the past while. I know humility is not a denial of your competencies. That’s false humility. I know it has to do with an acknowledgement of dependence on God for everything, and then just being who you are. I also know that a sense of humour and not taking yourself too seriously are keys to rest and

happiness. I have just been challenged over the past while to serve in ways and contexts where I would have preferred to not have to. It made me angry. And then it made me realise how ugly pride is.

So, yes.

My heart has again been in a process of wrestling with important themes that have personal significance, whilst also knowing that constant introspection often just leads to despondence. I am becoming more aware of how self-absorption really does just get in the way of joy.

So, then I look up and see the pretty purple flowers that are carpeting the Boland in preparation for Spring. I look at those flowers, and I remember that Someone once said the following: “Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labour or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was adorned like one of these! If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith!”

Then I just go: “Jesus, You win”.

And carry on with this business of life, despite the perplexing conundrums, but without denying the difficult.

Selah.

CHAIM MALESPIN

GALILEE, ISRAEL

CoFounder and Chairman of the board of directors at the charity, **Aliyah Return Center (ARC)**, registered in Israel as a 501(c)(3). Chaim (HIGH-EM) Malespin is a passionate visionary who strives to educate Christians and lovers of Israel from around the world about the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith.

With a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations, Chaim and the **ARC ministry** focus on education, infrastructural development, innovation and Aliyah.



Watch as Chaim Malespin explains his vision for the Aliyah Return Center.

CHAIM'S EXPERTISE

- Restoration of Israel
- Entrepreneur
- Sergeant major in the Israel Defense Forces (has been through a few wars)
- Ordained congregational leader in the Galilee
- Bridge builder between Israel and the nations

AVAILABILITY

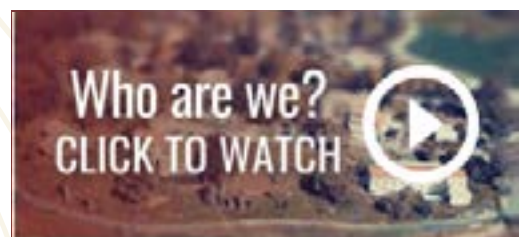
- Chaim Malespin is most widely available between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- Available via phone, WhatsApp, Zoom or Skype. Via email at watchaliyah@gmail.com
- Time zone; Jerusalem time (ET + 6 hours).

ABOUT ARC [CLICK TO VISIT »](#)

Aliyah Return Center (ARC) is an Israel-based registered nonprofit organization, helping Jewish new immigrants establish roots in the land of Israel and thrive. A ministry built on a foundation of love in uncompromising faith with a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations through:

- Education
- Innovation
- Infrastructural Development
- Aliyah aid

ARC mobilizes the church to embrace God's call to serve His people and stand as ambassadors/advocates for Israel and the Jewish people through various initiatives such as their Ambassador Academy, Internships, Volunteering, Joint Torah Studies, and various worship events.



WHAT IS ALIYAH?

Aliyah is defined as the immigration of Jews to Israel, but at the Aliyah Return Center, the meaning goes much deeper.

[64 ALIYAH SCRIPTURES DIGITAL DOWNLOAD »](#)

To book an interview, contact Karen Hepp / Karen@InfinityConcepts.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

This department facilitates the Faith Group by establishing and/or maintaining the following websites / social networking sites:



OUR WEBSITES

FAITH BROADCASTING NETWORK - myfaith.tv

Faith AFRICA - africa.myfaith.tv
Faith TV - usa.myfaith.tv
Faith UK - uk.myfaith.tv
FaithNOW - faithnow.net

Faith Cares - myfaithcares.com
Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples.com
Faith Missions - faithcares.myfaith.tv
MyFaith Magazine - magazine.myfaith.tv

Beyond Adventure - bagapyear.com
Faith Bible Institute - faithbi.com
Faith Global Institute - online.faihtgi.com
Faith Kidz - faithkidz.tv

Faith Dome - dome.myfaith.tv
Audio Downloads - dl.myriver.com

Christian Events Diary - diary.myfaithtv.com
Daily Devotions - devotions.myfaithtv.com

River Hotels - riverhotels.com
River Spa - riverspa.co.za



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MyFaith TV – myfaithtv
NXT - theNXTlive
FaithNOW - faithnowapp

Faith Church Buffalo City - faithchurchbuffalocity
Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples

André & Jenny – andrejennyr

Beyond Adventure - beyond.adventure
Faith Global Institute - faithglobalinstitute
Faith Cares - myfaithcares
Faith Missions - myfaithmissions

River Hotels - riverhotels
Tenahead Lodge - TenaheadLodgeandSpa
Halyards Hotel - HalyardsHotelandSpa



TWITTER

André & Jenny - @andrejenny

Faith Broadcasting Network - @MyFaithTV

FaithNOW - @faithnowapp

River Hotels - @RiverHotels



INSTAGRAM

Andre & Jenny - @andreandjenny
Faith Bible Institue - @myfaithbiafrica
Faith Broadcasting Network - @myfaithtv
Faith Church Buffalo City - @faithchurchbuffalocity
Faith Church Naples - @faithchurchnaples
Faith Global Institute – @faithglobalinstitute
FaithNOW - @faithnowapp
Faith Missions - @myfaithmissions
NXT - @thenxt.tv

River Hotels - @riverhotels
Matingwe Lodge - @matingwelodgelimpopo
Tenahead Lodge - @tenaheadlodgeandspa
Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa - @tsitsikammalodgeandspa



YOUTUBE CHANNELS

Faith TV - @faithbroadcastingnetwork
The NXT - @thenxtlive

WEB PORTALS

GROUP PORTAL | myfaithglobal.com



EDUCATION PORTAL | faithgi.com



OUR VISION

The IT / Social Media department is about creating user-friendly websites and to integrate the social networking into these websites. Our vision is to be a step-ahead in the technology field, by continually advancing in our abilities for web design and social media. Our vision is to impact millions of users who visit our websites every day and have them go away with the assurance that they can come back for more, to receive updated and continually evolving content!

OUR STRATEGY

We further our skills by doing constant research in the fields of IT and Social Media. Gaining resourceful knowledge through social media sites, various IT-related forums and blogs.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

The IT / Social Media department strive to achieve rich-content for users who are seeking information in all the areas of hotels, non-profit, media, business, real estate, TV broadcasting, and ministry.

FINDING GOD'S PLACES OF COMFORT

Keith Hershey

One of my earliest childhood memories of a “place of comfort” was my Grandma Opal’s house. I think the most frequent question she ever asked was, “Are you comfortable?” And then there were those special memories when you were sick—or thought you were sick—of large pillows, warm flannel, and tall mugs of either cold milk shakes or hot chicken soup to sip. Grandma’s house sure was a “place of comfort!”

In the increasing pressures of today’s world, my grandma’s house could offer comfort to almost anyone. There are spiritual, mental, and physical needs going unmet all around us. You, too, may be searching to find a comforter; someone, somewhere, that can help to meet your needs. Search no more! The Comforter is here!

Jesus lived the life of a Comforter when He walked on earth. As the time neared for Him to return to His Father in Heaven, Jesus told His disciples, “*And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter to abide with you forever . . . the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things*” (John 14:16, 26).

All things—what all things? The Apostle Paul tells the church congregation in Rome, “*For whatever things were written before, were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*” (Romans 15:4). What are some of those comforting things (Words) that were written before?

The Words the Lord our God spoke to people living many years ago, are the same Words He is speaking to us living today. And they will be the same Words for the people who live in the tomorrows, because “*Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

The power of God’s Word and the revelation teaching of His Holy Spirit make comfort promises available to everyone. “*Wherefore comfort one another with these Words*” (1 Thessalonians 4:18). The following are a few samples of the comfort of the Scriptures:

- **Plagues:** “*There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling*” (Psalm 91:10).
- **Financial worries:** “*Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on . . . for your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added to you*” (Matthew 6:25, 32, 33).
- **Lacking Sleep:** “*I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety*” (Psalm 4:8); “*And your sleep will be sweet*” (Proverbs 3:24).



- **Turmoil:** “*My peace I give to you not as the world gives do I give to you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*” (John 14:27).
- **Protection Security:** “*The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face*” (Deuteronomy 28:7).
- **Without Confidence:** “*For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught*” (Proverbs 3:26).
- **Troubles:** “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear*” (Psalm 46:1).

The Scripture is a bountiful treasure chest of comfort and encouragement. And with the Apostle Paul we bless God that this is so: “*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our tribulation*” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

God wants to give comfort to each of us, by meeting our every need, if we only make the choice to trust and obey His Word. Jesus told His disciples that they erred (they didn’t have the comfort of their needs being met), because they did not know the Scriptures, nor did they know the power of God. Let’s get

to know (become intimately acquainted with) God’s Word so that we really believe “*The Word of God is alive and full of power*” (Hebrews 4:12). And let’s speak God’s Words to bring comfort for God said, “*I speak, and the Word which I speak will come to pass*” (Ezekiel 12:25).

The Apostle Paul also points out to the Corinthian church that God’s comfort is two-fold. “*The God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our tribulation, (does so) “that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God”* (2 Corinthians 1:4). When Jesus walked on earth, He habitually sacrificed His own personal convenience and comfort to meet the needs of others.

Individually, as we follow His example, we will become comforters, but together, oh friends get excited with me, together, we can be more than comforters. Together, we can make our church, our congregation, a place of comfort. A place where people know they can come and have every need met. A place where people come with unmet needs, but leave “*forgiven, healed, redeemed, crowned, satisfied and renewed, comforted*” (Psalm 103).

Now that’s a timely ministry, every godly congregation joining together in our mutual faith (Romans 1:12), to comfort and to be comforted (1 Thessalonians 5:11), working to copy the First Century Church and fill God’s House with peace where people are edified by the comfort of the Holy Spirit. And the churches multiplied (Acts 9:31) because there, people found God’s “Places of Comfort.”

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS...



If there was ever a time a generation needed **revival**, it is now, and there is a new wave of ministries being birthed out of revival that is about to sweep the earth. These are the true revivalists that God is **raising** up to proclaim the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ to their **generation** with signs and wonders following - men and women who are not satisfied with the status quo of religion and tradition, but who will run with God's **fire**.

We want to invite you to join an **army** of men and women, young and old, who are ready to let their lives count for **eternity** - people who want to be used of God by the **power** of His Spirit to make an eternal **impact** on their generation.

Some of the subjects **you'll experience**: Faith, Prayer, Leadership in Ministry, Bible Doctrines, Worship Lifestyle, Revival Studies, Gifts of Ministry of Helps, Stewardship, Excellence in Ministry, Understanding your Potential, The Name of Jesus, Soul Winning, Mission Trips & many more.

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Hey Kids

Hello boys and girls,

Have you ever been camping when it's really cold? Our dad usually makes a big fire and our mom brings us yummy marshmallows to roast. Have you noticed that something as simple as fire can change everything? It can make the cold much warmer. It can light up the scary darkness, and even bring lots of fun and treats.

In many ways we need to be just like the fire we make at camp. You can do this by bringing warmth to the world through the love of Jesus and by being a light to our friends and leading them to Jesus. We can also be fun by singing and dancing in praise to Jesus. So like the fire at camp we too can bring a great change to the world we live in. That's pretty cool isn't it?

This month we would like to encourage all our friends to be a fire for Jesus!

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
help us to be on fire for You and to burn brightly for the world to see for You through us.

We thank you for lighting up our lives and removing all the darkness. Help us to keep the fire burning until You return.

In Jesus Name, Amen.



Faith Kidz



FRIDAY'S

- 🇿🇦 16:00 CAT
- 🇬🇧 15:30 GMT

SATURDAY'S

- 🇿🇦 06:00 CAT
- 🇬🇧 14:30 GMT

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W E W

PUZZLE

In each row, name and find the two instruments from the Bible that are exactly the same.



BIBLE JOKES

Who designed Noah's ark? **An ark-itect!**

Who was the only man in the Bible who did not have a father? **Joshua the son of Nun!**

What do they call pastors in Germany? **German Shepherds.**

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Throughout the Bible are many stories of the battle of good against evil. Hidden in this picture are weapons of war used by God's people in the Bible. Can you find them and name them?



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____



Answers: Ram's horn, a sling, a battle-axe, a trumpet and the Word of God



At what time of day was Adam created? **A little before Eve.**
 How do you know when Enoch is at the door? **'E knocks.**
 How do you study the Bible? **You Luke into it.**
 How do we know that Jesus made coffee? **It says so in the book of He Brews. (Hebrews).**
 How do we know that Jesus raised vegetables? **Because he said, "Peas be upon you."**
 (Peace be upon you).

REVIVAL X

Ages 3-13 Years



21 - 30 JUNE 2024

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Preaching the Word of God | Praise | Worship | Go-Karts | Jumping Castles | Craft Station | Slippery Slide
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MORNING MEETINGS 9AM - 1PM EVENING MEETINGS 3PM - 5PM

KRC@MYFAITHTV.COM

Faith

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF, **DAILY** BY READING THE WORD OF GOD...
GROW IN YOUR FAITH AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS IN THE SAME MANNER.

BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK 14- 26 | APRIL - JUNE

S•O•A•P



SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION
APPLICATION • PRAYER

WEEK 14 [MAR 31-APR 6]

- JOSHUA 14-17; LUKE 17
- JOSH 18-21; PSALM 15; LUKE 18
- JOSH 22-24; PSALM 116; LUKE 19
- JUDGES 1-3; PSALM 16; LUKE 20
- JUDGES 4-6; LUKE 21

WEEK 15 [APR 7-13]

- JUDGES 7-8; LUKE 22
- JUDGES 9-11; PSALM 17; LUKE 23
- JUDGES 12-16; PSALM 146; LUKE 24
- JUDGES 17-18; PSALM 21; ACTS 1
- JUDGES 19-21; ACTS 2

WEEK 16 [APR 14-20]

- RUTH 1-2; ACTS 3
- RUTH 3-4; PSALM 37; ACTS 4
- 1 SAMUEL 1-2; PSALM 120; ACTS 5
- 1 SAM 3-5; PSALM 23; ACTS 6
- 1 SAM 6-8; ACTS 7

WEEK 17 [APR 21-27]

- 1 SAMUEL 9-10; ACTS 8
- 1 SAM 11-13; PSALM 38; ACTS 9
- 1 SAM 14; PSALM 124; ACTS 10
- 1 SAM 15-16; 1 CHR 1; PS 39; ACTS 11
- 1 SAM 17; 1 CHR 2; ACTS 12

WEEK 18 [APR 28-MAY 4]

- 1 SAM 18-19; 1 CHR 3; PS 59; ACTS 13
- 1 SAM 20; 1 CHR 4; PS 56, 57, 142; ACTS 14
- 1 SAM 21-22; 1 CHR 5; PS 52; ACTS 15
- 1 SAM 23-24; 1 CHR 6; PS 54; ACTS 16
- 1 SAM 25; 1 CHR 7; ACTS 17

WEEK 19 [MAY 5-11]

- 1 SAM 26-27; 1 CHR 8; ACTS 18
- 1 SAM 28-29; 1 CHR 9; ACTS 19
- 1 SAM 30-31; 1 CHR 10; ACTS 20
- 2 SAM 1-2; 1 CHR 11; PS 96, 106; ACTS 21
- 2 SAM 3-5; 1 CHR 12; PS 122; ACTS 22

WEEK 20 [MAY 12-18]

- 2 SAM 6; 1 CHR 13; PS 60; ACTS 23
- 1 CHRON 14-16; ACTS 24
- 2 SAM 7-8; 1 CHR 17; PS 132; ACTS 25
- 2 SAM 9-10; 1 CHR 18-19; PS 89; ACTS 26
- 2 SAM 11-12; 1 CHR 20; PS 51, 32; ACTS 27

WEEK 21 [MAY 19-25]

- 2 SAMUEL 13-14; ACTS 28
- 2 SAM 15-17; PSALMS 3, 63; ROMANS 1
- 2 SAM 18-20; PSALM 34; ROMANS 2
- 2 SAM 21-23; PSALM 18; ROMANS 3
- 2 SAM 24; 1 CHR 21; ROMANS 4

WEEK 22 [MAY 26-JUN 1]

- 1 CHRON 22-25; PSALM 78; ROM 5
- 1 KINGS 1; 1 CHR 26-28; ROM 6
- 1 KINGS 2; 1 CHR 29; ROM 7
- 1 KINGS 3; 2 CHR 1; PS 42; ROM 8
- 1 KINGS 4; PROV 1-2; PS 43; ROM 9

WEEK 23 [JUN 2-8]

- PROVERBS 3-5; ROMANS 10
- PROVERBS 6-7; PSALM 7; ROM 11
- PROVERBS 8-10; PSALM 144; ROM 12
- PROVERBS 11-13; PSALM 8; ROM 13
- PROVERBS 14-15; ROM 14

WEEK 24 [JUN 9-15]

- PROVERBS 16-18; ROMANS 15
- PROVERBS 19-21; PS 40; ROM 16
- PROVERBS 22-23; PS 117; 1 THESS 1
- PROVERBS 24-25; PS 41; 1 THESS 2
- PROVERBS 26-28; 1 THESS 3

WEEK 25 [JUN 16-22]

- PROVERBS 29-31; 1 THESS 4
- SONG OF SOL 1-3; PS 72; 1 THESS 5
- SONG OF SOL 4-6; 2 THESS 1
- SONG OF SOL 7-8; PS 127; 2 THESS 2
- 1 KINGS 5; 2 CHR 2; 2 THESS 3

WEEK 26 [JUN 23-29]

- 1 KINGS 6; 2 CHRON 3; 1 TIMOTHY 1
- 1 KINGS 7; 2 CHR 4; PS 44; 1 TIM 2
- 1 KINGS 8; PSALM 30; 1 TIM 3
- 2 CHR 5-7; PSALM 121; 1 TIM 4
- 1 KINGS 9; 2 CHR 8; 1 TIM 5

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SACRIFICE AND WORSHIP

Waldo Malan

Jesus clearly says that the Father is seeking worshippers (John 4:23). This says to me that in order to be a worshipper one has to be worshipping, and because God Most High is doing the seeking, He is going to be looking for something very specific. Jesus further underlines this by saying that the worship associated with the Father-worshipper needs to be in spirit and in truth. So many times our human nature deceives us into thinking that what the Father is really looking for are workers and doers of things. Put in another way, our human nature, especially the sinful nature subject to the law, has a constant need to make sacrifices. While the Jews in the Old Testament sacrificed animals we tend to sacrifice works in our contemporary contexts. By “works” I mean anything that we can find to do that we regard as being good and ultimately pleasing to the Father. Understand that I am not saying that doing things are bad, or that pleasing the Father by our works are wrong or displeasing to Him! No, but what I am trying to get across is that when we present the Father only with works and no worship then we cannot possibly please Him. This means that whatever we do needs to be done from a position of worship: doing because we worship and not worshipping because we are doing.

The expression “walk your talk” is so relevant in our worship of God with regard to offering sacrifices vs. offering relationship. The Father is seeking a relationship with all people when most of us tend to want to offer a sacrifice. The basic problem with a sacrifice is that it is a momentary thing with tremendous power, both for the one to whom the sacrifice is made as well as the one making the sacrifice. This problem manifests in the fact that the act of sacrifice appeases our consciences and allows us to live life after the event pretty much in the same manner as we did before. Sacrificing has the ability to allow us to shift the responsibility of careless living onto an object (either an animal or some type of action). When I say “careless living” I am speaking directly about a life without a relationship with the One whom we are sacrificing for. This transference of responsibility will lead us into a legal way of thinking and living, and also deceive us into thinking that God requires our relationship with Him to be based on a set of rules. By this I am not implying that the things we do are necessarily bad, because much of what we do will be considered good works, moral works and works that benefit our communities!

I see a sacrificial attitude manifest itself so clearly in the Church today. A sacrificial attitude make people believe that going to church on a Sunday for an hour or two and then ignoring God for the rest of the week is acceptable. This attitude allows people to believe that an active prayer life can be sacrificed because they are too busy doing the “right things” required for their individual ministries. It is an attitude that will make people bitter against God because they seem to be doing all the work while others are seemingly lazing around doing nothing – a classical Martha-Mary scenario (Luke 10:38-42). A sacrificial attitude will lead to a spiritual burnout rather sooner than later and suffer the kingdom of God by the loss of a precious soul.

This line of thinking made me conclude that if the Father is seeking worshippers and not workers, I probably need to get a refresher course on worship. Having said all I have about working and sacrificing, I also realise that to worship will require some type of action (or work) on my part, meaning that it is not the work in itself that is wrong, but it is the way in which the work is done that matters to God.



This way of thinking is supported by Scripture, because the Father is the One Who is searching the hearts of men and is not led astray by our appearances. The conclusion is a simple one: our works simply happen because we are worshipping, not that our worship is simply happening because we are working! So by the grace of God the pressure of having to perform in our worship (a totally human way of reasoning) is removed completely from us and placed with the Holy Spirit. After all, our worship has to be in spirit and in truth, not in human endeavours and accomplishments! The Father is seeking specific people: worshippers. Specific worshippers will have specific

worship – a worship that is exposed through the pages of God’s Word time and again. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you read the following Scriptures, and ask Him to lead you into a deeper understanding of your personal relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ, so that you can be free in your worship without having to be weighed down by rules, regulations and burdens placed there by yourself, others and tradition. Allow the Holy Spirit to take you into new realms of worship where the Father can find you at the end of His search, worshipping Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

QUICK REFERENCE MODES IN MUSIC

Any musician will eventually come face to face with modes. Not only should they be able to understand modes theoretically, but they'll also need a solid command of them on their respective instruments.

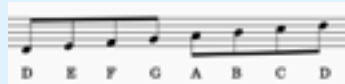
Is a Mode a Scale?

According to its most basic definition, a mode is simply a **scale**. But, a mode is also a **tonality**, much like the major scale has its own tonality. In fact, the **major scale** itself is one of the seven modes—called the **Ionian mode**.

When a **C major scale** is played, the **root note C** establishes its **tonality**. All notes that follow are defined according to their relationship to C. Playing through the scale, it is C major's characteristic intervals or relationships to C that give the key its distinct tonality.

The octave sequence therefore would be:
C-D | D-E | E-F | F-G | G-A | A-B | B-C
W | W | H | W | W | W | H
(W= whole tone / H= half tone)

We know that this scale continues in a repetitive sequence up and down the staff. If C major is this exact sequence of notes from one C to the next C an octave higher, one could also start the sequence on D.



The sequence of notes stays the same, but the root note changes to D. Now, all of the notes in this sequence are defined by their relationship to D. This changes the scale's tonality considerably. Even though the sequence is the same, the step-wise relationships have changed: W-H-W-W-W-H-W. The relationship established makes this the **Dorian mode**.

To get a better understanding, let us continue using the C major scale (or Ionian Mode).

- Root on the 1st degree (C): Ionian mode
- Root on the 2nd degree (D): Dorian mode
- Root on the 3rd degree (E): Phrygian mode
- Root on the 4th degree (F): Lydian mode
- Root on the 5th degree (G): Mixolydian mode
- Root on the 6th degree (A): Aeolian mode
- Root on the 7th degree (B): Locrian mode

Chord-Scale Relationships in the Major Key

Each of the seven modes is built off of the seven scale



degrees of the major scale, as well as the diatonic chords of the major key. Each mode of the major scale has a corresponding diatonic chord.

In improvisation, if you (1) know the key of the tune and (2) can figure out what scale degree of the major scale that chord is built from, you know which mode you can use over that chord.

For example, let's take a simple chord progression that appears in many songs: I-vi-ii-V in the key of F.

Fmaj7 is the (I) chord, so we'll use F Ionian in bar 1
Dm7 is the (vi) chord, so we'll use D Aeolian in bar 2
Gm7 is the (ii) chord, so we'll use G Dorian in bar 3
C7 is the (V) chord, so we'll use C Mixolydian in bar 4



Starting Practice Tips

[1] Instead of playing all the modes in the key of C, practice all the modes with C as the root. It's beneficial to use a drone note for this exercise.

- C Ionian mode (key of C)
- C Dorian mode (key of Bb)
- C Phrygian mode (key of Ab)
- C Lydian mode (key of G)
- C Mixolydian mode (key of F)
- C Aeolian mode (key of Eb)
- C Locrian mode (key of Db)

[2] Pick one musical mode and move it up or down different intervals. For example:

- C Dorian (key of Bb)
- D Dorian (key of C)
- E Dorian (key of D)
- F# Dorian (key of E)
- Ab Dorian (Key of Gb)
- Bb Dorian (Key of Ab)
- C Dorian (Key of Bb)

Reference:

learnjazzstandards.com/blog/what-are-modes-in-music/#is-a-mode-a-scale

WORSHIP LEADERS ARE NOT ROCK STARS, BUT THEY ARE PERFORMERS

Philip Revell

My youth pastor used to say of our Wednesday night worship services: “This is not a concert!” And his warning was certainly correct and helpful. But I can’t help but think that the sensory experience of our services often stood in contradiction to what my youth pastor was saying. The lights, sounds, and vibe of the room correlated to what many of us would identify plainly as a concert. But it wasn’t a concert. Right?

It’s complicated.

On one hand we know corporate worship—particularly congregational singing—is something distinct from a concert or other performed art or entertainment. When the church gathers and sings together, there’s a “set apart-ness,” a qualitative difference from any other kind of gathering or event in which someone, or group of people, is singing.

On the other hand Christians are called to worship God in every facet of their lives (Col. 3:17; Rom. 12:1), seeing our work, for example, as an opportunity to glorify God. What happens when Christians practice the “all of life” worship in their vocation, in part, by leading other Christians in corporate singing?

Enter the awkward position of the worship leader.

Inherently Performative

Worship leaders—that is, musical worship leaders, for the whole gathering is worship—are doing something different from entertaining, but their role entails some elements that are inherently performative: aesthetic sensibilities, technical proficiency, and stage presence. These elements may be obvious or subtle, but they are there, and they have to be dealt with.

Some churches deal with these elements by simplifying song arrangements and musical accompaniment to reduce opportunities for worship leaders to embellish or direct attention to themselves. Other churches, often operating with high production value, see these performative elements as assets to be used in full capacity, with little thought toward what end they’re serving. And most tragically, some worship leaders are blind to the unique power that comes with performance, and their naïveté causes serious harm to others and themselves.

The word “performance” itself has become a kind of antonym for the word “worship.” In the context of church life, I don’t think I’ve ever heard the word used except as a critique of the way a musician is leading—seeking their own glory instead of God’s. But this is not entirely fair. I think Christian performers, whether in the realm of dance, music, or theater, would be offended at the notion that their performance robs God’s glory and seeks it for themselves. That is certainly a temptation, but any Christian performer who views vocation through a biblical lens recognizes that his or her work is a service to others and an occasion for worship. So what’s the distinction in roles between a godly performer and a godly worship leader?

Distinctive Service

A Christian performer serves people who have chosen to lend a listening ear or an attentive eye (or both). The audience participates by paying attention, and so the performer’s job is to help ensure their attention is well invested. A worship leader, on the other hand, serves people who have been called to sing; the performative elements of his or her job should serve that end.

This doesn’t mean we strip things back to their bare essentials, because that doesn’t

always encourage people to sing passionately and wholeheartedly. It also doesn’t mean we give full freedom to our aesthetic sensibilities, technical ability, or stage presence, because that can end up being manipulative or confusing.

Five Ways to Steward Performance

Here are a handful of ways worship leaders can steward their performance to best serve the church.

1. Grow in aesthetic tastes.

Worship leaders should regularly listen to music and engage in art beyond what’s popular in their particular circles. Listen to music that is challenging, intricate, born of a culture outside your own. Listen to music that feels more like a complex, delicious meal than a protein bar or energy drink. The more we grow in this, the more we are filled with wonder that God calls his people to employ the gift of music to worship him—and that we get to be part of leading his people in that response, to the praise of his glorious grace.

2. Grow in technical ability.

If we are called to work wholeheartedly in whatever we do (Col. 3:17), Christians have the greatest reasons to pursue vocational excellence. Worship leaders might find it wasteful to put intentional time into growing their craft, but in God’s eyes, this is time well spent.

Worship leaders who grow in aesthetic tastes and technical ability, with the aim of serving God’s people, will have a growing capacity for discernment. They will grow in the ability to choose, arrange, and lead songs in a way that boosts congregational singing, rather than their own ego.

3. Avoid novelty.

There’s a temptation for worship leaders to use their gifts in such a way that they’re perceived as clever, witty, or cutting edge. Steer clear of this temptation.

Novelty masquerades as creativity and beauty, but it’s a cheap replacement. If we’re seeking to point people to the glory and beauty of God, we are shooting ourselves in the foot if we give our churches cheap tricks and amusement.

4. Build a team of musicians from the congregation.

Psalm 150:4 calls God’s people to “praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!” In 1 Chronicles 15, as the ark of the covenant is brought to Jerusalem, David “commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy” (v. 16).

The worship of God’s people can and should be led and accompanied by a skilled group of musicians, and the Bible demonstrates that robust musical expression can serve God’s people as they sing. But as we consider worship leading in our churches, the liturgy (literally, “the work of the people”) should be led primarily by the people. It is the work of the congregation, not the work of outside professionals.

In my church, we have music team members who sing or play music professionally, and others who are hobbyists. While we have standards in place for leading, there’s a concerted effort to make sure our team comprises people within the church. This approach helps mitigate the pressure to look and sound the same as the most popular worship band on the Christian music charts. It frees us up instead to look and sound like the people of our

church community, and hopefully, the neighborhoods we represent.

5. Follow Jesus, who leads us in singing.

In Hebrews 2 we see this curious quote from Psalm 22:22: “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” These words are attributed to Jesus himself, who is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Isn’t that amazing? For worship leaders, the hope that gives us both humility and also confidence in leading God’s people is that Jesus himself leads us and sings with us. When we begin to experience Jesus’s presence with us as we lead, temptations toward self-glory and misuse of power begin to diminish, and we lead more creatively, more selflessly, and more fruitfully.

I long for that in my own ministry—maybe you do, too. Let’s pray for a greater awareness of Christ’s transforming presence in the midst of our church gatherings, and may we experience renewal and revival as a result.



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