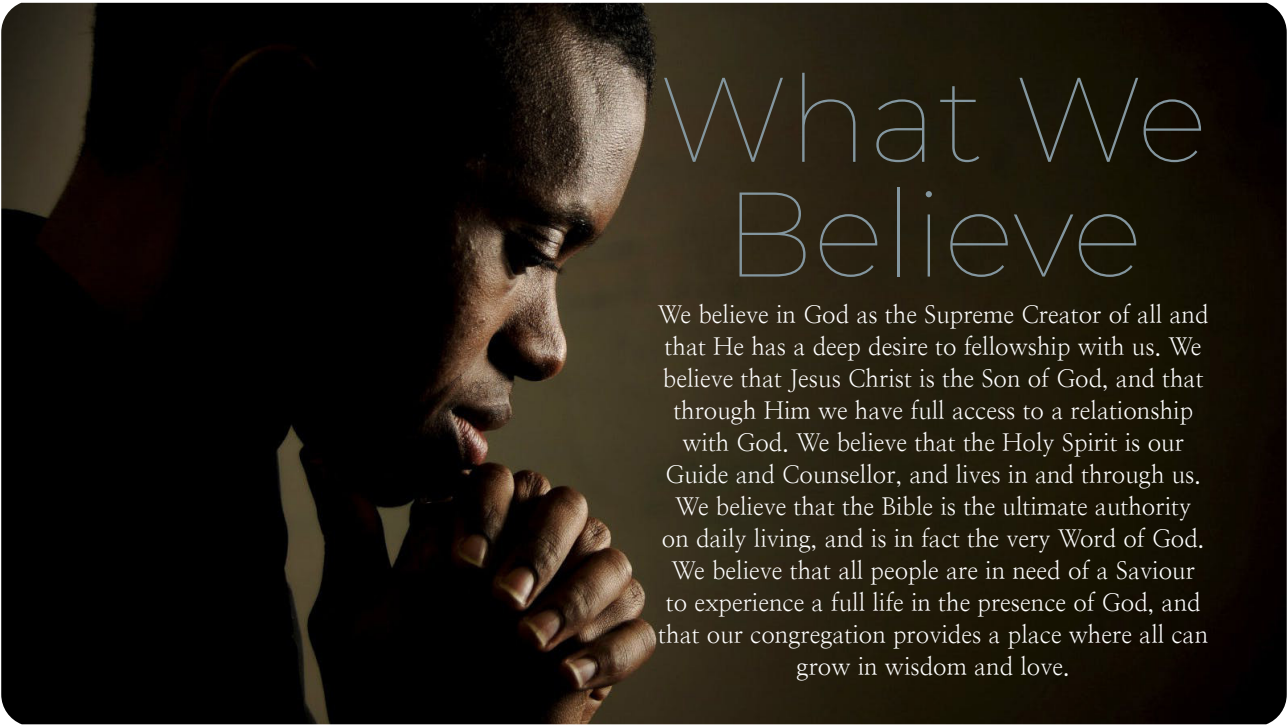


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What We Believe

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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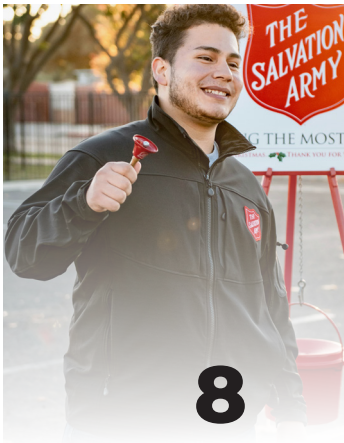
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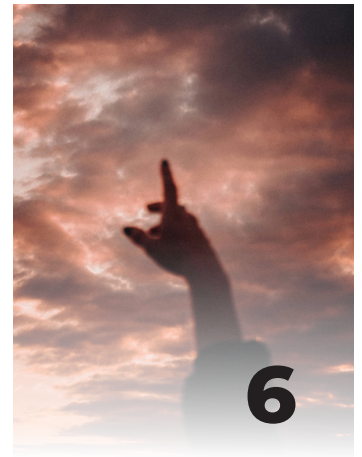
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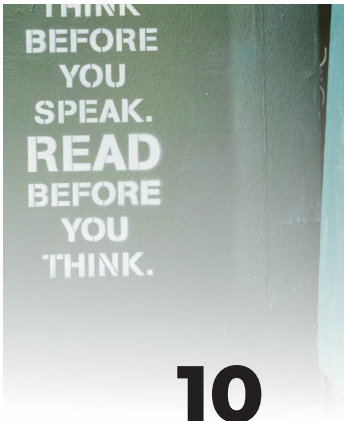


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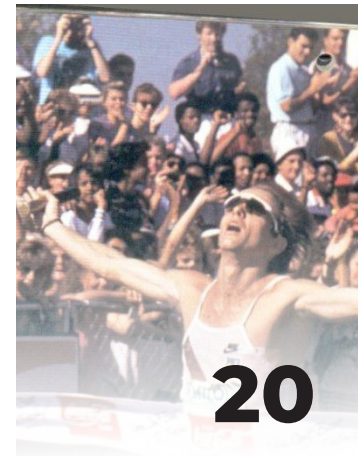


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EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

the uncertainties we face in everyday life - relationships, economy and emotions - and we literally have some type of spiritual pot-luck on our hands. The truth on the other hand is simple - we can know the perfect will of God no matter what our circumstances are. While we all know it, it does help to hear it again every now and then and to remind ourselves of the simplicity of the matter. The will of God for each of us is primarily to have a meaningful relationship with Him. And again, it isn't just simply for the sake of the relationship per se; it is about the fact that in that one relationship we find the fulfilment of our created destiny. Yes, we are simply a mud pie without the very Breath that sustains our life, and that Breath within us is what makes all humans "tick" and function to full capacity. Hence we find the fulfilment of dreams and plans within the very life we receive as a gift.


Secondly, our relationship with God leads us to the second, critical aspect in the will of God: our life must be lived (designed to be lived) in such a way as to positively impact people around us. We have the ability to influence the circumstances around the people we share our life with, so that they themselves may see the fulfilment of their own plans and dreams.

Our relationship with God and with others would not have a departure point if it were not for the realization that we are made in the image and after the likeness of God. As such we should consider our own lives as a gift first, and live in loving appreciation of that gift! In the full realization of these three aspects we find the perfect will of God, and everything else in life will simply fall in place.

Use the second part of this year to pursue this then: love the Lord, love others, and love who God made you to be. Then at the end of this short time (12 months in all) stand amazed at how God made things to work out, and how He managed to lead you to the fulfilment of your dreams and visions.

We are officially in the second half of the year, and as always, this presents us with the opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished and what still remains to be achieved. At the start of each year, we sometimes commit to certain resolutions and short-term goals we would like to achieve in the year ahead. I trust that you are well on your way to achieving most of these. The beauty of these goals we set for ourselves is that God gives us the power to come up with many creative ideas, and then, as long as we place these before Him, He would choose to establish them. The beauty itself doesn't lie so much in the fact that we can make plans, but the fact that God takes pleasure in seeing these become reality as we strive to keep them in line with His will.

Now, I have reflected much on the will of God; often we tend to treat this as some obscure concept, as some inexplicable extra-terrestrial mindset we have difficulty in figuring out. Combine this uncertainty with



LOOK AT HOW MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT YOU'VE FOUND IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANOINTED ONE! YOU ARE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING WITH HIS COMFORTING LOVE. YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED A DEEPENING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HAVE FELT HIS TENDER AFFECTION AND MERCY. SO I'M ASKING YOU, MY FRIENDS, THAT YOU BE JOINED TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY—WITH ONE HEART, ONE PASSION, AND UNITED IN ONE LOVE. WALK TOGETHER WITH ONE HARMONIOUS PURPOSE AND YOU WILL FILL MY HEART WITH UNBOUNDED JOY. BE FREE FROM PRIDE-FILLED OPINIONS, FOR THEY WILL ONLY HARM YOUR CHERISHED UNITY. DON'T ALLOW SELF-PROMOTION TO HIDE IN YOUR HEARTS, BUT IN AUTHENTIC HUMILITY PUT OTHERS FIRST AND VIEW OTHERS AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES. ABANDON EVERY DISPLAY OF SELFISHNESS. POSSESS A GREATER CONCERN FOR WHAT MATTERS TO OTHERS INSTEAD OF YOUR OWN INTERESTS. AND CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE THAT JESUS, THE ANOINTED ONE, HAS SET BEFORE US. LET HIS MINDSET BECOME YOUR MOTIVATION.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (TPT)

THE POWERFUL WEAPON OF GRACE

André & Jenny Roebert

The prophets have spoken, and the Spirit of The Lord has stirred hearts of believers all over the world that this is the year of “Great Grace”! The words of Jesus echo in my heart from Luke 4:18-19, where He declares, “The Spirit of The Lord is upon me... to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound].”

Can it be that in a time where devastation and calamity seem to be on the increase globally, God still declares that His favor and grace will profusely abound? I believe that this most certainly is true for every believer who chooses to take a hold of this promise by faith. More than ever before, the time has come where born-again believers need to have a clear revelation of who they are in Christ Jesus and begin to purposefully live by faith in the reality of God’s promises.

To experience this successfully, we need to understand the grace of God that is available to us.

What Is Grace?

Did you know that in a quick study, I found 154 references to grace in the Bible? From this study, I also found that ‘grace’ was referred to in the following ways:

His favor

In Genesis 6:8, Noah found favor in the eyes of The Lord. When we see ourselves as God sees us, we see His favor. His unconditional love and acceptance of us, through His Son Jesus, is far more gracious than our own opinion of ourselves.

God's help

Many scriptures refer to how God’s people made it through difficult times by the grace of God.

God's strength and power

Scripture teaches that God’s grace is sufficient for us, and a true strength when we are weak.

God's gift

The Word of God refers to God’s grace as an unearned, unmerited, undeserved favor from God to us through Jesus.

God's wisdom, blessing and mercy, and salvation

When we sum it all up, God’s grace is everything that comes to us through salvation and encompasses the victory in life to inherit every promise from His word.

God's Grace is a Powerful Weapon, Made Available to Every Believer

To gain a clear understanding of this powerful weapon of grace, used to empower every believer, let’s look at an instance in the life of the Apostle Paul. Just like the believers of today, Paul encountered circumstances, people and situations that were placed in his life by the enemy to purposefully discourage him and distract him from fulfilling God’s mandate on his life. He needed Divine strength to live in victory over these hindrances and walk in the reality of every promise given to him in God’s word.

In the book of 2 Corinthians, we read of how Paul was faced with a deliberate hindrance, inspired by the devil, to agitate, frustrate and discourage him. He referred to this problem or hindrance as a ‘thorn in my flesh’. Over the years there have been many opinions concerning what Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” was. The most popular theory amongst scholars and teachers of the word is that whilst Paul was doing the work of The Lord amongst the people, there was a certain man, possessed and inspired by the devil that would constantly interfere or frustrate the work Paul was doing. While Paul was encouraging and working with the believers this man would begin sowing seeds of doubt and strife in their hearts and oppose Paul on every side.

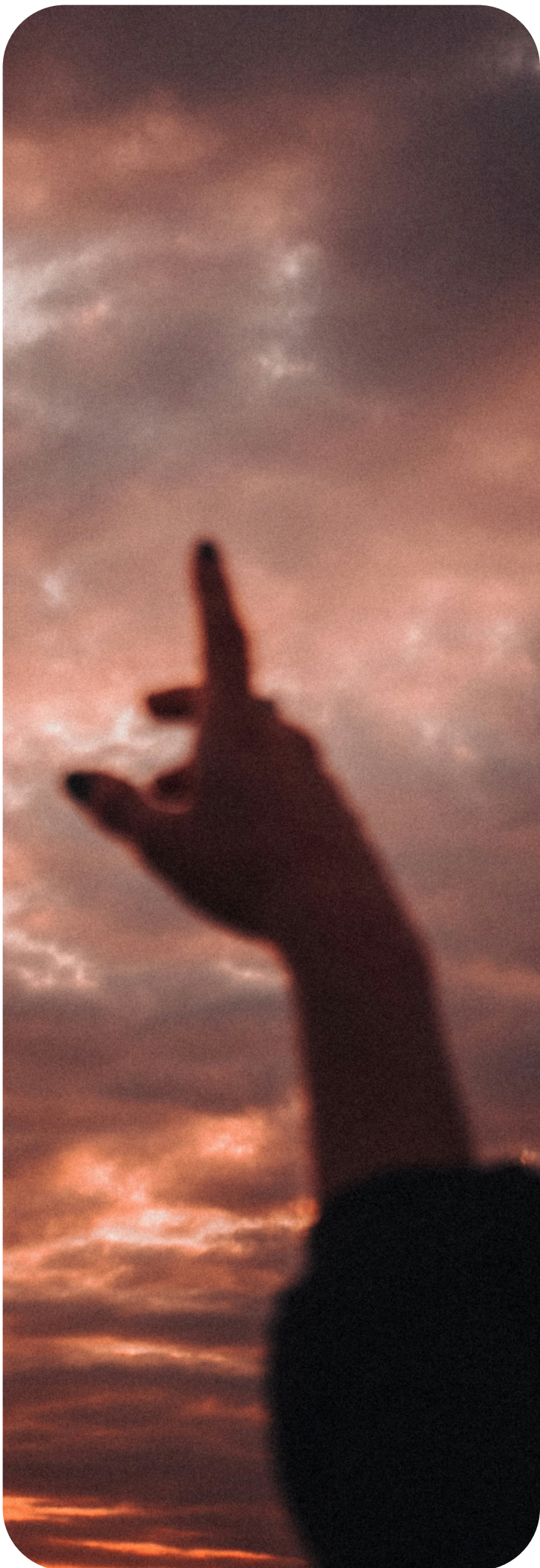
This ‘messenger of Satan, sent to buffet’ him, caused Paul to become extremely discouraged - so much so that Paul called out to The Lord on three different occasions for Him to take this man out of his life!

How many times are we faced with situations, people or circumstances that discourage us to the point of despair? We beg The Lord to intervene and remove the challenge from us, just like Paul. We are convinced that if the hindrance is eliminated and out of the picture, our breakthrough will come! Just like Paul, this thorn in our flesh is stopping us from having victory in a particular area of our lives and ministry.

Well, God did respond to Paul and his desperate plea for help, however, His response was probably not what Paul expected to hear!

“But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving- kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God’s response to Paul was that His grace was all Paul needed to gain victory over his problem. When I spent some time studying



this scripture with reference to the original Greek translation, I began to understand exactly why God responded to Paul with these words. God's grace is an extremely powerful weapon made available to every believer to overcome any attack or successfully oppose any spiritual force sent to deliberately frustrate or hinder God's perfect will from being fulfilled in our lives.

The Greek word for the word 'sufficient' in this verse is 'arkeo'. It means to be sufficient and satisfied; to give more than enough protection, power and help. It denotes a picture of a man who possesses great wealth and huge amount of resources, more than enough to accomplish any endeavour he would ever attempt.

Paul is saying in that verse that God's grace is more than enough to protect you, empower you and help you with any problem you encounter in life. You will find that God's grace is satisfactory to meet all your needs and will make you sufficiently strong to deal with any situation you encounter.

The Greek word for 'strength' in this verse is 'dunamis', the word also used to describe dynamic power. This is the strength that releases sufficient power and possesses the ability to make the necessary changes. What changes are we talking about? Well, most often in life, changes in our circumstances are a direct result of the change in our perspective and attitude towards those circumstances.

Paul needed a new surge of Divine power that would change his perspective and empower him to successfully overcome his struggles.

The Greek word for 'weakness' is 'astheneo'. It describes a person who feels weak, unsettled and distressed. Paul was not speaking of physical disease, or he would have used the word 'asthenes', and it confirms he was talking about distressing and unsettling emotions because of the conflicting circumstances he was facing.

God's promise to Paul and us, when we chose to open our hearts to Him and humble ourselves by casting the cares on Him, acknowledging our weakness (can't carry the burden on our own), is that His strength would be made perfect in us.

The Greek word for 'perfect' here is 'teleo'. It means perfection, completion or something that is mature. The thing to notice here is that the Greek tense here accentuates the continuing action. It means that this inflow of supernatural strengthening power is not just made available sometimes, but it is available continuously, all the time.

This verse can be translated like this, "My power is constantly being perfected in you whenever you feel weak, and it will transform your thinking and inwardly fortify you to live successfully in life."

God's grace is a powerful weapon that will empower. It puts us in a position to see our circumstances from His perspective. Understanding that the God within us has all the power, wisdom and ability to cause every obstacle or challenge to be overcome changes everything! Next month I will share with you how to practically activate this powerful weapon of grace in your life. In spite of the challenges you face right now, and no matter how weak you may feel, when you activate God's grace in your life, you will walk in the fullness of a victorious life.

TEMPTED TO DO GOOD

Joyce Meyer

When you think of the word “temptation,” what comes to mind? A bunch of stuff you know you shouldn’t do, right? But the truth is we’re also tempted to do right things. See, God and the devil are constantly at war over our souls because they both want to work through us to reach other people. God wants us to love people and bless them, and Satan wants us to use people and hurt them. Unfortunately, many of us are better at resisting God’s “temptations” rather than the devil’s.

The question we need to ask ourselves each day is: Who am I going to give in to? In other words, which temptation am I going to take?

What I Learned from a Watch and a Bracelet

I remember this watch I used to wear. It wasn’t worth much—I think I paid about \$20 for it. Well, one day someone told me how much they liked it and right away, God tempted me to give it to them. I must admit I successfully resisted that temptation.

It might have blessed them greatly, but all I could think of at that moment was how much I liked the

watch and how I didn’t want to give it away.

Another day, I was wearing a bracelet and a man complimented me about it saying, “My wife would really like a bracelet like that.” Again, God tempted me to give something away. That day I was strong in the spirit and I slipped it right off my wrist and gave it to him. My flesh didn’t like it. But I knew in my heart I did the right thing.

You see, when we give in to God’s temptations, our flesh may be in momentary pain, but it’s a pain we can live with and ultimately be happy about. On the other hand, when we refuse God’s temptations, all we end up with is regret.

Learning to Yield to the Right Temptations

I love my daily walk with God. I love being led by Him. If you’re going to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, every day will be an adventure because you never know what He’s going to come up with on any given day. And I believe it takes a real closeness with God to just get up every day and follow Him.

It simply works like this: I spend a lot of time with God, reading His Word and praying so that when I wake up each morning and go about my day, His plans are already on my heart. Yes, I still make mistakes, but when I do, I don’t have to be condemned because I know that I want to do what’s right and I’m trusting God to keep working with me on the issues in my life.

The good news is, as long as you’re continually seeking God and making progress in your walk with Him, He counts it as if you’ve already arrived.

The greater One who lives in you really is greater than he who is in the world. He’s given you His heart and He’s put His Spirit in you—and because of that, you’re able to do all kinds of wonderful things that will bless other people.

So when you wake up each morning, my challenge for you is to simply ask God: What can I do to bless You today? And when He tells you, don’t resist the temptation to obey.



THE GOOD NEWS IS, AS LONG AS YOU'RE CONTINUALLY SEEKING GOD AND MAKING PROGRESS IN YOUR WALK WITH HIM, HE COUNTS IT AS IF YOU'VE ALREADY ARRIVED.

EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Martie Du Plessis

The greatest power that we can give to a child is through education. The messages you feed an impressionable mind over the years determines a worldview, a future, a destiny, and positive attitude of the heart. Many hearts together - good or bad - form a nation, a movement, a culture, and a godly or ungodly soul. The labour force in any nation is hugely affected by its educational strategies.

This is the reason why so much effort and finance are allocated toward the education of people. That is why any leader in a nation, community, church or business will ask what can be done to address a dysfunctional educational scenario. The emphasis of this article is to say to leaders that there is a workable approach to be investigated that will add great value to the future of this country.

In the Sunday Times of 14 July 2013, even young leaders, who called themselves “change drivers” said: “A shift needs to happen in South Africa, and it needs our generation to lead it.” With “our generation” it means the younger generation, those under 30, I presume. My questions are, What kind of direction will they bring? and, Will these ventures truly affect the heart of man?

To bring about true change in education, it principally needs to belong to the right domain of authority as instituted by God. Education and the disciplining of the heart (the forming of character) goes hand-in-hand, and this matter belongs firstly to the parent of the child. Where parents play a major role in the education process, whether through established Christian schools or home education, there is evidence of success stories. True change in hearts comes where worldview is taught and caught, explained and modelled. Parents were foremost ordained by God for this task and then any other institution should only be an extension of the parent.

The home education movement has grown extensively over the last years to more than 100 000 home educators in South Africa and predications are that there will be about 360 000 home educators by next year (according to the statistical growth of 75% yearly where home education is done). The United States currently has over 2,3 million home educators. It is true that not all families can go for this possibility, yet all parents share a common concern about their children, particularly where education is concerned. No parent needs to fall prey to a dysfunctional educational process since it is the task of the parent to protect his or her child in such a system.

Headmasters of schools are continually asking me to come and speak at their conferences and explain why so many families would take their children out of school. Their main concern is what they can do to change it, or how they can prevent parents from taking their kids out of public schools. The answer is for sure not in erecting another large school structure with the best facilities like the one recently opened in the Eastern Cape by private institutions. For many this model provide a solution but it is far from a definitive answer.

It is time that we realise that something different is needed in our current economic climate. According to recent research a different approach would include a “network of people and resources involved in providing educational resources” (www.21stcenturyskillbook.com). There is an African proverb that states: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).

It is clear that the best education, even in a high technological era with fast digital tools, require people with a clear perspective of where they are taking the ones they train. I believe the answer for education in this country lies in small learning centres where parents play a major role, and where they have the most influence in the mentoring and ethos of the children involved. This can also include suitable role models and educators other than the parent. These centres would be a place where character training plays a more important role than facilities and where young people are job creators and not job seekers by the age of 18.

The answer is to have a powerful tool that can shape the direction in education for the future and to be able to give leadership to people that want to make a difference. I believe that the following should be included in this plan:

- Learning centres with smaller numbers rather than big schools. These centre can be at an office where the dad works, a church with concerned parents or community centre with like minded families.
- Parental involvement of all parents of the children involved, where parents with specific expertise will bring another dimension of real world education. It will provide numerous people and resources and gifting to provide a clearer learning path for their children.
- A strong emphasis on Biblical character development from very young with real-life application.
- Mentorship programmes in small groups focussed on a relationship with the child.
- Individual gifting in children will be acknowledged and a learning path will be worked out for each child.
- Resources and material more in line with 21st -Century realities; for example, not a great emphasis on exams so much but rather on feedback in various ways.
- Centre to have studios to allow learners to present work through digital tools relevant to their times.
- At the age of 17 the young adults should give back to their own centres, investing into the lives of others. This is done by a year of in-house service.
- At the age of 18 they leave the centre to go for further studies or start their own business, being the ‘salt of the earth.’

- These young people will have a portfolio of training completed that will be a reflection of their true character, academic performance, gifts and passions and how they have applied themselves over a period of many years. It will also give an indication of their character growth and how it affected their interdependent relationships.

Companies will snatch these children as they will be different because of their character, mentoring process, and their wide and multi-skilled abilities. Their hearts will for the most part be positively changed and their worldview established. They will be able to be leaders in the information economy rather than victims of it.

The biggest change that needs to come in the outcome of education in this country is the re-education of the adult, policy maker, or parent to create places for real change. Our assessment strategies also need to change from an assessment of people who qualify as opposed to people who are disqualified through the results of standardized testing.

Leaders in the country that concur “enough is enough” can start their own learning centres with teachers of their own choice, their own values and their own outcomes. Churches, businesses and individuals can make a difference by offering their followers places of real life training in a safe environment.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BEST EDUCATION, EVEN IN A HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL ERA WITH FAST DIGITAL TOOLS, REQUIRE PEOPLE WITH A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY ARE TAKING THE ONES THEY TRAIN.



The word of God tells us clearly in the book of 1 Samuel 12:24 “We are to consider what great things he has done for us.”

I have never been a person to live in the past, but sometimes it is good for us to look and see how God has provided all our needs right from the beginning of our lives. We need to retrace our steps, and then we need to thank him for all the things He did for us when we were not even aware of it. Some of us were not even Christians when He was protecting us and helping us from not making terrible decisions that we would regret for the rest of our lives.

We need to thank Jesus for everything, literally for breath that we breathe every day and for helping us when we have really been struggling and he has lifted us up, put us back on our feet, and given us new opportunities.

Today, let's take time to sit quietly and count our blessings, and thank our Lord, for He is indeed a Mighty God.





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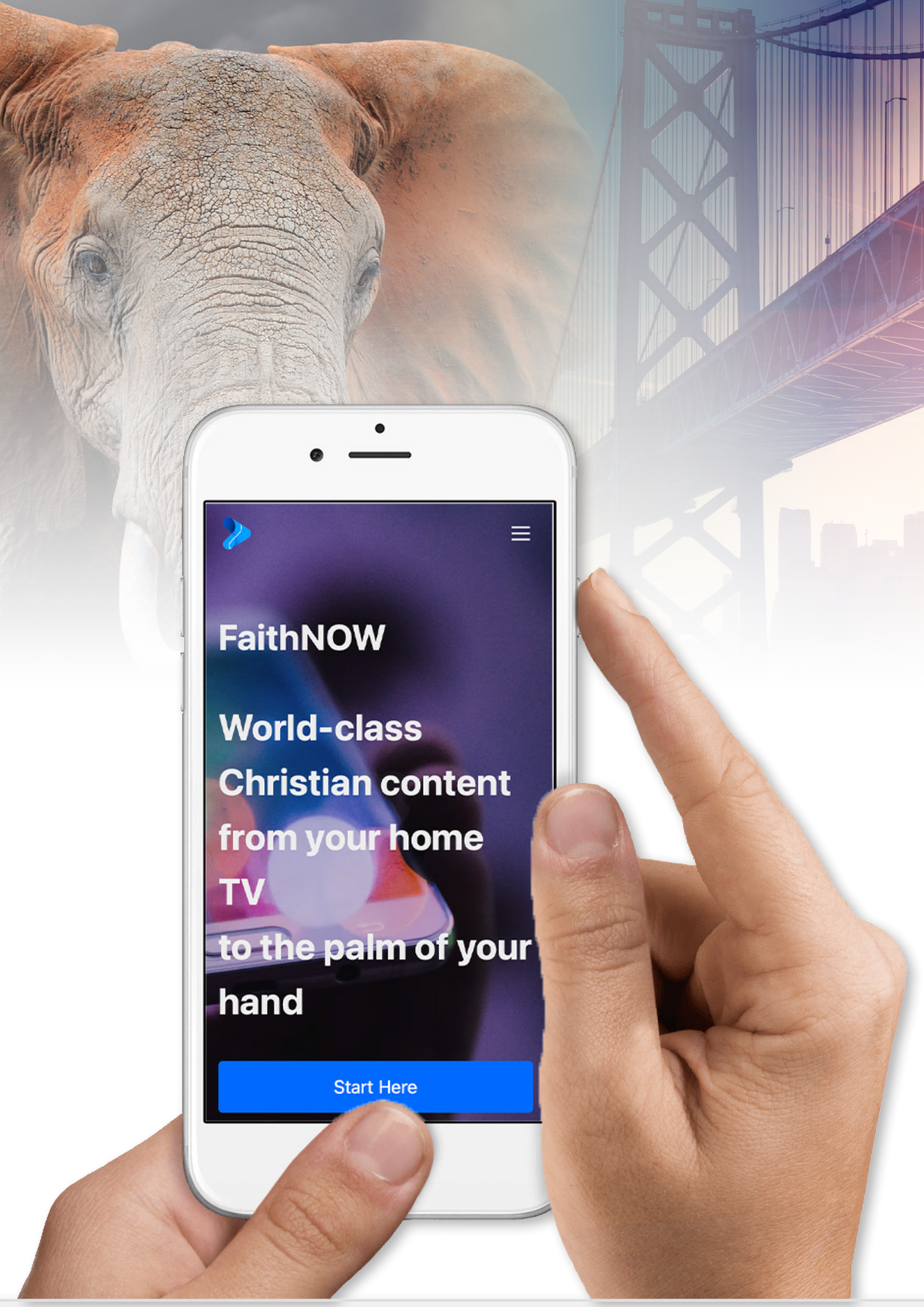


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WHAT LEADERS COULD LEARN FROM THE MAFIA

Phil Cooke



Watching films like “The Godfather” or “Goodfellas,” you notice pretty quickly that the Mafia has a rule: Take care of loose ends. They knew that ANYONE who was a victim, witness, or knew anything about a crime needed to be taken out. The only way to keep it quiet was to eliminate anyone who could talk. In fact, in many cases, the hitman himself was eventually taken out by a more trusted hitman.

In other words, the Mafia has always known that you can’t hide anything. As long as witnesses or victims are alive, most will eventually talk and reveal the truth.

Obviously, that’s an exaggerated comparison when it comes to recent revelations of sexual abuse in the church, but the lesson is that in a church or ministry setting, whatever your sin, transgression, or mistake, you can never keep the injured party or witness quiet.

Did some of the recent pastors and leaders who’ve been forced to step down actually not think that the victim would eventually talk? A lovechild will grow up, abuse victims will speak out, and an injured party will tell someone.

Plus, as we’ve seen repeatedly, secret payments, non-disclosure agreements, and threats simply don’t work—and they shouldn’t.

That’s why whatever you’ve done, you need to come out with it before the other party does.

BEFORE SPIRITUAL LEADERS FALL, WHY DOESN'T THEIR INNER CIRCLE HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE?

That's a question that's been repeated over and over in light of a number of recent moral failures by several high-profile church and ministry leaders. I'm not a psychologist or counselor, but from a communications perspective, I've helped numerous churches and ministry organizations navigate some very difficult storms during times of crisis. And while there are many reasons leaders may fail, there are two particular causes for why I believe the leader's inner circle – even when they see problems – don't take action:

1) The inner circle has a very different dynamic with spiritual leaders than with secular leaders.

Keep in mind that in so many cases, many of those members of a leader's inner circle were led to Christ through that pastor or leader. In other cases, the leader had a powerful impact on saving their marriage, helping them through addiction, or counseling them through other challenging times.

In those cases, a person will be very slow to indict a leader who in some way played a key role in their salvation, deliverance, or victory. Plus, because of that impact, they naturally have the greatest respect for the leader and couldn't imagine him or her committing a serious sin.

It may be worth noting that in my experience, these pastors or leaders weren't threatening the staff or even reminding them of their spiritual debt. He wasn't manipulating them in any way. It was just there and the staff member expressed their loyalty because of it.

I saw it in action with a particular church where the pastor made teasing jokes to women in staff

meetings. Joking about the color of their bra, how they looked in a bathing suit, etc. When I brought up how inappropriate it was to the executive pastor, his response was, "Oh, that's just the pastor. Everyone knows he's joking. It doesn't bother anyone. That's the way he is."

When I thought back on that staff meeting, I realized that nearly everyone in the room was spiritually indebted to him in some way. Multiple staff members had been saved through his ministry. One had been through the church's addiction program. Another had been mentored by the pastor. But a few months later, that pastor was caught having an affair.

While corporate or nonprofit leaders can have a major impact on the lives of their team, it's not the same as a pastor or ministry leader. In our company at [Cooke Media Group](#), our entire team feels perfectly free to call me out on bad ideas, dumb decisions, and more. They're not held back by any spiritual guilt that would make them hesitate to do the right thing. And while sometimes that can be more annoying than the unfettered admiration spiritual leaders can get, I wouldn't have it any other way.

2) The second reason – particularly with large churches or ministries – is that people in the inner circle have great jobs.

They're often highly respected, probably make a good salary, and because of their role, have a certain amount of prestige. In those cases, they're going to think twice before taking an action that could bring it all down. Along that line, I read a quote from David French recently related to the Ravi Zacharias situation:

Christian ministries are populated by leadership teams who derive not just their paychecks but also their own public reputations from their affiliation with the famous founder. They're admired in part because the founder is admired. They have influence in part because the founder has influence. When the founder fails, they lose more than a paycheck. There is powerful personal incentive to circle the wagons and to defend the ministry, even when that defense destroys lives.

Years ago, I had a friend who was in the inner circle of a large ministry. While the ministry leader never experienced a failure, it became obvious that people returned my friend's calls because of his role and relationship with the ministry leader. It was proven true a few years later when he left that ministry and was shocked to learn that all the "influence" he thought he previously had with people was only because of his proximity to his former boss.

Please don't take either explanation as a justification or defense of destructive behavior – they're warning signs we need to be aware of in church and ministry leadership. We're all fallen creatures but even in the heat of battle, the spiritual debt we owe another leader or the reputation or prestige that relationship gives us should never overpower the need to stand up when we see wrongdoing.

But it is a reason the pressure is so great to stay quiet. If you're in the inner circle of a large church, ministry, or nonprofit, I'd encourage you to reflect on both situations, and always be on guard that your integrity is stronger than loyalty or your professional success.



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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 enquiries 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
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AN INVESTMENT LESSON FROM **THE COMRADES** **KING**

Paul Leonard



Bruce Fordyce will probably go down in history as the greatest Comrades runner of all time, having won the KZN classic a record 9 times! Think back to Fordyce's glory days in the eighties and imagine that Fordyce's goal was to average 3 minutes and 30 seconds per kilometer, to break the course record. Fordyce was a master at running his own race and we rarely saw him take the lead until late in the race. Fordyce's trump card was not his endurance, his lung capacity, or his ability to run effortlessly up Polly Shorts, it was his incredible self discipline and ability to stick to his plan.

As each race started, the 'TV glory runners' hurtled off into the distance, only to be overtaken by Fordyce's opponents, many of whom were seen as major contenders. At times TV viewers would have been forgiven if they were thinking that Fordyce was having an extra two hours sleep, as he was literally nowhere to be seen for the first few hours. Fordyce had developed a Plan, for which he was well prepared, and he knew that if he stuck to his plan he would come extremely close to achieving his goals. Thus, it did not matter to him how well, or how poorly, his opponents were faring, be it on the ups, the flats or the downs, as he was in the race for the long haul.

Investors also need to realize that if they, in consultation with a Professional Financial Planner, have developed a Financial Plan based upon sound fundamentals, then they need to stick to their plan. An investor should not be distracted by what others are achieving in their investment portfolios and should definitely not allow their emotions to sway them from their goals.

Imagine Bob switched on the TV, as Fordyce was running down Cowies Hill, en route from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. While Fordyce needed to average 3:30 per km to break the record, he may very well have been running close to 3 min per km on this downhill stretch and the commentator could have said, "Fordyce is way ahead of record pace!" Based upon this narrow view of the race, you awaken your wife and encourage her to come and watch, at which stage Fordyce is now running up Fields Hill at 5:00/km. A commentator is heard to say, "Fordyce is way off record pace", at which stage your wife decides it's time to go back to bed. These narrow views, or snapshots, nor the performances of his peers, did not sway Fordyce into changing his tactics and investors could well take a leaf out of Fordyce's book and stick to their plans. The longer Fordyce stuck to his Plan, the greater his chance of success and the longer you are invested, the more your investment will behave like its generalization, or benchmark.

My colleague Alec Riddle CFP competes at an international level in his age group in the grueling Iron Man race. He has qualified to compete in the world champs in Hawaii in October this year. Alec fares equally well in the financial planning profession where he won the South African Financial Planner of the year award for 2009.

He combined these two areas of expertise and wrote a sporting metaphor which explains an important investment lesson. Here is the story as told by Alec Riddle CFP:

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TRUST EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

Shalane Moodley



We have all heard that we should trust God even when we don't know what is going on and in this season we really need to grab hold of this. Trusting the Lord does not only happen when things are great and we are on the high road, trusting happens in the valley as well. I believe that trusting is most important when we are at our lowest when we feel hopeless.

Recently my family and I have been through loss due to COVID-19. To now, we are still troubled by this but we still choose to trust the Lord.

Sometimes the road may look long and tedious, but God says "TRUST".

Job says, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face". (Job 13 v15 NIV)

We need to adopt the mindset of Job. Everything

was taken away from him, yet he hoped and trusted in the Lord.

The circumstances in the world today seem so hopeless, yet we serve a God who is far greater than COVID. We serve a God who can do ALL things. Our God is greater, bigger, more powerful.

Stop glorifying COVID and start giving Jesus the praise.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Phil 4 v6 NIV)

The Word of God explicitly tells us not to be anxious about anything. What then is stressing you out? what then is causing you to live a life that is less than what your Father created for you?

COVID? No, my dear friends. Don't be anxious about COVID. Jesus is BIGGER, GREATER, and MORE POWERFUL.

I implore you today, speak to your Father, and make your requests known to Him because ONLY He can deliver us my dear friends in Christ.

There is healing and power in the name of Jesus. He is in control, and He can take us out victorious.

Don't look at this virus, I believe it is a sneaky crafty plot of Satan to distract the children of God. There is greater work to be done in the Kingdom. Souls must be saved, and people need you to pray for them.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done." (Rev 22 v12 NIV)

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.faihgj.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



OUR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



FACEBOOK

MyFaith TV – myfaithtv
NXT - theNXTlive
FaithNOW - faithnowapp

Faith Church Buffalo City - faithchurchbuffalocity
Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples

André & Jenny – andrejenny

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

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ONLINE

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ON CAMPUS

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.

[VISIT FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE](#)



GAP YEAR

After spending an average of 12 years in some sort of educational institution, every young person is faced with one of the biggest questions of their life. What am I going to do now?

[VISIT BEYOND ADVENTURE](#)

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.

CONTEMPORARY PILGRIMS

Melanie Voigt



This year has been a really difficult one for me. I've been studying and working full time, and it's proved to be a real challenge. To top it all off, my husband and I have also moved to a new area and have therefore needed to look for a new church. It's been a year of change and uncertainty. I've felt much like a pilgrim actually, someone who has journeyed to a foreign land, some place strange and unknown.

I guess we all feel like that sometimes. Especially during times of change, like when we start a new job, enter a new phase of life, move to another city or even country. At first it all seems so exciting, but soon we find ourselves feeling insecure in a place that seems so foreign to us. Suddenly we start to question why we are where we are, we question God's plans for us. We start to doubt Him.

The Israelites were also pilgrims when Moses led them through the desert to the Promised Land. When they were freed from Egypt they were excited about the new home that God had promised them. But, after years of travelling through foreign lands, they became impatient and were unhappy with God. They questioned and doubted Him. When I read through their journey in the Old Testament I always get really frustrated with the Israelites. God keeps providing for them yet they keep turning their backs on Him. They even started worshipping idols when Moses left them alone while he went to speak with God on Mount Sinai.

What I've come to realise though is that we are pretty similar to the Israelites. Sometimes God leads us through an unfamiliar territory for a reason but because we are unsure of it or because the journey seems hard, we doubt Him. He takes care of us throughout the journey, yet all we notice is the difficulties that we're experiencing. God has something really amazing in store for us in the foreign land, but we grow impatient. Sometimes we

might even start putting other things before God, worshipping them as idols.

What do we do to avoid becoming ungrateful pilgrims? Firstly, we need to have accountability. We need to surround ourselves with people who will encourage us and remind us that God loves us and that even though we might be suffering now, God will use the time for something greater than we can imagine. This is where church is so important. We also need to remember that even though situations and people change, God never does. Hebrews 13:8 says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." No matter what we are going through we can rely on Him. We can know that He is always looking out for our best interests and will always be there when we need Him.

Earlier on I spoke about how a pilgrim is someone who journeys to foreign lands. I was looking at several definitions of the word recently and there was another definition that grabbed my attention. It stated that a pilgrim is a religious devotee who journeys to a sacred place. When we feel that we are in a foreign land, we should be more 'contemporary' pilgrims and view the whole experience as something sacred or blessed. We should be devoted to God, ready and enthusiastic to go on a new journey, expecting Him to do amazing things. The sacred place that we are journeying to is the place where we get to know God better and realise that obedience is better than sacrifice.

Even though this year is still difficult and this foreign land is not very friendly, I refuse to doubt God. I will be a contemporary pilgrim, devoted to God and willing to take the difficult journey to get where He wants me to be. It's not always easy and I do fear the unknown at times, but I know my 'known' God will get me through it all. He will do the same for you.

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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Hi boys and girls,

Have you ever played the game "Simon says?" Lyric and I play it quite often. If Simon says to do something, you do it, but if Simon doesn't say to do it, you don't do it. It's quite a fun game, isn't it? Sometimes it can be confusing, we get the instruction wrong and we end up doing things that Simon doesn't tell us to do.

In the same way God sometimes speaks to us, tells us to do things and we don't do it. Instead we do our own things or listen to what others tell us to do, even if it isn't the right thing to do. For example, if someone tells you that you are ugly and God tells you that you are wonderfully made, who would you listen to and believe? God of course! It's important for us to remember what God says and follow what He wants for us to do and believe.

Did you know the Devil also tries to tell you to do things that you shouldn't? The Bible says, "Thou shalt not lie" but when you break your mother's vase and she asks if you know how it got broken, Satan will say, "Don't tell the truth. If you tell the truth, it will just get you into more trouble."

How do we know what God is saying? We pray, listen carefully to the Holy Spirit and we read the Bible, God's word.

Simon says, "Listen and follow God's voice." Simon says, "Read your Bible." Simon says, "Don't listen to the Devil." Simon says, "Don't believe what others say about you but who God says you are." Simon says, "Pray."

Prayer

PRAYER:

Father we thank You for giving us Your Word, that we may know what You are saying. We ask that You help us to listen and follow Your voice carefully. Help us not to listen to the devil. Help us to read our Bible's and know Your Word. In Jesus Name AMEN.

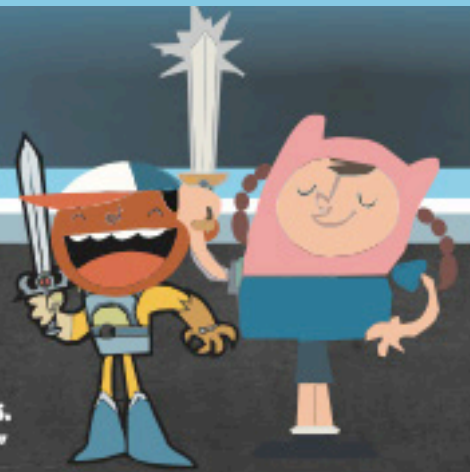




Faith Kidz



NEW



SAMUEL HEARS FROM GOD

During the days of Eli, God seldom speak to people through dreams and visions. But one day, while everyone is sleeping, God called Samuel, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel thought Eli called him so he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am." Eli answered, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep." So Samuel go back to his mat and sleep. God called Samuel again, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel ran to Eli again and answered, "Here I am." Eli said to Samuel, "I didn't call you. Go back to your bed." God never spoke to Samuel before so Samuel was not familiar with His voice. God called Samuel a third time, saying, "Samuel! Samuel!" So Samuel got up and ran to Eli again and he said, "Master, here I am. What can I do for you?" Eli realized that the voice that had been calling Samuel is the Lord so he said to Samuel, "The next time you hear the voice calling your name, say, 'Lord, Here I am. What can I do for you?'" Samuel went back to lie down on his bed. God stood beside Samuel and said, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Lord, Here I am. What do you want me to do for you?" God said to Samuel, "I am going to punish Eli and his two sons Hopni and Phinehas because they had shown disrespect on the sacrifices the people offered to me." The next day, Samuel woke up and walked into the temple of the Lord. Samuel didn't went ahead to tell Eli what the Lord had spoken to him because he was afraid of Eli. But Eli said to Samuel, "Samuel, my little boy, come and tell me everything that God had spoken to you last night. If you don't tell me what God told you, I pray that God will punish you." So Samuel told Eli everything the Lord had told him.

PEOPLE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Search through the letters to discover the names of people from the Old Testament.

OVPHTIVIFDAHCNDXLAZLARTLDDFN IW
 JMZAAYLYDFAMCPYSGUXIFHQWGAKPZH
 OHINZAKDEYCXBAYMGRADATRBWECRKL
 6VYNRBRJONAHFPZXTJCNLOYWJGNZLA
 ELOAKOKOWQTYRWAIKTONJLZHVTWLET
 POEHFCKJNJHREWRLRLWOGJOGYHQDRF
 HRYNAHQDCWABWQMROLNCABELVEQQEO
 THTFYAMSTXRDNMZCZAWVXAHHARTWBO
 PUXZWBHGYAPDMWXTMOUFPKNOAHECR
 GIDEONAVEHSPVPHCMKWVJXYOVDQKR
 NRCWIRENMHLISAPPEIEJOSHUAOFPAU
 ZBRRUMLOLTBATNKJEEELGHAIMEREJHEE
 QVWSHIGAUUOPQWRDOTPJHVEUQJFLQG
 JISYBENKARJLBKAWSHFBRMKTKZCLOA
 DMTNSOVPSDANIELHFFZHKBAUVUIIUU
 ZKMOVICCEPBAQSSAGFLUYCAXEPEVXIEE
 NCJGEIBVHWUZPTSTNOACOR6FLBIOPEE
 NBMMD6STEMYBHMOMVLAQCTORACHELGV
 DMUAYEWNRYGDAEUXEQZTRWCALEBBXU
 P8FSLQRZBUFOHNZOUXVWFTVURWJHLE
 XNAWKBEBSGLGAONKMJACOBCEPNPDLCB
 BIRMETZXGXCRBCQCAZNXQXXAFWQVPS
 XIMWAHAIMEHENBHTSSMADAZFIIDMZHC
 XAETMCARYVVKALNOWFPWIGDHMNUYMG
 BJKFBIZURXUHMILFAIWINICXGZCHN
 ONHNFBLWCTIDAGOVMUXKIVELRTGFT
 BEYNJISGAACYDGGUQMHCCKCTAQSJKJMZ
 JBOBAGZMXHLNRJOGSHAISIDOOMGZZN
 OMLNLSAYQKJDDKANNVQWANVMRARAAN
 KHMTPHWPSTBJULELEIJAHHAKRNUMWSD

Aaron	Eno	Jonathan	Samuel
Abel	Esther	Joseph	Sarah
Abraham	Eve	Joshua	Saul
Ahime	Shileon	Leah	Solomon
Benjamin	Hannah	Lct	
Cain	Isaac	Moses	
Caleb	Ismael	Nehemiah	
Daniel	Isiah	Noah	
David	Jacob	Rachel	
Elijah	Jeremiah	Rebekah	
Elisha	Job	Ruth	
Enosh	Jonah	Samson	

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BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK 27 - 39 | JULY - SEPTEMBER

S•O•A•P



SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION
APPLICATION • PRAYER

WEEK27

- 1 KINGS 10-11; 2 CHR 9; 7 TIM 6
- ECCLESIASTES 1-3; PSALM 45; 2 TIM 1
- ECCLESIASTES 4-6; PSALM 125; 2 TIM 2
- ECCLESIASTES 7-9; PSALM 46; 2 TIM 3
- ECCLESIASTES 10-12; 2 TIM 4

WEEK28

- 1 KINGS 12; 2 CHR 10-11; TITUS 1
- 1 KINGS 13-14; 2 CHR 12; PS 47; TITUS 2
- 1 KINGS 15; 2 CHR 13-14; TITUS 3
- 2 CHR 15-16; 1 KINGS 16; PHILEMON
- 1 KINGS 17-18; PSALM 119; JUDE

WEEK29

- 1 KINGS 19-21; 2 CHR 17; PS 129; MATT 1
- 1 KINGS 22; 2 CHR 18; MATT 2
- 2 CHR 19-20; 2 KINGS 1; PSALM 20; MATT 3
- 2 KINGS 2-3; PSALM 48; MATT 4
- 2 KINGS 4-6; MATT 5

WEEK30

- 2 KINGS 7-8; 2 CHR 21; MATT 6
- 2 KINGS 9-10; PSALM 49; MATT 7
- 2 CHR 22-23; 2 KINGS 11; PSALM 131; MATT 8
- 2 CHR 24; 2 KINGS 12; PSALM 50; MATT 9
- JOEL; MATT 10

WEEK31

- JONAH; MATTHEW 11
- 2 KINGS 13-14; 2 CHR 25; PS 53; MATTHEW 12
- AMOS 1-3; MATTHEW 13
- AMOS 4-6; PSALM 55; MATTHEW 14
- AMOS 7-9; MATTHEW 15

WEEK32

- HOSEA 1-3; MATTHEW 16
- HOSEA 4-6; PSALM 58; MATT 17
- HOSEA 7-10; MATTHEW 18
- HOSEA 11-13; MATTHEW 19
- HOSEA 14; 2 CHR 26-27; PS 61; MATTHEW 20

WEEK33

- 2 KINGS 15-16; MATTHEW 21
- ISAIAH 1-3; PSALM 9; MATT 22
- ISAIAH 4-6; MATT 23
- MICAH 1-4; PSALM 10; MATT 24
- MICAH 5-7; MATT 25

WEEK34

- ISAIAH 7-10; PSALM 22; MATT 26
- ISAIAH 11-13; PSALM 118; MATTHEW 27
- ISAIAH 14-16; MATTHEW 28
- ISAIAH 17-19; PSALM 62; 7 CORINTHIANS 1
- ISAIAH 20-22; 7 CORINTHIANS 2

WEEK35

- ISAIAH 23-25; 7 CORINTHIANS 3
- ISAIAH 26-29; PSALM 65; 7 CORINTHIANS 4
- ISAIAH 30-32; 7 CORINTHIANS 5
- ISAIAH 33-35; 7 CORINTHIANS 6
- 2 CHR 28; 2 KINGS 17; PSALM 66; 7 CORINTHIANS 7

WEEK36

- 2 CHR 29-31; 7 COR 8
- 2 KINGS 18-19; 2 CHR 32; PS 67; 7 COR 9
- ISAIAH 36-37; PSALM 123; 7 COR 10
- 2 KINGS 20; ISAIAH 38-40; PSALM 68; 7 COR 11
- ISAIAH 41-44; 7 COR 12

WEEK37

- ISAIAH 45-48; 7 COR 13
- ISAIAH 49-52; PSALM 69; 7 COR 14
- ISAIAH 53-55; PSALM 128; 7 COR 15
- ISAIAH 56-59; PSALM 70; 7 COR 16
- ISAIAH 60-63; 2 COR 1

WEEK38

- ISAIAH 64-66; 2 COR 2
- 2 KINGS 21; 2 CHR 33; PSALM 71; 2 COR 3
- NAHUM; PSALM 149; 2 COR 4
- 2 KINGS 22-23; PSALM 73; 2 COR 5
- 2 CHR 34-35; 2 COR 6

WEEK39

- HABAKKUK; 2 COR 7
- ZEPHANIAH; PSALM 74; 2 COR 8
- JEREMIAH 1-4; PSALM 130; 2 COR 9
- JEREMIAH 5-7; PSALM 75; 2 COR 10
- JEREMIAH 8-10; 2 COR 11

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THE CROSS & WORSHIP

Waldo Malan



What can one add to the canon of writings that are in existence on the Cross of Jesus Christ? Is there anything left to be said that hasn't already, in one form or another, been said? Therefore, the aim of this article is not to add anything, but rather to remind and to underscore the importance of the Cross as a living symbol in our daily walk of worship. In essence then, I would like to focus more on aspects of worship as highlighted through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

As Christians we should be recognizable as different from those who aren't. Principally the difference will be reflected in the way we think, speak and act, in other words, in the way we live. We are constantly encouraged to take note of how, where and when we "walk" and of how we conduct ourselves as people who live in the authority of calling themselves children of God. Paul writes, See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-16 MKJV). Throughout Scripture we are constantly reminded

that the lifestyles of those who follow God are different to those who don't. The question we obviously need to answer then is, how do we live this lifestyle? The answer, equally obvious and simple is this: worship God. And here we get to one of the secrets of Christian life: the Christian is as inseparable from their worship of God as Christ is from the Cross.

We cannot look at the Cross and discuss anything pertaining to it if we don't also discuss Jesus Christ. Without Jesus

OUR WORSHIP IS A GIFT FROM GOD IN THE FORM OF A “FAITH DEPOSIT”

Christ the Cross is just another symbol of ancient cruelty and a manner of torturous death. However, by placing Jesus Christ, the Word of God on the Cross, its significance is so great that we battle to find words to explain it. The Cross of Jesus Christ represents everything of Who God is. When we look at the Cross, we are looking at God. 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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:16-17 MKJV). When God gave His Son, and when Jesus gave Himself (John 10:17-18), they did so with the full knowledge that the Cross would become the place of decision; the Cross would become the place where Jesus became sin and the Father would have to avert His eyes from that - a place of separation between Father and Son; the Cross would become the place of decision for future human generations; the Cross would become the guide to a proper lifestyle in the Spirit of God.

We see then that there are certain things that are very important to God the Father, both in terms of us as well as the Cross. Firstly, we need to understand that God has given us the power to satisfy Him; I always like to think that we have the power in us to put a smile on the face of God! This is an awesome thought, don't you think? In Hebrews 11:6 we read that without faith it is impossible to please God. For it is right that the one drawing near to God should believe that He is, and that He becomes a rewarder to the ones seeking Him out. We also know that God has given each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Thus, we understand that God has given us faith, and that we are required to make use of that to put a smile on His face! (Or 'be pleasing to Him'). The grace of God is His precious Holy Spirit that leads us into making use of our faith in an appropriate manner. When we utilize our faith in a manner that is pleasing to God, we are in actual fact practicing our worship. We are worshipping Him through this exercise! Let me add this to those that are a little more skeptical: God allows us to practice our entire life, as He is not so much interested in the perfect performance, as He is in the perfect motivating heart behind the performance! (2 Chronicles 16:9).

The Cross is the ultimate and most recognizable of all Christian symbols. However, for the true Christian it cannot stay at the mere symbol, but has to be recognized and understood at its deepest representative meaning. Like

any other symbol, it represents something far bigger and far more real than the item itself. And so too it had very deep meaning for the Father! The Cross for the Father is not some dead piece of wood, but the very life of His Son, Jesus Christ! When God looks at the Cross He is reminded of the ultimate sacrifice - His and that of His Son. It must bring painful memories of a moment in time when He had to avert His eyes and turn His back to the sin that His Son became on the Cross! However, when we combine our ability to use our faith and believe in Jesus with the importance that the Father places on the Cross we have a powerful and dynamic result - for the preaching of the Cross... is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

What have we established so far? That our worship is a gift from God in the form of a "faith deposit", that when we make use of it has the ability to please the Father and as a result we experience the power of God in our lives! This is a win-win-win situation. It seems unbelievable that there would be anybody unwilling to exercise their right to worship God. Anyway, let us get on to the next step in our drawing. The Cross of Jesus Christ is the ultimate symbol and representation of Divine Love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). As we've seen earlier, God already knew that the Cross was a reality even at the time that He gave Jesus as a love offering. The Cross represents that Love. Thus, the centre of the Universe, the Source of absolutely everything is the Cross of Jesus Christ, because He is that Centre Himself! For all things were created in Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist (Colossians 1:16-17).

We read in the verses just before these that Jesus is the First-born of all creation (v.15), and as such Jesus becomes our ultimate example to follow. Peter encourages us to follow Jesus: This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step (The Message 1 Peter 2:21). And it is precisely here where our life and the Life of the Cross meet, and precisely here where our worship (in spirit and in truth) is defined. Jesus tells us that if anyone desires to come after Me, let him

deny himself and take up his Cross daily and follow Me (Luke 9:23). We are invited by Jesus to take up our "Cross" which is nothing more and nothing less than self-denial. When selflessness finds its purest expression in our life, we will find that our life is all about God and other people first. This is where we find true expression of the greatest commandment in a tangible way: to love God and to love others. At this point in our life we are truly at a Cross-road, a place where we must decide daily which direction to walk in; walk in the spirit (Galatians 5:16), abide in the truth (John 15:4-7), or following our own agendas (1 John 2:16). The Cross was the ultimate sacrifice on God's behalf, and the most exquisite expression of Love. What else can we do but return that to Him through our worship - in the sacrifice of our lives for His love! Hence our faith, that deposit from God which makes it possible for us to please Him, works by love (Galatians 5:6), and expresses itself in a life dedicated to the unity forged in the Cross of Jesus Christ. So, be calm (and) put on the breastplate of faith and love (1 Thessalonians 5:8), Paul encourages.

Practically we must "work out" the Cross and what it represents in our daily life. Salvation is a free, and a gift from God, yet we are required to cultivate our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12); Jesus is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30) yet we are still required to activate our righteousness, because for Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice is to be chosen more than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3). So too we must "activate" the power and meaning of the Cross by our obedience to follow God through the greatest commandment - after all, we have been created in the image and after the likeness of God! We are made just like our Dad! However, in order to act just like our Dad, we need His Holy Spirit as the catalyst and energizer of our faith! (Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure - Philippians 2:12-13, The Message). This simply means that we must be united in Spirit, and that is precisely the prayer of Jesus for us: ... that all may be one, as You are in Me, Father, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me (John 17:21). This unity of Spirit to spirit, of being One, of being exactly like God had intended for His creation, finds its expression through the Cross - the symbol for us of God's love.



TRANSITION TIPS IN WORSHIP SETS

Logan Cain

Cain is comprised of three siblings, Madison, Taylor and Logan, and they pour their perpetual joy into every album they release. Their favorite thing is singing about Jesus which is why in recent years, they have shifted their musical style to what they believe God has always been calling them toward Christian Music.

Logan Cain shares some technical and spiritual tips on how to make worship sets feel natural, meaningful, and on-purpose.

TRANSITIONS CAN BE AWKWARD!

Whether it is a transition from one life stage to another, a transition between jobs, or a transition that comes with moving to a new city, if you aren't prepared, a transition can create some real discomfort.

In the same way, transitions between elements of a worship set can feel just as clunky and awkward as a worship leader attempts to carry the congregation into deeper moments of connection with God.

If a worship leader doesn't think through the transitions during a worship set, they can very well leave the congregation distracted instead of engaged.

Moments of complete silence, startling intros to a song, or abrupt key changes can disrupt a congregant's worship experience, but with some added forethought, the transitions throughout your worship set can be smooth, disarming, and help usher your congregation from moments of celebration to moments of reverence.

Here are some essentials to help your transitions be as seamless as possible in your next worship set:

1. IN-EAR CLICK/CUES + BACKING TRACKS

There are many helpful resources for worship teams these days, but none may be more helpful than in-ear click/cues and accompanying backing tracks. Click and cues eliminate the need for an audible count-off to start songs. And, they help every instrumentalist and vocalist remain aware of the song's timing and approaching song elements (verse, chorus, bridge, etc.).

These cues can also be customized to feature key words that will help the team prepare for the next song and stay aware of the direction of the worship set.

Backing Tracks are another resource that can make transitions between songs flawless. MultiTracks software, for instance, allows you to crossfade the backing musical

tracks from one song into the next, thus eliminating dead space between songs and thoughtfully carrying the congregation to the next element of the worship set.

When you hit the final downbeat of Song 1, the in-ear click/cues for Song 2 will immediately count in and your band will be off to the races!

2. MUSIC PADS

When moving from one song to the next, another way to smooth that transition is through the use of a music pad. This can be a simple piano tone or even electric guitar swells played softly in the space between songs. This music pad instrument should be the last one to fade out from Song 1 and then slowly fade into Song 2.

Whether the songs in the transition are in the same key or different, a well-executed music pad can help keep the audience in a place of reverence instead of hindrance.

3. KEY SELECTIONS

In the easiest of scenarios, your worship team will pair songs back-to-back that are in the same key. That really lends itself to a smooth and simple song transition, but even if your songs aren't in the same key, they can flow seamlessly together if they are in related keys.

This means the keys of successive songs will share common tones and chords. In other instances, songs can be a relative minor of another song which means they have the same key signature – an example would be B minor to D major.

A good rule of thumb to make a transition between consecutive songs as smooth as possible is to keep the difference in the song keys less than one sharp or flat.



Worship sets can't always be keyed the same throughout, but thinking through the key selection and making small adjustments here and there will help prevent jarring sounds and disjointed worship experiences.

4. MINISTRY ELEMENTS

Often, transitions between songs in a worship set can be places for meaningful prayer, testimonies, or scripture readings. These elements can be great additions to the worship set, but if not thought through, they can create a disjointed and clunky transition for the worship team.

These ministry elements should go hand in hand with the what the worship team is doing in two ways:

One, these elements should tie in thematically to the songs being played. If the worship team has just played or is preparing to play "Goodness of God" for instance, the ministry element that is shared from stage should dive deeper into that theme. The on-stage speaker could share scripture pertaining to God's goodness or share a personal testimony of how God's goodness has impacted them.

Connecting a ministry element to the theme of the songs in the worship set will help the congregation personalize the songs or understand them in a new way.



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QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET

Major Minor Diminished Augmented Dominant 9th Major 7th Major 9th

Minor 7th Minor 9th Minor 11th Minor Major 7th Diminished 7th Half-Diminished 7th Dominant 11th Dominant 13th

Added 6th Added 4th Added 2nd Quartal Quintal Italian 6th French 6th German 6th

INVERTED

P ⁰	F	E	Db	Eb	D	B	Ab	C	G	Bb	A	Gb	R ⁰
P ¹	Gb	F	D	E	Eb	C	A	Db	Ab	B	Bb	G	R ¹
P ²	A	Ab	F	G	Gb	Eb	C	E	B	D	Db	Bb	R ²
P ³	G	Gb	Eb	F	E	Db	Bb	D	A	C	B	Ab	R ³
P ⁴	Ab	G	E	Gb	F	D	B	Eb	Bb	Db	C	A	R ⁴
P ⁵	B	Bb	G	A	Ab	F	D	Gb	Db	E	Eb	C	R ⁵
P ⁶	D	Db	Bb	C	B	Ab	F	A	E	G	Gb	Eb	R ⁶
P ⁷	Bb	A	Gb	Ab	G	E	Db	F	C	Eb	D	B	R ⁷
P ⁸	Eb	D	B	Db	C	A	Gb	Bb	F	Ab	G	E	R ⁸
P ⁹	C	B	Ab	Bb	A	Gb	Eb	G	D	F	E	Db	R ⁹
P ¹⁰	Db	C	A	B	Bb	G	E	Ab	Eb	Gb	F	D	R ¹⁰
P ¹¹	E	Eb	C	D	Db	Bb	G	B	Gb	A	Ab	F	R ¹¹

RETROGRADE INVERSION

R ¹¹	R ¹⁰	R ⁹	R ⁸	R ⁷	R ⁶	R ⁵	R ⁴	R ³	R ²	R ¹	P ⁰
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Altered Dominants- dominant triads or 7th chords that contain a raised or lowered 5th factor.

Major Scale

I ii iii IV V vi vii^o I

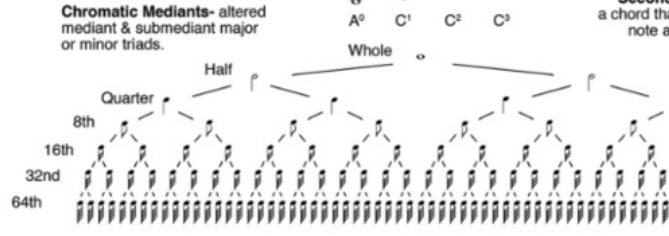
Minor Scale

i ii^o III iv v VI VII i

Octave Identification

A⁰ C¹ C² C³

Second... a chord that note a



3 top number = how many beats are in a measure.
4 bottom number = what type of note gets one beat.

Simple Meter- each beat is divided into two parts.

Compound Meter- each beat is divided into three parts.

Assymetrical Meter- a meter that is not divided up into equal beats.

Binary-	AB
Ternary-	ABA
Rondo-	ABACA
Sonata-	Exposition, Development, Recapitulation
Variation-	Continuous, Basso Ostinato, Chaconne, Passacaglia, Theme and Variation

Properties of Sound- Pitch, Intensity, Duration, Timbre, Direction

Nonharmonic Tones- pitches that sound along with a chord but are not chord pitches.

Passing Tone Neighboring Tone Escape Tone

Appoggiatura Suspension Retardation

Anticipation Changing Tones

Pedal Tone- a held or repeated note that alternates between consonance and dissonance with the chord structures above it.

- Grave-** slow and serious.
- Largo-** slow with great dignity, to be performed slowly.
- Lento-** in a slow tempo.
- Adagio-** moderately slow.
- Larghetto-** rather slow.
- Andante-** a little quicker than andante.
- Andantino-** moderate tempo.
- Moderato-** moderately quick tempo.
- Allegretto-** quickly, in a brisk lively manner.
- Allegro-** with life and vigor.
- Vivo-** vivacious, in a quick lively manner.
- Vivace-** very fast.
- Presto-** gradually accelerating or quickening in time.
- Accelerando-** played with an accelerating tempo.
- Stringendo-** slower and louder.
- Allargando-** slowing down gradually.
- Ritardando-** gradual slowing down of the tempo.
- Rallentando-** holding back or speeding up at will.
- Rubato-** return to original tempo after a ritard.
- A Tempo-** original tempo.
- Meno-** very much less.
- Molto-** more.
- Piu-** not too much.
- Non Troppo-** little by little.
- Poco a Poco-** little by little.

Interval Name

Perfect Major Minor Diminished Augmented Unisons 2nds 3rds 4ths 5ths 6ths 7ths Octaves

Inverted

Perfect Minor Major Augmented Diminished Octaves 7ths 6ths 5ths 4ths 3rds 2nds Unisons

P= Perfect
M= Major
m= minor
A= Augmented
d= diminished

Pianissimo- very soft

Piano- soft

Mezzo Piano- medium

Mezzo Forte- moderate

Forte- loud

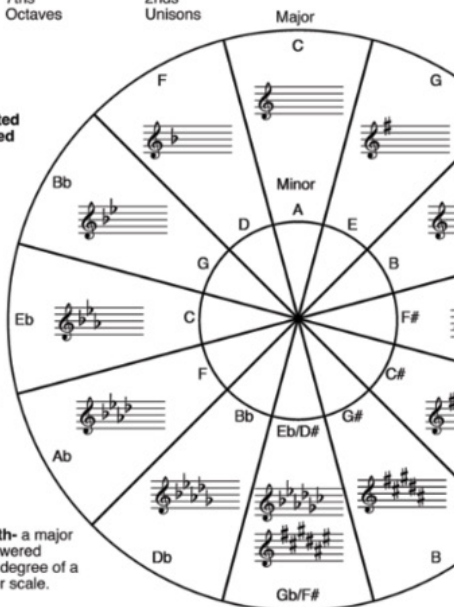
Fortissimo- very loud

Diminuendo- gradual

Crescendo- gradual

Sforzando- a strong

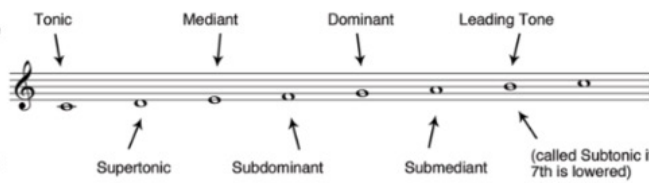
Subito- sudden



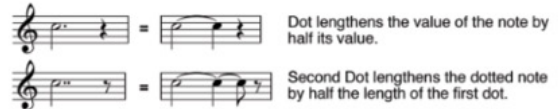
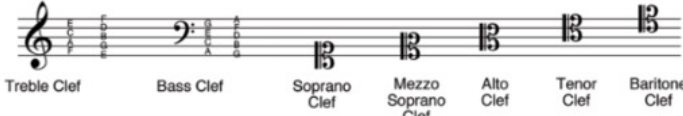
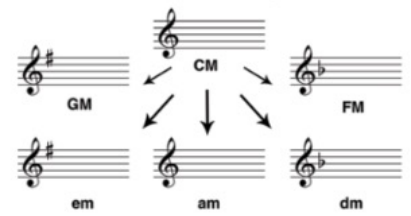
Neapolitan 6th- a major triad on the lowered second scale degree of a major or minor scale.

Counterpoint- the combination of two or more melodies.

Fugue- compositional technique in two or more voices built on a subject that is introduced at the beginning in imitation, is thoroughly established and developed, and usually returns as a final statement.



Closely Related Keys



Motif- a short musical idea, musical fragment, or succession of notes that is characteristic of a composition.

Phrase- a substantial musical thought usually ending with both a harmonic and melodic cadence.

Period- a group of phrases consisting usually of at least one antecedent phrase and one consequent phrase.

Parallel Period- two phrases that begin with the same melodic and harmonic material before diverging to end with different cadences.

Contrasting Period- when dissimilar melodic content occurs in the second phrase.

Three-Phrase Period- three different phrases, either AAB or ABB.

Double Period- two antecedent and two consequent phrases, which can be constructed in a variety of phrase relationships.

Repeated Phrases- not regarded as period structures because the second is not dependent on the first.

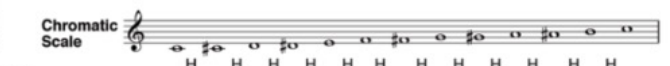
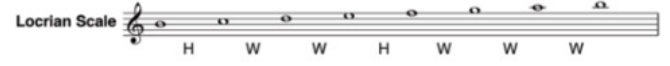
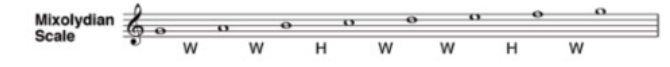
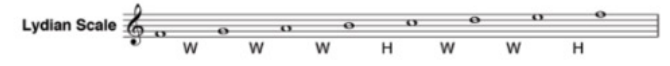
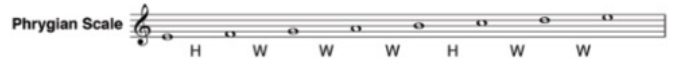
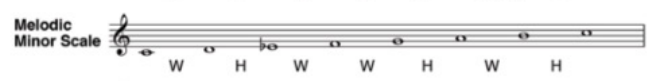
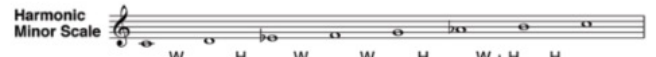
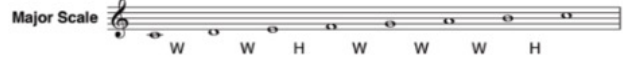
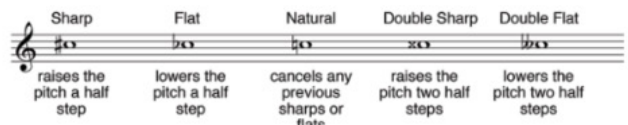
Real Sequence- where subsequent sequences are exact transpositions of the first.

Tonal Sequence- where subsequent sequences are diatonic transpositions of the first.

Modified Sequence- where subsequent sequences are decorated or embellished so as to not destroy the original character.

Modulating Sequence- a sequence that leads from one tonal center to the next, sometimes with each segment having a temporary tonal center different from that of the first.

False Sequence- repeats part of a figure and states the rest in sequence.



Textures

Monophonic- The simplest texture, consisting of melody without accompanying harmony.

Polyphonic- Consists of two or more independent melodic lines.

Homophonic- A melody with an accompaniment that typically provides rhythmic and harmonic support.

Homorhythmic- Has a sameness of rhythm in all parts.

- Perfect Authentic**- V - I (bass note in root position, top note in tonic is root)
- Imperfect Authentic**- V - I (or substitute vi^o for V chord)
- Half-Plagal**- IV - V (or second chord is V chord)
- Deceptive**- IV - I
- Deceptive**- V - any other chord other than I (most often vi)



