

Ah, the start of a new year! A time where we feel we can shrug off the old and reset, start afresh. Hope beckons, dreams are re-ignited, goals are set...

During this time of renewed focus and energy, how are we translating this positive energy into Kingdom advancement in the area where God has placed us?

While I am not a huge fan of new year resolutions (due to the fact that statistically only 25% of people stick to their resolutions past 30 days of setting them and only 8% actually accomplish them!), I do believe that setting Kingdom goals with a view to better knowing our Lord and shining His light brighter, is worth doing and will make a significant difference in our workplace where God has placed us to ensure we are more effective in our calling.

So, what are good goals for Christians to set? A great starting point is Matthew 22: 36-40.

1. *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

The first and greatest commandment! To love God with all your heart, soul and mind is to put him first in every area of your life. The goal of every believer is to get to know Him better and to become more like Him. So, if we love Him with everything we are, then getting to know Him more should be our top priority! As with any relationship TIME is the key to improving and strengthening relationship, the more time we spend the better we get to know someone. Below are a few ways in which to spend this time:

- **Time in His word** – The bible is all about Him - His character and His ways. Dedicate a set time to this daily. If you struggle with this on your own, find a good devotional, or join a bible study group like Precept which will guide you through your time in the word in a structured manner. God will speak to you through His word, if you will listen.
- **Time in prayer and conversation** – make daily dedicated time for prayer but equally keep Him included in all aspects of your life by conversing throughout the day. With Him constantly on your mind means He is always in focus.

2. *Love your neighbour as yourself*

To love our neighbour as ourselves is to lose selfishness and to value everyone equally. This goes 100% against our natural fleshly way and is impossible without the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you love others as Jesus does and in turn show them His love in your daily actions which include:

- **Forgiveness** – forgiving those that hurt us and not holding grudges are wonderful ways of showing the love of Jesus to a hurting world. Besides a command, this selfless act has a way of disarming tension and building bridges of relationship that can carry the truth of the gospel in time.
- **Serve** – Find somewhere to serve people. Whether in church or in the community. This is the frontline of showing the love of Jesus to people.
- **Random acts of kindness** – I know we should be kind all the time, but there are times when the Holy Spirit prompts us to go that extra mile to show His love to our colleagues or strangers. Listen for His prompting and be sure to let the recipient know who the gift is from and that He loves them dearly.

As the salt and light of this world, let His light shine brightly through you in 2020. Be one of those 8% who accomplish their goals set for the new year and be that Kingdom example He called you to be. Be encouraged. Make a difference.