

THE ASSIGNMENT FOR 2016



The Assignment is...

*A task or piece of work
allocated to someone
as part of a job.*

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Ruach City Church

2016 the Year of the Lord's Favour

The Assignment

At Ruach City Church we believe that every Christian is on a journey seeking to know the holy calling given to us by Christ in line with scripture in **2 Timothy 1:9–10** which states, 'Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.' We have used the term, 'Assignment' to illustrate the holy calling God has placed on our lives through Christ. This literary resource will help you to discover what God has anointed you to be so that you can confidently walk in and fulfil your assignment.

What is an Assignment?

A task or piece of work allocated to someone as part of a job or course of study; commission, mission, engagement, occupation, undertaking, exercise, business, office, responsibility (*Ref. source: World Wide Web*)

Symbolisms which can be found in 2016

In order to complete our assignment and be effective in this year 2016, we need to understand the significance of 2016 from a biblical perspective.

1. What is the Importance of Love?

What does the number sixteen represent? To write sixteen in Hebrew, they wrote two Hebrew letters: 'Yod-vav'. These signify the hand (out-working or out-giving), it is the nail which joins the hearts of two people as one. Sixteen is said to be the number of Love and Relationship. **It was because of the love of God that Jesus was nailed to the cross for the sins of the world.**

A lot of Christians want to walk in their Assignment but they don't have love in them. The truth is that you can't effectively minister to people who you don't show love to. A lot of us want to be spiritual without having genuine love for others which reminds me of the Corinthian church who, it seems were proficient in spiritual gifts but didn't have love in their hearts. We find in the scriptures Paul writing to the Corinthian and explaining to them that having all these spiritual gifts without the presence of love means nothing. Note the words of **1 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT)** – If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Love is the key to effectiveness in our assignment before any spiritual action can take place.

Note the words of **1 Corinthians 13:4–8** – Charity (**love**) suffereth long (**patient**), and is kind; charity (**love**) envieth not; charity vaunteth (**boast**) not itself, is not puffed up (**proud**); Doth not behave itself unseemly, (**rude**) seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth (**delight**) not in iniquity (**evil**) but rejoiceth (**delight**) in the truth; Beareth (**protects**) all things, believeth (**trusts**) all things, hopeth all things, endureth (**dwells, carries**) all things. Charity (**love**) never faileth.

I was in a meeting with my Trustee Board and one of them, Paul Brightly-Jones mentioned this quote: '**Love is resilient but trust is fragile**' which I think speaks volumes. Another scripture which comes to mind and demonstrates how powerful love is can be found in **1 John 4:8** – Perfect love drives out fear.

The experiences that people go through in life can cause them to find it difficult to trust. When this happens it can affect their relationship with God as a Christian, their relationships in general and even their relationship with their spiritual leader. However, love is so powerful that it can be the key to the restoration of healthy trust levels in an individual.

Real Love can restore trust even when it has become hard to trust.

The details of our Assignment are found in Luke 4:16–19 – And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Jesus was quoting from **Isaiah 61:1–2** which states The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; **To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God.** The New Living Translation states as follows: **To proclaim that the time of the Lord's favour has come.**

2. What is the Purpose of the Spirit of the Lord?

The Spirit of the Lord empowers us for the Assignment given. In other words the Holy Spirit gives us power within us to complete our Assignment. The word, ‘power’ in the Greek is ‘dunamis’, which literally or figuratively means force, miraculous power, ability, strength and might.

Note the words of **Acts 1:8** – But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We should also expect God to **relocate us** and show us things through the Spirit – Things that our naked eyes cannot see. Note the words of

Ezekiel 37:1 – The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

The Holy Spirit will also allow us to be placed in vulnerable situations where we will be tested. The result of our times of testing will qualify us for our Assignment. Note the words of **Matthew 4:1**– Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The Holy Spirit will lead and guide you and bring things to your remembrance. Note the words of **John 14:26** – But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

3. What are you Anointed for?

You are anointed for the assignment that God has given you. It is important to note that there is a purpose to our anointing. Note these words from **Isaiah 61:1** ‘...Because the LORD has anointed Me...’ The word “**anoint**” means to rub on; apply an ointment, or oily liquid to a person or a thing. The Hebrew word is **mashiah**, which has come down to us as “**messiah**” and translated as **christos** in Greek. **Because we now use this term exclusively for Jesus Christ, the Messiah, many have failed to realise the breadth of its meaning. Mashiah simply means “anointed” or “anointed one.”** Contrary to what many believe, the anointing is not being ‘slain in the spirit’, jumping and/or speaking in tongues, etc. These are various expressions that we exhibit when we experience or feel moved by the Holy Spirit and should not be confused with what the scriptures describe as the anointing.

The Old Testament writers use it and its verb form, **mashah**, to describe Prophets, Kings and Priests. Normally, these people were anointed with oil in a ritual as a sign of being **set apart for the office** that they were about to fulfil. Thus, at its most basic, **mashiah** indicates a person **God authorises and sets apart** for His service. Persons in the Old Testament were often literally anointed with oil.

Priests were anointed for their special service to the LORD (**Exodus 28:41**). Literally, oil would be applied as a sign upon their lives for service – The scriptures refer to this as an anointing from the Holy One (**1 John 2:20**). Note the phrase, ‘...The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me’. Here, Isaiah prophetically speaks of the Messiah, and the Messiah (Jesus Christ) announces that He is empowered by the Spirit of the Lord GOD for his assignment (Luke 4:18, 21).

4. Preaching Good Tidings

We are to preach good tidings (news) to the poor, distressed and impoverished. Our message must bring hope to people. As Christians, we need to **be careful what we put up on social media, Phone calls, etc.** which can distract or dissuade someone from receiving true message of hope that Christ came to bring. Someone put this up on social media and I had to repost it – **"Make a habit of shutting down conversions that aim to tear others down"**.

Scripture also warns us to be careful about what we say and do as Christians. Note the words in **1 Corinthians 8:9** – But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. Also the words in **Galatians 5:13–14**; For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

5. Heal the Broken–hearted

We are to heal broken and damaged people. The church is supposed to be a place of healing – a hospital. We have all come through the doors of the church with a sickness of some kind and Jesus came so that all can be healed. Note the words in **Mark 2:17** – They that are whole have no need of the physician but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance

In this year of the Lord’s Favour, let's make our church, Bethesda. In the gospel of John we find the story of a pool called Bethesda where

sick people came to be healed (**John 5:1–4**). Let's make it a House of Favour (Kindness) where people can come to be healed.

6. Proclaim Liberty to the Captives

Captivity is a form of slavery and bondage. A person that is in captivity has been brainwashed and becomes the property of the one who controls their freedom. When God's people were taken into Babylonian captivity the Babylonians changed everything about God's people to ensure that they could keep them under their control. They changed their names (identity). They changed their language. They changed their food (appetite). They changed their religion. No matter what is affected by captivity God can change it. Note the words in **Job 42:10** – And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends.

One of the things that made captivity so effective was the affect that the captors had on the minds of the people they imprisoned so then we can conclude that ultimately **captivity is a mind thing**.

So that we do not allow the devil to invade our minds, we must **occupy our minds**. Wherever there is a void it must be filled with something. Note the words of **Joshua 1:8** – This book of the law **shall not depart out of thy mouth**; but thou shalt **meditate (murmur, ponder)** therein day and night, that thou mayest **observe (hedge about)** to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

The word 'Proclaim' in the Hebrew means to call or specifically address by name. Part of our Assignment is to proclaim liberty to the captives (Isaiah 61:1), to announce freedom, liberty. Note the words of **John 8:36** – If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Also the words of **Galatians 5:1** – Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

The message of Jesus Christ is one of freedom and liberty. How we conduct ourselves as we go about our Assignment should reflect this.

We must ensure that we think the right things and we will be successful (**Joshua 1:8**) and the right things to think are found in scripture. Note the words in **Philippians 4:8** – Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

7. Open the Prisons

Our Assignment will ensure that those who are bound will be given a way out. Our Assignment is to help others with whatever in their life has become a prison to them – to open their eyes and unburden those are yoked and feel held back.

8. To Proclaim the Acceptable Year of the LORD

Our Assignment is to announce or proclaim by name the year of the Lords favour.

What is favour?

Favour is **special preference or privilege** that gives someone or something an **advantage** over others. It is the **kindness** of God.

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