

Renewal in:

**Personal relationship**

**Community**

**Mission**

How are we renewed in these areas?

Personal relationship

Almost everything in the Christian life flows from our connection with God. If we do not know how to receive then we will have nothing of God to give. Nothing in = nothing out. **Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**

*Speak of how different I am when I have been with Jesus*

- If we want a river to flow from us, we need to know how to connect with its source.
  - The Holy Spirit is the source:

**37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing[a] in Him would receive; for the Holy[b] Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

God has to be our source for fruit to be borne. We need to be attached to the vine in order to bear Godly fruit (fruit that remains) **John 15: 1-8 abiding** (ends with SO YOU WILL BE MY DISCIPLES)

ABIDING IN GOD, in LOVE IS the key to DISCIPLESHIP. Without His Spirit, without His Love we are nothing.

Other keys to personal renewal are:

- Don't make prayer or your quiet times a religious tick box experience
- Keep your antennae up (learn how to develop sensitivity)
- *Recognise that we grow personally when we engage in prayer and encouragement with others (prayer triplets, accountability relationships etc)*

**PASSION**

Community

Man was never designed to be 'alone'. We were always designed to have helpers not just in the sense of task orientation, but those with whom we were designed to experience life with (not just talking about marriage here).

We as individuals are made up of many different unique parts. Some are similar, others are completely dissimilar. However, each part has a function, has a part to play towards the health and wholeness of the entire person. This can be expressed in the terms interdividuality. I need you, and you need me.

**1 Corinthians 12: The body**

**As individuals we are incomplete in and of ourselves.** It is not good for man to be alone said God and then made woman. God made us this way so that we would express a key part of His being to each other (relational knowing, friendship, camaraderie etc) and develop intimacy. At the centre of this relational dynamic must be God himself. ***When we are able to relate to God correctly (and assume our values and identity from Him) we can truly relate to one another in a healthy non-competitive way and develop healthy bonds that seek to bring wholeness to one another and in our expression of Christ to the world.***

1 man can put a thousand to flight, two, ten thousand etc.

We all have unique callings and gifting's. They may be in similar areas, they may be in totally different areas. No calling or gifting is of more importance than another. They are all to be honoured, encouraged and developed. There is still room for development and improvement whether you have been using your gift for 1 month or 50 years!

- So stick at it.
- Develop perseverance in relationships (through forgiveness, and learning not to take offence) STAY CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER
- Develop perseverance in function/office. Don't quit when the going gets tough. STAY CONNECTED TO GOD
- Fruit takes time to produce and is often seasonal
- Recognise that it takes time to build momentum. First the foundation – it must be right, it must be level, it must be watertight (We must have Christ as the cornerstone). Then the bricks, windows, doors, roof etc and decorations.

## **PASSION**

### Renewal in Mission

- Recognise that the great commission is still our highest call (Go ye, make disciples)
- Recognise that our mission field is still the world.
- Don't isolate yourself from the world, be salt and light to it. No point being a bright light in a bright place. You were made to be a bright light to a dark place and overcome the darkness therein. The darkness cannot overcome the light.
- Come out from among them and be ye separate is not the heart of God. Jesus went and shared light and fellowship with sinners, tax collectors and prostitutes. He didn't separate Himself from our sin. He embraced us in our sin, took it upon Himself on the cross, forgave it in His death and proclaimed Peace with God in His resurrection.
- We are ambassadors, we are called to the same mission; to announce the good news of the presence of His Kingdom and proclaim that same reconciliation.

## **PASSION**

Don't sit on your part of this calling expecting everyone else to do this. Don't blame a lack of time. The pace of life is busy, frenetic even, and if you compartmentalise your life you will never be fruitful in your calling.

We need our lives to be open, to be interconnected, to be life receiving and life giving, and the overflow of that life (that river) will touch the world. We will then be light and salt.

Other quotes and notes to mention:

"The people who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials, but the ones with the concern" Max Lucado

It's a waste of time to talk about biblical fidelity or being a "new testament" church when those in attendance come to be entertained by great music and great public speaking, instead of being active participants in a comprehensive experience of the body and life of Christ in human vessels. Stephen Crosby

## Renewal in insight and revelation

### '*Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei*'

This was a phrase introduced by the early Protestant Reformers. It means '*the church reformed, and always reforming by the word of God*'. The Reformed church believed that their doctrine was complete, and that it was only the lives of the believers that needed constant transformation. Its use here at Kingsway Christian Fellowship indicates our belief that both people **AND** doctrine need constant reform as new light shines forth from God's Word - the Bible : *Dr. David Elms*.