

- My car broke down 3 weeks ago after fetching my son from school. The car still looked good. After taking the car to the mechanics they found out that it was the battery that was the problem. Even though the battery is so small, it prevented the whole car from starting
- Something so small influenced everything
- It doesn't matter what amount your car cost, if something small goes wrong it affects your whole car and it will not work the way it is supposed to
- The enemy attacks the church with small things
- Small things going wrong will influence you and sometimes it keeps you from rising to where God wants you
- The enemy wants to keep you at a place of failure

### 5 things that we need to deal with in our lives

#### 1. Spirit of fear

##### 2 Timothy 1:7

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

- Fear is not from God
- The phrase: do not fear/be afraid appears 365 times in the bible
- There are 365 days in a year. One for every day
- We are fearful of our future
- Fearful to take chances
- Even when we need to do outreach we have fear – We are fearful of people's response
- Fear keeps you at a place of limitations, lack and poverty and causes you to stay in the desert
- Fear makes you believe you never have enough
- When you fear, God's promises are not yes and amen for you
- You will settle for second best
- The fear of being alone keeps people in wrong relationships
- At work we are afraid to step out
- Fear puts us in a box and closes the lid over us

##### John 14:27

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

##### Isaiah 35:4

*say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear, your God will come, he will come with vengeance, with divine retribution he will come to save you."*

##### Psalms 118:6

The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

##### Isaiah 43:1

*But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine.*

- God wants us to be strong and courageous
- The opposite of fear is feeling secure

- God wants us to remove the word fear from our vocabulary. Our vocabulary needs to change from “I can’t” to “I can” because of God and the relationship I have with Him
- We become secure in God through having a strong relationship with Him
- We need to know who we are in the Lord
- Love drives fear away and pushes fear out
- We need to have a strong relationship with God
- God loves you and He will come through for you

### **1 John 4:18**

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

- The more you love God the more fear will go

### **Isaiah 40:31**

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

- We need to wait upon the Lord

## **2. Mind of worry**

- We worry about our future, our problems and money
- The enemy designed this to keep you busy
- You cannot see it but it is there
- It causes us to be unhappy
- Worry inflates and feeds the situation
- It makes things to appear bigger than what they really are
- Worry produce fear
- Worry also blinds you and keeps your focus on your problems and take your focus away from God
- We are a worrying people
- We see what we want to see and we do not see things for what it is
- Worry blinds us not to see where God wants to use us
- Worry puts strain on your body and makes you negative
- It will make you sick and make you worry even more

### **Proverbs 12:25**

*Anxiety weighs down the heart but a kind word cheers it up.*

### **Matthew 6:25-34**

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

- Worry comes from lack of faith and unbelief in God
- Worry comes from an independent spirit
- Worry comes from bearing a weight only God can bear
- Give everything to God and let His peace reign over your life

### **Psalm 55:22**

*Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you, he will never let the righteous be shaken.*

### **Proverbs 3:5**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,*

- In order to trust God we need to know Him and have a relationship with Him
- You only get to know someone by spending time with them

### **Daniel 11:32**

*With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.*

- If you don't have a relationship with someone, you can't trust them
- The people who know their God is the people who will have great impact
- The word "know" means to intimately know God
- Take time to spend time with the Lord
- Law of association: the 5 people that you spend most of your time with, you will become
- By spending time with God you associate yourself with Him and you will become more and more like Him

### **3. Attitude of heart called apathy.**

- Apathy means the lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern
- Word connected: Passivity and entitlement. Together they are a vicious combination
- There is nothing normal about God
- We cannot comprehend His power. We cannot describe His beauty. We cannot measure His love
- We have a lack of interest in the Lord. We are not concerned about His Kingdom. We have a passive approach towards the Lord
- God's desire is to have a relationship with you but we don't have an interest in God
- This is the reason why there is no breakthroughs
- We have enthusiasm towards everything in life but not God
- When last did someone say that they wanted to be like you?
- It's the attitude of your heart
- People are supposed to run to us because of what we carry

### **Revelations 3:16**

*So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*

- Do not be average
- Give God everything

### **Romans 12:11**

*Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

- Paul wrote to the Ephesians in Ephesians 1:15-16, praising them for their faith in Jesus and their love for one another

## **Ephesians 1:15-16**

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

- But we see in Revelations 2:4 about 30 years later, Paul writes to them again saying that they have lost their first love

## **Revelations 2:4**

*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.*

- We need to keep the fire burning
- Be joyful and spontaneous

## **4. Comfort.**

- When the church becomes comfortable, Christ dies inside of you
- Christians need to be extremely intentional with their thoughts and actions to avoid comfort
- If not, you become resistant to change and resistant to God
- You begin to see the mission as catering to insiders rather than reaching outsiders
- Comfort is extremely difficult to get away from
- Jesus was crucified because of comfort
- The people would rather crucify an innocent man than to change
- Church cannot be missional and comfortable at the same time

## **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

- Comfort put Jesus on the cross

## **5. The deception of flattery**

- Making yourself the centre of attention, wanting to be important
- Looking for the approval and praises of man. We desire the praises of people more than that of God. We want to be recognised by people. Low self-esteem will develop from desiring the recognition of people
- The devil plays yoyo with your life – The one day you are up and the next day you are down
- Never compare yourself to people. This pushes you down
- Jesus came to do the will of His father and not to get appraisal from people
- Your identity must be in Jesus
- You can never take people to God if you want approval from them
- God wants you and the church to stand up
- God wants you to be bold and have a victorious spirit
- We can be better, greater, worship better and become free
- Get rid of the old you
- Realise how much God loves you
- Go full out for God
- God is your Father and wants to turn your circumstances around
- The overcoming spirit in you will arise if you associate yourself with God
- Declare over your life: "I can, I will, I shall"
- Do something
- God will reward your something...