

The Code

Embracing spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives

Preamble

Vision statement that sets out what we are aiming

For all people to glorify God through knowing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and making Jesus known.

Values - We have seven things we believe are important in establishing our culture to move towards the vision

- A culture where the Holy Spirit is welcome not just as a visitor but to stay.

- Jesus - We want Jesus to be the centre of all we do. We seek his presence, his leading and follow his example.
- Community - We value relationship and seek to grow authentic community.
- Faith - Hope - Love - We want to be clothed in audacious faith, insurmountable hope and extravagant love.
- Kingdom lifestyle - We want to cultivate kingdom lifestyles of honour and generosity.
- Spiritual disciplines - We embrace spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives.
- Sacrifice - We want to live humble and sacrificial lives, that serve others.
- Extend - We are committed to advancing the kingdom of God through proclamation and good works.

Expectations of people who call All Nations their family

1. Worship - That you will be committed to our gathering and worship on a Sunday
 2. Prayer - To pray together as a Church family
 3. Community - In a life group, walking this journey with others
 4. Giving - Following the Biblical principal and command of worshipping God with a portion of your income
 5. Serving - Find an area to serve in and be a champion
- I want to remind of us our Values and to help new family members to hear and know them
 - The aim being that we all be committed to making these OUR values

- These were birthed out of a direct response to the Lord in creating a culture that welcomes and sustains a Holy Spirit environment
- They Our CODE - Family Values, the way we do things and a commitment we are making

Introduction

Spiritual disciplines - We embrace spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives

- The Goal for us all is to be changed.
- Changed to become like Jesus
- Transformed or formed into his image.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... **Romans 12:2**

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, **Galatians 4:19**

These verses are talking about transformation, Change!

- **Morphoo** - the inward and real formation of the essential nature of a person
- **Summorphizo** - to have the same shape as another. To shape something into the durable likeness of.
- **Metamorhoo** - we get our word metamorphosis. Being changed. Like a caterpillar into a butterfly. - transformed by the renewing of our minds.

To become like Jesus is our our Goal

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **Philippians 2:5**

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **Romans 8:29**

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father... **John 14:12**

- Like Jesus in our thinking

- Like Jesus in our hearts - motives 'Only doing, speaking what the Father is doing.'
- Like Jesus in power to serve others - Miraculous spirit led life
- Like Jesus Mighty in Spirit - To live an overcoming life
- Like Jesus we only do what the father asks
- Like Jesus in our freedom
- Like Jesus in our relationships
- Like Jesus walking in the light

How we become like Jesus:

Ultimately all change is relational - Relationship with Jesus is what fuels and empowers the change in our lives

- Community - authentic relationships, joy, hardships of that. Working through issues
- The life situations we go through
- The spiritual disciplines are pathways, tools to
 - Deepen your union with Jesus
 - Draw supernatural strength to make you strong
 - Release grace that we otherwise would not know in our lives
 - Have a deep and profound impact on the world around you
 - No one lives in isolation, your spirituality overflows into your relationships, work and the spiritual atmosphere

Spiritual Disciplines

We embrace spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. [8] For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. **1 Timothy 4:7-8**

Train yourself to be godly

The word train in the original language is the same root word we get our word gymnasium from

Starts with Desire, hunger, appetite

You must develop a desire or a hunger for spiritual things.

- Desire and hunger determine what you eat and do.
 - You can change and increase your desires and appetites.

'Whatever is submitted to grows stronger, whatever is resisted grows weaker'

Ed Cole

- Deny appetites, Acquire new taste
- *A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah. O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. **Psalm 63.1***
- *Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Psalm 37.4***
- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **Matthew 5.6***

The disciplines

The intake of Gods Word

Time in prayer

Meditation

Journaling, reflection

Praise, worship

Fasting

Community

Bible Pathway - Rediscovering the joy of Scripture

Rewards

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. **Psalm 19.7-12**

“One of the earliest lessons taught him the value and importance of Bible Study. He saw that since God was the Bibles author, man was foolish indeed not to carefully and prayerfully devote himself to its reading and study. He saw a successful life in the sight of God was one that had been orientated to the Word of God. He also saw much of the sorrow and trouble in peoples lives occurred solely because they did not take time to learn what God’s will was for them. During the latter part of his life he read the Bible through four or five times annually. His close walk with God could be marked from the time when he began a systematic study of the scriptures”

Speaking about George Muller

Hold It Close

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **Joshua 1.8**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3.16,17**

- Reading the Bible forms paradigms, renews the mind
- I see a person who lives in the Word have a God way of thinking about everything
- Like neural pathways in the brain - connections and joins are formed

OUR attitude toward the Word determines the place that God holds in our daily life. The Word should always be the Father speaking to us. It should never be like the message from an ordinary book. It should be as real to you as though the Master stood in the room and spoke to you personally. **EW Kenyon**

'I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' **Psalms 119.11-16**

'The Bible is alive. It speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me.' **Martin Luther**

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking than learning scripture. That's right. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends. Your prayer life will be sharpened, your witness will be sharper and more effective. Your counselling will be in demand. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become more alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified." **Chuck Swindoll**

- A. Read it
- B. Listen to it
- C. Study it
- D. Memorise it
- E. Mediate upon it.

Prayer Pathway - Talking and listening to God

You cannot enter into the fullness of your God ordained life without prayer. It's God's way.

- Prayer has different expressions such as intimacy with God (includes prayer-reading the Word and fellowshiping with the Spirit), interceding for revival, justice, or social transformation (also referred to as contending prayer), providing prayer covering for individuals, and praying for the sick. In this way, we encounter God, do the works of the kingdom, and change the world.
- A consistent prayer life is essential to the preparation the Lord has called us too.
- Only through a lifestyle of prayer can we receive the fullness of what God has provided for us
- Praying is like breathing
 - When a baby is born it breaths - When a person is born again they begin to breath, to pray
- Much prayer, much power, little prayer little power, no prayer ...

At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord. **Genesis 4.26**

‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. **Jeremiah 33.3**

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. **2 Chronicles 7.14**

A foundational Kingdom principle is that God releases more blessing as we ask Him. He knows all of our needs (Mt. 6:32), but requires that we ask Him for increased blessing, because it causes us to interact with His heart. **Mike Bickle**

Jesus Expects You To Pray

‘And when you pray..’ **Matthew 6.5**

‘But when you pray...’ **Matthew 6.6**

‘And when you pray..’ **Matthew 6.7**

‘This, then, is how you should pray...’ **Matthew 6.9**

Jesus Example

• ‘Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed’ **Luke 5.16**

• ‘Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, and prayed.’ **Mark 1.35**

'The Joy of prayer

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. **John 16.24**

- The Joy of answered prayer

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **Psalm 51.12**

- The joy of repentance prayer, turning to God

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. **Psalm 84.1**

- The Joy of communion with God

The Privilege of prayer

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4.16

- Boldly approach the THRONE of grace
- Find grace and mercy when we are in need - what a privilege

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. **Jeremiah 33.3**

- God, the creator, the eternal one speaks here
- Call to me and I will answer...
- He is not too busy, or disinterested - 'I will answer..

The Power of prayer

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. **James 5.16-18**

- There is tremendous power in prayer
- Power to change situations
- Power to overcome sinful habits and addictions
- Power to forgive
- Power to change marriages
- Power to heal families
- Power for the miraculous and the supernatural

The Necessity of prayer

- The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you...19 He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. **Isaiah. 30:18-19**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4.2**

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God. **Psalm 42.1**

- Without water the deer will die
- Without prayer we too will die
- Prayer is to the Spirit what oxygen is to the body

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. ... Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. **Psalm 27.4,5 - 7,8**

- David in huge trouble, wanted dead or alive by Saul
- He wants to be in God's presence gazing, seeing looking and ASKING!

- Anyone can prayer
- It's free
- No cost, No special equipment
- Just your will, desire and Time

Conclusion

- Time to set some new rhythms and habits in our lives
- You can change - You have more potential than you realise
- You have decide to grow in these
- Work these into your life and schedule
- Things need to change for this to happen
- Personal daily time with Jesus in his word and in prayer
- Weekly fasting
- Journaling