
BUILD A HEALTHY, PASSIONATE, POWERFUL AND MISSIONARY CHURCH

+ OUR LIVES CAN HAVE GREAT INFLUNCE ON HISTORY

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength (Ephesians 1:17-19)

- The 21st century is a great time to be in the church. Like the apostle Paul, we should pray for the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and revelation in order to understand the calling God has for the church.
- Also ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and change our perspectives. We must learn to put down the perspectives we have that are different from God's perspectives.
- When we are willing to lay down ourselves and align ourselves with God's viewpoint, we will be able to do great things through God's power.

³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)

+ GOD BLESSES THE RIGHTEOUS WITH THREE TYPES OF BLESSINGS

- The purpose of our existence is to change history. God blesses us in order to prosper us so that we may bless many people around us and, in turn, human kind.

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)

- God's three blessings can be categorized as the following:
 - The Blessing to be **fruitful**
 - The Ability to **multiply**
 - The Power to **subdue**
- Whenever God finds a righteous person, He gladly reinstates these three blessings.
- God's covenant with Noah included fruitfulness, multiplying in offspring and subduing all the creatures of the earth.

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. (Genesis 9:1-2)

- When Abraham demonstrated that he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, God blessed him so that he would be fruitful and multiply with numerous descendants. God also gave his descendants authority to subdue their enemies.

¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies... (Genesis 22:16-17)

- Jesus gave His disciples the command to be fruitful and multiply, spreading the gospel to all the nations. Although this seemed like an impossible task for the eleven disciples, we see Jesus’ authority working through the disciples in the book of Acts.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

+ THE BLESSING FOR ABRAHAM CAN BE OUR BLESSING

- When God sees a righteous person, He longs to pour out these three blessings upon them.
- As Christians, we have the same blessing as Abraham did:

⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Galatians 3:7-9)

+ BECOMING A PERSON OF BLESSING

- The Christian life isn’t just to be “peaceful” or dull, but it is to bless the entire mankind. We don’t have to do anything spectacular, but if we diligently follow God we *will* change the world.
- We do not exist solely to experience God’s blessings of peace, joy and prosperity in our lives. Instead we must bless and influence others with the blessings God has given to us.

- We do not need to be someone of fame or status (e.g. president or an evangelist) to change history. Rather, we only need to be faithful to God's calling on our lives.
 - Barnabas disagreed with apostle Paul over including Mark on a mission journey. Barnabas believed in Mark and brought him on a separate journey. With Barnabas' mentorship, Mark became a valuable helper to Paul.
 - From this story, we can learn that we do not need to be famous like Paul to have a great influence. If we are faithful in doing what God has called us to do, we can already have a great influence, just as Barnabas influenced and raised up Mark.

+ HOW TO EXPERIENCE BLESSING

- We experience the blessing by believing God's word and seeking wisdom. This means meditating on the Word and embracing it in every aspect of our lives. When our experiences and thought patterns are different from God's Word, we must choose to follow God's Word over our own thoughts.
- We must choose to invest in God's kingdom, which is unseen.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

- Pastor Hsiao has a vision that, one day, Taiwan and China will become Christian nations, with over 50% of the nation's people believing in Jesus Christ.
- Like snow falling to the ground, and watering all the living plants, it takes time to see results. However, we can be confident that everything will happen exactly according to God's Word.
- In faith, we must choose to live a meaningful life, not by the world's standards, but by God's standards.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:7-8)

+ AREAS TO GROW

- Have **great hope** for the Church's future.
 - God says that we are the bride of Jesus.
- Have **great faith** for our own lives.

- Our attitude determines the outcome of our life.

+ FRCC CORE VALUES

- Cultivate a **healthy spiritual life** - Jude 20-21
 - No matter what happens in our life, we still believe that God loves us.
- Activate the **passion** for Jesus - John 14:21
 - We demonstrate our love to God through our actions.
- Live out Christ's **authority** - Colossians 2:9-10
 - When we take action and faithfully serve God, God will give us his power.
- Join in the **Evangelism** of the nations - Acts 1:8
 - The church exists to bless the entire world, not only to sustain and meet its own needs.

+ ACTION PLAN

1. Use the following prayer to pray for yourself everyday, asking God for faith in the unseen: “ I was created to bless the world and all of history! God has already blessed me to be fruitful, to multiply, and to subdue my enemies, all for the sake of glorifying Him!”
2. Ask God to reveal to you any thought patterns, like strongholds in your mind, that hinder you from believing God’s Word completely, e.g. incorrect value systems from your parents or from society.

+ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After listening to the message, did you receive any revelation about God’s calling for you (to be fruitful, multiply and subdue), and did you take any action to apply it to your life?
2. Do you truly believe God’s Word or are you dubious about it? Please share what you feel after practicing “Action of Blessing” #2.
3. In the message, Pastor Hsiao mentioned that every person’s calling is to change his or her generation. In the past year, did you have a positive impact on someone else’s life?
4. Does the thing you care about the most have any eternal value? If it does not, has God revealed to you the areas in your life where you should give the sovereignty to Him?