

Whether you turn to the right or to the left,  
you will hear a voice saying, "This is the road!  
Now follow it."  
Isaiah 30:21



## Decisions

Liberty Towers Church of the Nazarene  
Men's study

**MEN TO MEN**  
**M2M**  
REAL MEN...REAL ISSUES...REAL FAITH

## Decisions Week two Review

➤ Shine



➤ Question



➤ Cross



➤ Think



➤ Apply



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Shine - What do you remember for last week that had the brightest light

Question – What idea or concept raised a question

Cross – What idea or concept revealed something about the character or ministry of Jesus

Think – What idea or concept made a difference in your life this past week

Apply – What did you do differently this week because of the lesson

Why are you here?



- Was it Tony's announcement.
- Was it expectations of others
- Was it just to get out of the house
- Was it just habit?
- Was it a combination of these all?

I would contend it is something totally different.

I believe there is within us an inner desire, a small voice that calls us to do something about it.

Like a small crease in our sock. You don't even feel it unless we walk a long time and it becomes an irritation.

It is there but it is not worth taking off your shoe to fix it.

Our lives have this same inner desire to something more than self.



## Voice religions

- ▶ **Judaism** – God’s Passion for justice
- ▶ **Christianity** – God’s passion In Love
- ▶ **Islam** – God’s passion for the ideal world



- Judaism speaks of God who made the world and built into it the passion for justice because it is God’s passion.
- Christianity speaks of the same God with the same passion as exhibited in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Islam takes this same passion of God and accumulates the teachings of Judaism and Christianity and melds them into a new synthesis that the revealed will of God, the Koran, becomes the ideal of the world.

There are great differences, but they all hear the voice. Struggling against the two other ways to look at the world, they adamantly shout, “there is something more, there is someone who still whispers.”

“The reason we believe there is a voice is because we have heard it.”

“It is not a dream.”

“I need to hear it.”

“I must hear it.”

A want within us

A longing within us

A craving within us

A need within us

A desire within us

The slide features a light green background with a dark green border. On the left side, there is a vertical decorative element consisting of thin, dark lines that resemble grass or reeds. At the top left, there is a dark red arrow pointing to the right. The title 'The luxury of the desire' is positioned in the upper left quadrant. Below the title, there is a bulleted list of four items, each preceded by a dark red arrow. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'MEN TO MEN M2M' with the tagline 'REAL MEN...REAL ISSUES...REAL FAITH' underneath.

## The luxury of the desire

- ▶ You can live without it
- ▶ It can be ignored
- ▶ It can be delayed
- ▶ It can be denied

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It is a desire that is a luxury.

**Somewhat like sex.**

It is not a necessity.

You can live without it.

It lives within us, deep inside.

It can be ignored, delayed and even denied.

But it is there.

Analogy:

Sometimes a simple touch or sight stirs something. It ignites a small smoldering flame.

You allow that little flame to awake something. You make the decision to allow the luxury to flame up. That awakening can well be awkward and even strange.

We try in many ways to satiate that desire. But it does not reach the right spot. It does not quiet the inner echo.

We want it to last. We hope for more than a momentary satiation. We settle for the momentary. We settle for the moment. We want more, to experience a constancy. We want a continual intimacy. We need a continual experience with the spiritual. To a place where our soul touches, caresses, intertwines and literally joins as one flesh.

## The echo of eternity

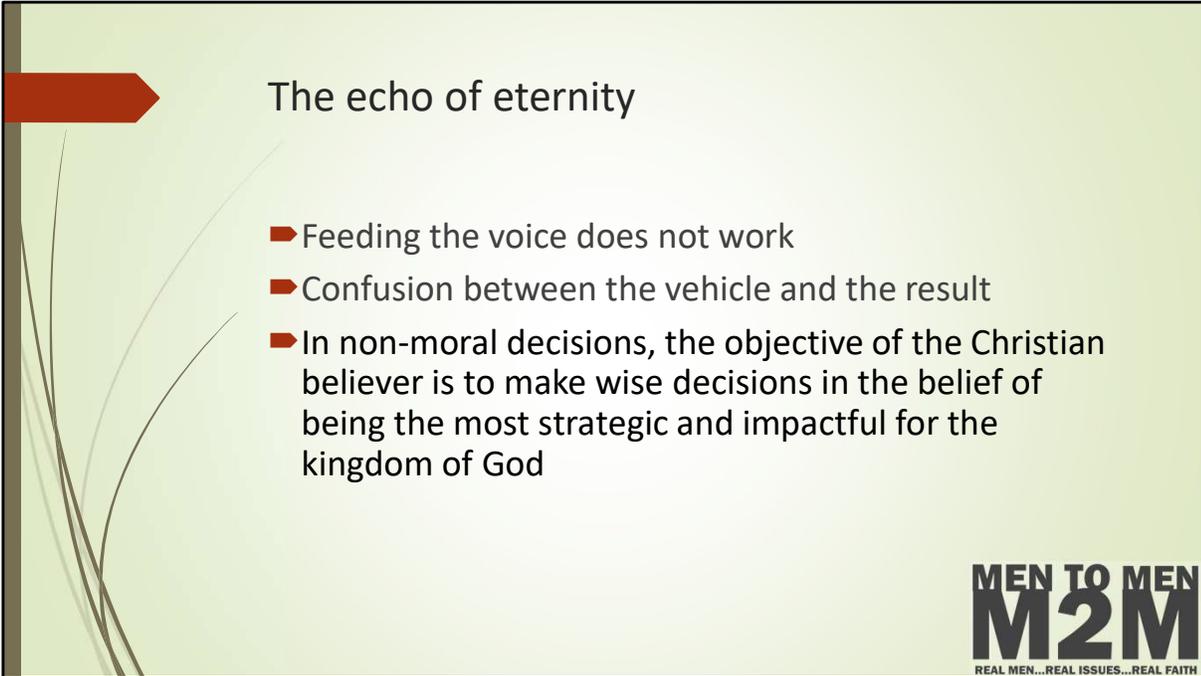
- ▶ Lessons in decision making
  1. Decision for **salvation**, changes us
  2. Decision to **Seek**, changes our desire
  3. Decision for **sacrifice**, changes our lifestyle
  4. Decision for **assurance**, changes our dependence
- ▶ Decision of **Kingdom** changes, our authority



- Review of the four weeks together.
  1. This study is about Christian Decision making. Our belief structure is different. Salvation changes things in our process of decisions.
  2. In all decisions, the believer should humbly **submit**, in advance, to the outworkings of God's will as it touches every decision
  3. In those areas that are specifically addressed in the bible, the revealed command and principles of God, they are to be **obeyed**.
  4. In those areas where the the revealed will of God is no command or principle, the believer is **Free and Responsible** to chose the course of action.
- Greatest decision to be made is the decision for Christ.
- We become Christian. Our sins are forgiven. We are a new creature. A God seed is planted within us. We did this because of God drawing us, HIS ECHO of Eternity
- Have to go further. The echo of eternity is not silenced. We start a great quest. "Seeking First the Kingdom of God" We decide to find the action or process to follow that Echo.
  - Seeking is a change in **desire**.
- But seeking is not enough. The Echo of eternity is not silenced just by looking and accepting. We start to make efforts to our lifestyle. Make ourselves a living sacrifice. Our actions become our hope to quench this echo of eternity.
  - Sacrafice changes our **lifestyle**
- Even in this heightened sence of the Echo of Eternity there are times we fail, sometime very badly. We are driven to the Advocate. We make every effort to hold our heads up and yest the Echo is not lessened or even more prominent. We need more than an intellectual understanding of what is right and wrong, we need an assurance that God still cares amid our flawed, human state. We crave assurance that God is, that God

loves, that God forgives.

- Assurance changes our our **dependence**
- The Echo of eternity still sounds. There has to be more. More than simple desire, More than living the right way, More than dependence on God. I need to belong. I need to be a part. I need the fellowship of Echo hearers. I need to change even more.
  - Kingdom is a change in **authority**.



## The echo of eternity

- ▶ Feeding the voice does not work
- ▶ Confusion between the vehicle and the result
- ▶ In non-moral decisions, the objective of the Christian believer is to make wise decisions in the belief of being the most strategic and impactful for the kingdom of God



We have made decision to change our desire  
We have made decisions to change lifestyle  
We have made decisions to change dependence  
We now have to make the big step of a change in authority

One of the innate desires in life is to experience more than the present self.  
To experience more than what we can sense with our eyes, ears, nose, touch and taste.  
We want to use these senses to experience more to create something more.  
It lies deep within us.

- Little voice deep within ourselves calling us to something we can't sense. We try to use all the other senses to hear it more clearly.
- We feed our eyes with beauty and art, and when that does not work, we substitute horror just to wake up something
- We feed our ears with the latest song, choral of bells, speakers, meditation and white noise.
- We feed our nose with incense, roses, the smell of candles, and even apple pie. All to remind ourselves of something more.
- We can well carry a big black book to church, we dress in our best, to feel good about ourselves in the pew. We shake hands give gentle hugs to feel a part of something more.
- The taste of unleavened bread and grape juice brings about visions of the Jesus and the cross.

**In non-moral decisions, the objective of the Christian believer is to make wise decisions in the belief of being the most strategic and impactful for the kingdom of God**

## MY BROTHERS

Seeking is different from finding

Seeking is a doing thing

God is in the being

I am not a bold old retired man

I am a Kingdom impactor

I am a kingdom changer

I am seeking the kingdom

by conforming to God's expressed will using my freewill to become an Kingdom impactor

Our inner voice is not made any louder with all our mechanisms. That little echo of eternity is never any louder. All our worship, all our sitting and standing and singing sometimes just is nothing more than an exercise. What is needed is to, "BE STILL AND KNOW." Our little echo of eternity is calling ever so quietly for something that is incorruptible and will never perish. It calls to an experience of the divine.

AND KNOW. Know that God has a unique plan for you and your world.

## Four sequential guidelines for Christian decision making

- ▶ In all decisions, the believer should humbly submit, in *advance*, to the outworkings of God's will as it touches every decision
- ▶ In those areas that are specifically addressed in the bible, the revealed command and principles of God, they are to be obeyed.
- ▶ In those areas where the revealed will of God is no command or principle, the believer is Free and Responsible to choose the course of action.
- ▶ In non-moral decisions, the objective of the Christian believer is to make wise decisions in the belief of being the most strategic and impactful for the kingdom of God



It is only when we get to this place of understanding and nurture with the spiritual life that we can fully come to the last of the four guidelines of Christian decision making. Who we are, Kingdom impactors is the fourth guideline for Christian Decision making. Impact the plan

All the methods for being The former in this list leads us to this conclusion.  
I AM MENT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MY SELF.

HISTORY IS ADVANCEMENT

PERSON, FAMILY, VILLAGE, TOWN, COMMUNITY, CITY, KINGDOM, EMPIRE

You see all the history of the Old testament was moving to something more. To a kingdom, the kingdom of David. When it did not happen they fell back  
So when Jesus came it confused them

Came as a servant not a kingdom leader

Willing to die so that others may live

He washed feet

He forgave the unforgivable

Gave worth to the worthless

Went looking for one sheep with the whole flock was left alone

They wanted a King. To through out the Romans, to restore the kingdom of David,

Jesus came to redeem sinners

To become a part of the kingdom of God This idea was not what they wanted

It was not apart of their well ingrained social morality

We don't want Jesus. We want a mighty warrior, not the ordinary but the special, the best we want a rich and strong king.  
The king was the picture of the kingdom.



## The kingdom of god

- ▶ God has a plan for your life
- ▶ That plan is the furtherance of the kingdom
- ▶ The kingdom starts with me
- ▶ Lives are on the line



God has a plan for your life  
That plan is the furtherance of the kingdom

You may well tear down every church in America  
You may well change the constitutional freedom of religion to Freedom from Religion  
You may set out and kill millions of the unborn  
You may even kill Christians like they do in the middle east  
But the kingdom will still stand

Why?

Because I am still a child of the King  
The kingdom will ever be alive and well because it starts with me  
Then in my family, village, town, community, city, and country

Lives are on the line

What you do or not do today, tomorrow MAY WELL EFFECT WHETHER  
SOMEONE ACCEPTS OR REJECTS JESUS

The Kingdom may not hinge only on you.  
You don't have to do it alone.  
We have a great start.  
You don't have do kingdom by your self,  
BUT IT STARTS WITH YOU.

Kingdom requirements

1. You are a witness
  - Thought
    - Philippians 4:8-9
  - Word
    - Proverbs 18:21
  - Deed

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- Thoughts are the beginning of kingdom witness
  - It is the fertile ground of Kingdom
  - It is where it all starts
    - Not the body
    - In the mind.. Biblical mandates are plenty and specific about the thought process

Philippians 4:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- Word

Sticks and stone will break my bones but words will never hurt me. NOT Sticks and stones my bruise my body for days, but words can scar you for

life.

- You will never amount to anything
- I wish I never had you
- You are nothing like your brother
- I am sick of you
- I never loved you
- You will never change

**Proverbs :18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.**

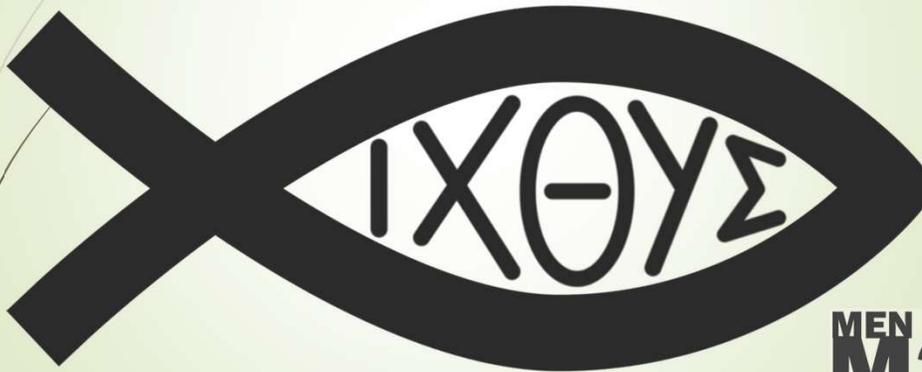
Kingdom words revive, heal, change, create, be helpful, sooth, be faithful, bring life  
Worldly words bind, imprison, destroy, hurt, are toxic, kill

Our words are important.

- DEED. Last week. Doing is the evidence of being.
  - It is living your life authentically.

## Kingdom requirements

### 2. Live your life authentically



I had an acquaintance that had purchased a bumper sticker for his car. It wasn't the best looking car but additional bumper sticker would not make that any better or worse. Well the bumper sticker was the ICHTHUS symbol an icon of a fish. Used in the first century church to quietly and unobservantly tell one Christian that you were a Christian. This acquaintance placed it on the bumper with the pride of a new Christian, to tell the world he was different. Six months later he quietly had taken a razor blade and removed it. He became convicted of his poor driving. So instead of improving his driving skills, instead of being an authentic Christian Driver, Instead of changing his actions he removed the sticker. "Because it made him feel he as a hypocrite.

Not enough to have a belief

You must live it out

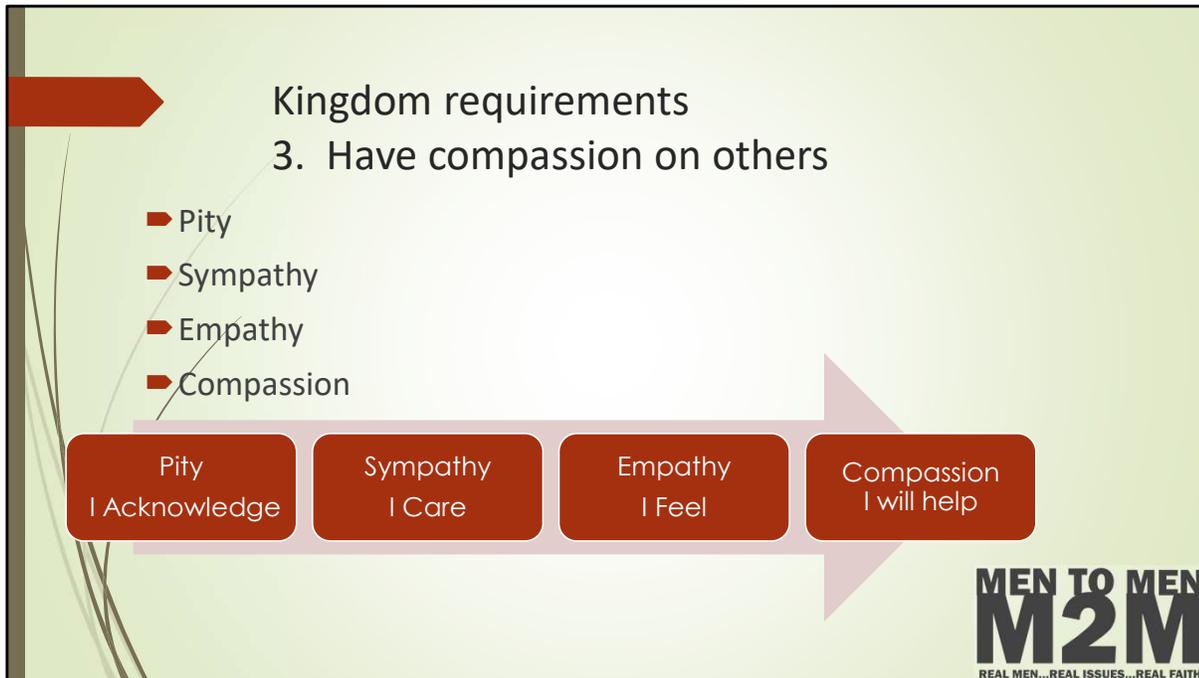
You may fall short. If we do we have an advocate with the father

Matthew 23. Talks about Pharisees. Gives seven woes to them that are not authentic with their lives.

Calls them hypocrites

Preach one thing and lived another

Lived by the rule of Do as I say not as I do.



Compassion is a hard thing for men

We want to separate the heart and the head and in doing do we make excuses for not caring.

Man with a sign on the median. “any thing will help” “Need food” always at the bottom a cross or “God bless you”

As men we quote studies where most are a scam, or we make assumptions they are just gaming the system

“Get a job, “ Get their act together and pull them selves up by there own efforts.

They are a traffic hazard.

Maybe we actually give a dollar and still feel taken.

Jesus said, “The poor will always be with us.

Jesus saw them all as sheep without a shepard

The question is not what would Jesus do. But to look at them through Jesus eyes.

I will tell you they will look differently.

For a man compassion is a tough thing.

A model of compassion.

PITY. I acknowledge you suffering. “you portray yourself as a needing person. You are not wearing the latest fashion with your sign.

Sympathy. I am sorry that you are hungry and thirsty and without a place in the rain. I would not want to be you.

Empathy. I have been there I know the hurt of want, I know your pain, I feel it as if it was mine. Your sign hurts my sense of comfort.

Ability to understand and feel that someone else is feeling, or see the situation from their point of view.

***One of the most important interpersonal skills that someone can have is empathy because it helps the connection between people.***

Compassion, I want to relieve your suffering. Not for the moment for all eternity.

??????Can you have compassion without empathy?

## Kingdom requirements

### 4. You are a soldier

JOSHUA 1:9

HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU?  
BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.  
DO NOT BE TERRIFIED;  
DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED,  
FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO.

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A soldier is a special vocation.

I applaud all that have served in this role for my country.

It takes discipline

It takes a submission to a routine

It takes a subjection to a command structure

It takes on a new creation of action from day to day

Weapons training and maintenance

Keeping a level of fitness

Understanding of strategies of warfare

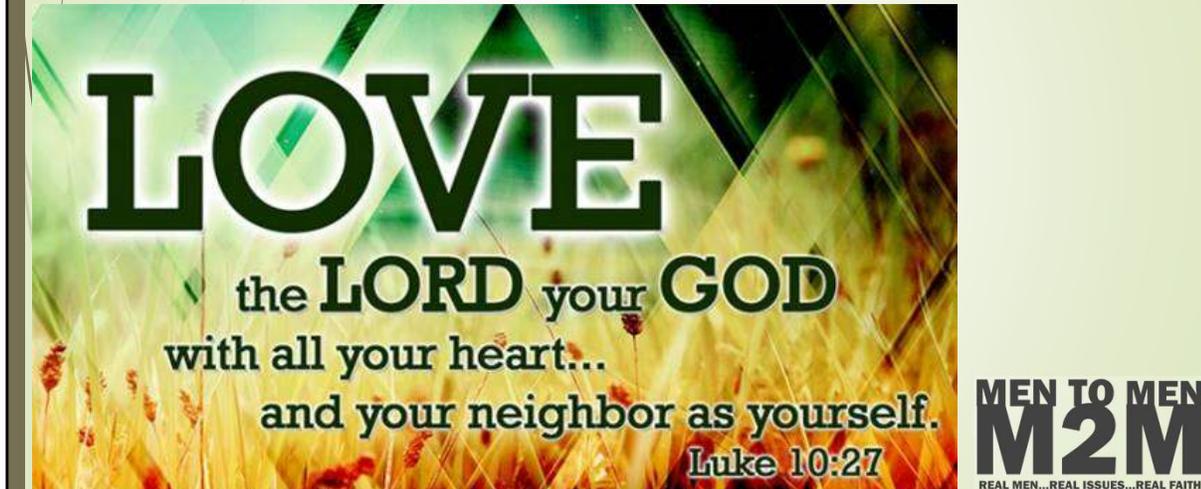
A skilled use of personal intellect

We are to be soldiers in the kingdom

Be strong and coragious and be not araid, for your Lord is with you wherever you go.

YOU ARE A SOLDIER ACT LIKE ONE.

Kingdom requirements  
5. Advance in love



There are differences between Christianity and all the other faith systems  
our cornerstone is based in Love  
Not law  
Not in a hope for heaven  
Not in a conformance to a set of conformance commands  
Not in an expectation of God making great changes in our  
lives.

It is based on LOVE  
and undeserved, unearnable, unexpected, perfect love  
Poured out with abundance  
This same love is to be poured back out out to all around us every day.  
To the underserving  
To those to don't care  
To those that many even acknowledge it  
To those who spitefully use you  
to those who hurt you  
To those who will take advantage of you

Other kingdoms have come and gone  
I believe the Kingdom of God is becoming stronger  
Brick by brick  
Soul by soul  
The foundation of the kingdom is being built  
The foundation of eternity is being built by me  
God does not want anyone to perish  
And each of us may well be the only thing either holding someone back or making the

positive difference.



## Five things will make us Kingdom impactors

- ▶ I am a witness in thought word and deed
- ▶ I am an authentic Christian
- ▶ I have compassion
- ▶ I am a soldier
- ▶ I am a vehicle for God's love

**MEN TO MEN**  
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## Role of the Unique kingdom impactor.

1. Will it glorify God?
2. Can it be done for the Lord?
3. Can it be done in Jesus Name?
4. How will it appear to others?
5. Would it hinder other Christians?
6. Does it involve wrong company?
7. Does it compromise my testimony?
8. Is this God's will for me?
9. Do I want to face it at the Judgement?
10. If still not sure, choose the most impactful to the kingdom?



1. I Cor 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or what ever you do, do all to the glory of God
2. Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than man.
3. Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
4. I Thes 5:22 Do not lay hand upon anyone too quickly (mob) and thus share responsibility for the sins of others
5. Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.
6. I Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
7. Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy
8. Rom 12:2 Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, which is good and acceptable and perfect
9. 2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, That each one my be recompensed for his dees in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
10. Mat 6:33 Seek first His kingdom and His reighteousness



## I AM CALLED TO BE AN KINGDOM impactor.

- ▶ Matthew 6:33
- ▶ I Kings 8:61
- ▶ “An intentional arraignmentof life around the person and word of god”
- ▶ To know God better than I know anything else
- ▶ To love God better than anything else
- ▶ To delight in god more that anything else



I have a great big mirror on my study wall. Use it at a place to list the things I need to do.

God gave me a great start to my list

SEEK FIRST

Family, friends, hobbies, vocation, vacation, ministry, cars, order meds, Bonnies' honey do list

But God gives me the first priority. SEEK FIRST

Because that is what I am: An impacter to the kingdom of heaven.

THAT IS WHAT I AM... A KINGDOM CHANGER

Goal of life

In non-moral decisions, the objective of the Christian believer is to make wise decisions in the belief of being the most strategic and impactful for the kingdom of God

### Manifesto of Kingdom Impactors

God's kingdom impactors are not of this world, yet in the world. This world of humanity is lost, alienated and separated from its creator and in opposition to Him. I am called to a being relationship with the creator. I listen carefully to the inner echo of eternity in all I do. I am to be overcome by the very perfect plan of god in my life. What I am will drive all that I do, In compassion, common sense, attitude and eternity.

**MEN TO MEN**  
**M2M**  
REAL MEN. REAL MEN. REAL FILMS.

Compassion – Relationship over things  
Common Sense – Intellect over emotion  
Attitude – Joy over happiness  
Eternality – Future over past