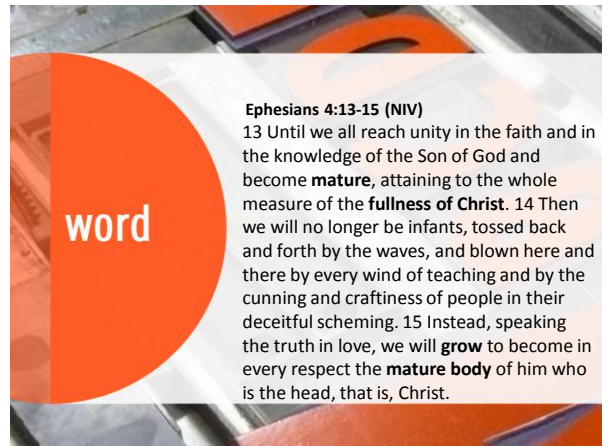


**You need a Backbone,  
not a wishbone!**

**Paul Botha**

**5 May 2013**

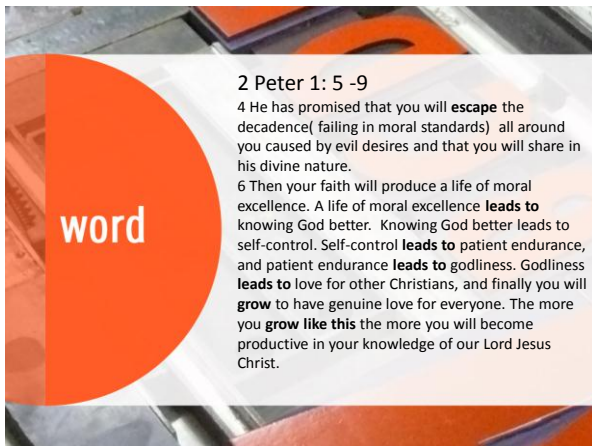
word



**Ephesians 4:13-15 (NIV)**

13 Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the **fullness of Christ**. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the **mature body** of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

word




**2 Peter 1: 5 -9**

4 He has promised that you will **escape** the decadence( failing in moral standards) all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.

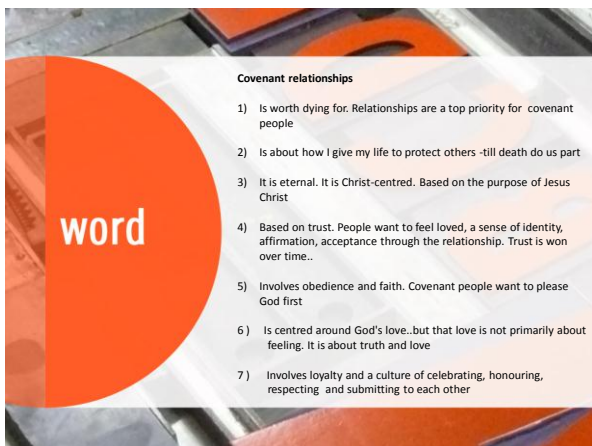
6 Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence **leads to** knowing God better. Knowing God better leads to self-control. Self-control **leads to** patient endurance, and patient endurance **leads to** godliness. Godliness **leads to** love for other Christians, and finally you will **grow** to have genuine love for everyone. The more you **grow like this** the more you will become productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

word



**word**

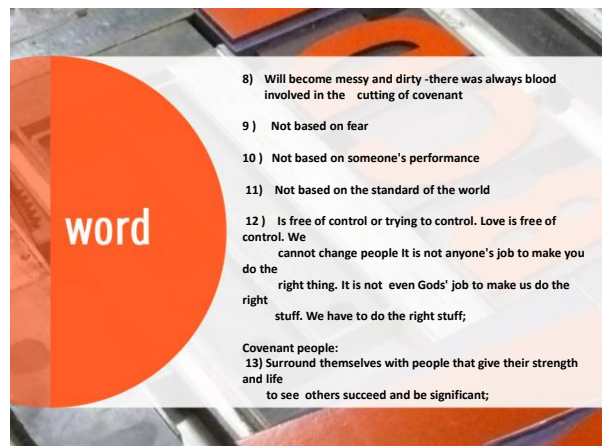
1. Emulate 'gentle Jesus'
2. Be deliberate and gratuitous with your grace and patience - focus on the person and off issues
3. Vacate the judgment seat to GOD
4. Set boundaries for humility and respect



**Covenant relationships**

- 1) Is worth dying for. Relationships are a top priority for covenant people
- 2) Is about how I give my life to protect others -till death do us part
- 3) It is eternal. It is Christ-centred. Based on the purpose of Jesus Christ
- 4) Based on trust. People want to feel loved, a sense of identity, affirmation, acceptance through the relationship. Trust is won over time...
- 5) Involves obedience and faith. Covenant people want to please God first
- 6) Is centred around God's love..but that love is not primarily about feeling. It is about truth and love
- 7) Involves loyalty and a culture of celebrating, honouring, respecting and submitting to each other

word

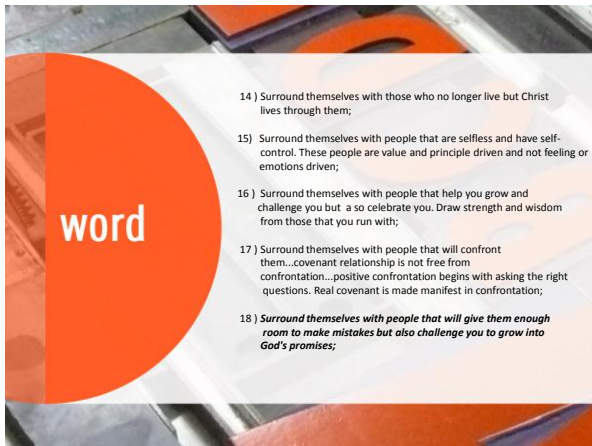


**word**

- 8) Will become messy and dirty -there was always blood involved in the cutting of covenant
- 9) Not based on fear
- 10) Not based on someone's performance
- 11) Not based on the standard of the world
- 12) Is free of control or trying to control. Love is free of control. We cannot change people It is not anyone's job to make you do the right thing. It is not even Gods' job to make us do the right stuff. We have to do the right stuff;

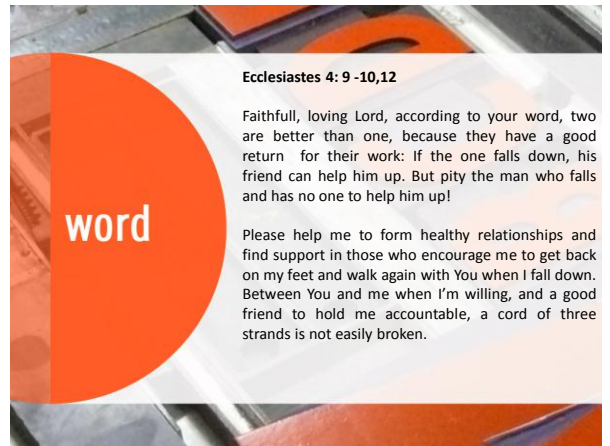
**Covenant people:**

- 13) Surround themselves with people that give their strength and life to see others succeed and be significant;



**word**

- 14) Surround themselves with those who no longer live but Christ lives through them;
- 15) Surround themselves with people that are selfless and have self-control. These people are value and principle driven and not feeling or emotions driven;
- 16) Surround themselves with people that help you grow and challenge you but a so celebrate you. Draw strength and wisdom from those that you run with;
- 17) Surround themselves with people that will confront them...covenant relationship is not free from confrontation...positive confrontation begins with asking the right questions. Real covenant is made manifest in confrontation;
- 18) *Surround themselves with people that will give them enough room to make mistakes but also challenge you to grow into God's promises;*

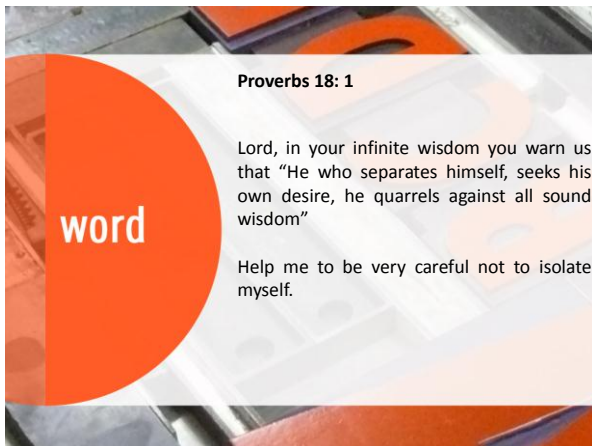


**word**

**Ecclesiastes 4: 9 -10,12**

Faithful, loving Lord, according to your word, two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If the one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Please help me to form healthy relationships and find support in those who encourage me to get back on my feet and walk again with You when I fall down. Between You and me when I'm willing, and a good friend to hold me accountable, a cord of three strands is not easily broken.



**word**

**Proverbs 18: 1**

Lord, in your infinite wisdom you warn us that "He who separates himself, seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom"

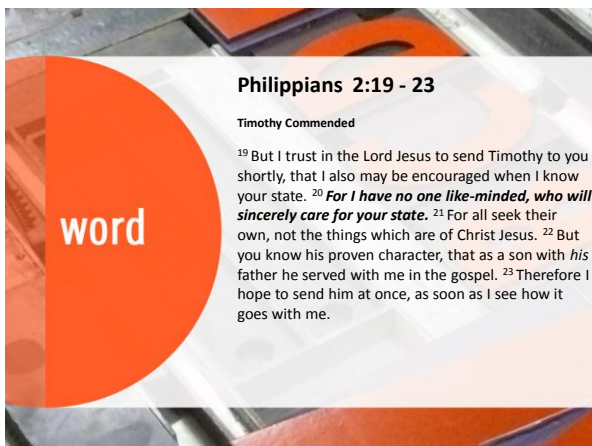
Help me to be very careful not to isolate myself.



**word**

**Travelling Alone**

God created us all to be part of His body. We function together. Fellowship is a precious gift the Lord gives His children. To neglect fellowship or refuse to draw near those who make our journey all that it should be is to make ourselves vulnerable to compromise. Anytime we withdraw from wise friends who will hold us accountable, we seek our own desires. We become resistant to "all sound wisdom" and that is a dangerous place to be. If we are committed to travel towards the heart of God, then we need to move towards the wise friends, of any age, who can help us stay on the journey.

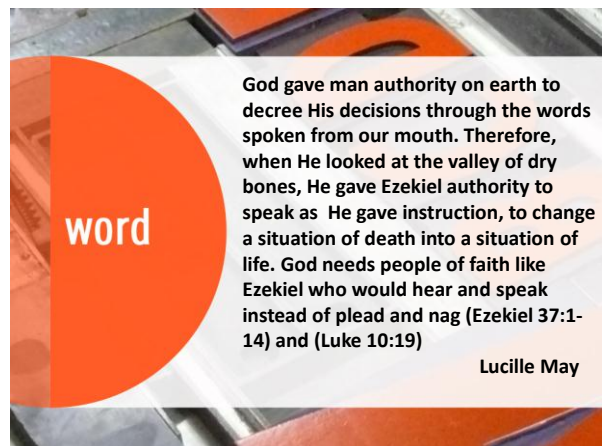


**word**

**Philippians 2:19 - 23**

Timothy Commended

<sup>19</sup> But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. <sup>20</sup> *For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.* <sup>21</sup> For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. <sup>22</sup> But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.



**word**

God gave man authority on earth to decree His decisions through the words spoken from our mouth. Therefore, when He looked at the valley of dry bones, He gave Ezekiel authority to speak as He gave instruction, to change a situation of death into a situation of life. God needs people of faith like Ezekiel who would hear and speak instead of plead and nag (Ezekiel 37:1-14) and (Luke 10:19)

Lucille May