

TALK IT OVER

APOSTOLIC VOICES

PART 2 | 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTES TO LEADERS

We have an exciting lineup of guest pastors over the next 2 weeks:

- 5 October: Dusty & Taniele Van Niekerk, who left CityHill a year ago to support The Bridge Church in Toronto, Canada
- 12 October: Tyrone & Nicole Daniel, who lead the NCMI translocal team that our church partners with. NCMI works into over 8

SCRIPTURES

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-10

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Paul describes us as jars of clay holding God's treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7). Why do you think God chooses fragile, imperfect vessels instead of "jars of gold"?
2. How does fixing our eyes on the unseen change the way we view present struggles, disappointments, or difficulties?
3. What does it practically look like to live with an eternal perspective rather than being consumed by the temporary?

START SHARING

1. When you hear the phrase "a life worthy of Jesus' sacrifice", what comes to mind for you personally?
2. Where in your life do you feel "hard pressed" or "struck down"? How does this passage encourage you to keep going?
3. Have you ever experienced God shaping your character through hardship? What fruit came out of that season?
4. In what areas are you still tempted to cling to your own plans rather than surrendering them to God?

START PRAYING

1. Pray for surrender and humility
2. Pray for eternal perspective and perseverance

START DOING

Each morning, pause and pray: "Lord, help me fix my eyes on what is unseen today. Shape me as Your jar of clay, and let my life reflect Your glory." Write down one way you notice God shifting your perspective during the week.

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Diego Baltran, who leads Connection Church in Colombia, shared an encouraging message.

The Bible teaches that we have a great debt. Jesus left His throne, sacrificed Himself, and died for us. This means our lives are not our own. We are called to live in a way that makes His sacrifice "worth it"; to live a life worthy of the price that was paid.

This begins with us. We each have a mission, but our first mission is to allow God to work on our own character. From there, we influence our families and the people around us. We are not on this earth by chance. A great sacrifice was made for us, and therefore, our lives have great purpose.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

2 Corinthians 4:7–10 says: *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

And verses 17–18 add: *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

God places His treasure inside "jars of clay." He does not choose jars of gold because jars of gold shine too much and believe they are already finished products. God is looking for people who are humble and moldable; people He can shape with His own hands. When we are jars of gold, the glory cannot be God's because we are too shiny. We think, "This message is for someone else." But when we are jars of clay, we are humble, teachable, and able to be transformed. The Master can make us into something better for His glory.

Seeing What Is Unseen

The Lord is calling us to look beyond what is visible. The things we can see (our problems, difficulties, disappointments) are temporary and can easily distract us. The unseen things (God's promises and His eternal purposes) are what truly matter.

This means looking at people with God's vision. Look at your spouse not with your natural eyes but with spiritual eyes. Look at your children with God's perspective. No matter what you're going through, keep walking and keep your eyes fixed on the unseen.

God is not surprised by anything. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He has been in your past, He is in your present, and He has already seen your future. He wants to speak a word into your present that heals your past and blesses your future. Understanding this will transform your life.

Being a Visionary

A visionary is someone who sees the fruit before it appears. When you plant seeds, you already picture the harvest. In the same way, God plants dreams, visions, and purposes in your heart. You may not see them yet, but they are real.

This also means living with an eternal perspective. When we are hard pressed, we are not crushed. When persecuted, we are not abandoned. When struck down, we are not destroyed. This perspective helps us focus on the unseen and prevents the enemy from trapping us in our circumstances.

Dying to Produce Fruit

Like seeds, our lives must be planted and "die" before we produce fruit. If we cling tightly to our own lives, we remain alone. But when we surrender to God, our lives bear fruit (love, joy, patience, gentleness, faithfulness) that bless others.

Jesus died to give you life. When you die to yourself, others can live. Until you surrender, you will not produce fruit. But once you do, others will be nourished by the fruit of your life.

Suffering and Glory

Our present troubles are light and momentary compared to the eternal glory they produce. When we fix our eyes on what is seen (our problems, crises, and disappointments) we feel weighed down. But when we focus on what is unseen, we carry the "weight of glory" God places on us.

This doesn't mean our pain is not real. It means our pain is not final. God invites us to look at our families, our situations, and our futures with a different perspective. His perspective. This is how we move heaven and bring His glory into our lives.

Faith and Perseverance

Imagine a trustworthy millionaire hands you a real cheque for \$10 million, but you can only cash it in one year. You have two choices. You can complain and doubt, or you can believe and live with joy, knowing the money is yours.

This is what God's promises are like. Many of us give up just before the blessing arrives. Our culture teaches us to quit easily, but God calls us to persevere. Your breakthrough may be in the next step. Hold on. Be resilient. Believe the promise.

God's Invitation

God is looking for jars of clay - people who are humble, willing to be shaped, and ready to carry His treasure. He invites us to:

- Live lives worthy of Jesus' sacrifice.
- Fix our eyes on what is unseen and eternal.
- Be visionaries who believe before they see.
- Die to ourselves so others can live.
- Persevere in faith, knowing the blessing is on its way.

This is not just about surviving; it's about living with purpose. When you understand that you have been bought with a price, you stop living for yourself and start living for Him. You become a vessel of His glory.

Perhaps you're facing something painful right now. Perhaps you've been tempted to give up. The Lord wants to encourage you:

- Don't give up on your family.
- Don't abandon your project.
- Don't stop believing.

God has already seen your future. He is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. His promises are true.

Stand firm. Keep your eyes on the unseen. Let Him shape you into a vessel of honor. Live a life worthy of the sacrifice of Jesus.