

# MOBILISING KINGDOM LIVING

FAITH & RISK • PERSEVERANCE • DAILY



# “Unlearning to Learn”





**“The illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”**

Alvin Toffler (1928-2016)

# Mathew 5:21-43 <sup>NLT</sup>

“You have heard... But I (*Jesus*) say...”

Unlearn what you have heard, learn from me (*Jesus*)!

‘Murder,’ ‘Adultery,’ ‘Vows,’ ‘Divorce,’ ‘Revenge,’

Unlearning is neither forgetting nor removing old information, experiences, or ways of thinking; instead, it is building new patterns of brain cells communication that can support different ways of thinking.



# Examples:

1. **Nathaniel** John 1:46-50 <sup>NLT</sup> ...“Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.
2. **Nicodemus** John 3:1-15 <sup>NLT</sup> ... “What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again? How are these things possible?”
3. **The Samaritan woman** John 4:4-30 <sup>NLT</sup>... “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink? do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well...why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship?”
4. **Peter’s vision** Acts 10

# Responses after encounter

1. **Nathaniel-** “Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”
2. **Nicodemus-** “No response recorded”
3. **The Samaritan Woman-** “The woman **left her water jar** beside the well and **ran back** to the village, **telling** everyone, “**Come and see** a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?”
4. **Peter-** “**I see** very clearly that God shows no favouritism.”



# Come, and See?

Romans 12:2 <sup>NLT</sup>

“Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but **let God transform** you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 <sup>AMP</sup>

“And we all, with unveiled face, **continually seeing** as in a mirror the **glory** of the Lord, are **progressively being transformed** into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.”

# Prayers

Disciples needed to pray differently to hypocrites and pagans  
(Matthew 6:5-8)

- a) God is not an errand boy we send around as we wish through prayer.
- b) Prayer is not a weapon we use to change God's mind and do our bidding.
- c) Prayer is bigger than our own self-centredness; it is not about us.

**'Submission to God's rule is the ultimate motivation for a prayerful life.'**



# Love

God is Love, Love is not God.

1 John 4:7-9, 1 Cor 13.

**Please note: God cannot act on one of his attributes at the expense of another.**

**'Anything done in the name of love that lacks the whole essence of God can not be godly. But anything done in line with the nature, word, ways, and move of God will always be love.'**

# Scriptures Used Out of Context?

‘Unchallenged *truths* passed on to us’

Example: Psalm 118:6-7 <sup>NLT</sup>

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can [mere] man do to me? The LORD is on my side, He is among those who help me...”

**Q. are you living within the covenant faithfulness of God?**

Example: Isaiah 38:18-19 <sup>NLT</sup>

“For the dead cannot praise you; they cannot raise their voices in praise. Those who go down to the grave can no longer hope in your faithfulness. Only the living can praise you as I do today...”

**Q. Does this pertain to followers of Christ?**



# Pleasure and Pain

Hebrews 11:24-26 & Hebrews 12:2

1. The pain-pleasure worldview tells people to avoid pain and pursue pleasure (**Unlearn**).
2. The right use of them makes life, the wrong use of them mars it (**Learn**).
3. Gratification of the sensuous side of our nature is not a sin (**Unlearn**), it should not be neglected (**Learn**) but should be made subordinate to the divine culture of kingdom living (**Learn**).
4. The Christian life is not painful toil and endless drudgery until we die and go to heaven (**Unlearn**). Walking the path of the cross is walking the road of both suffering and glory (**Learn**).

**“God is not found in the soul by ADDING anything,  
but by a process of SUBTRACTION.**

**The spiritual life is more about UNLEARNING than it is  
about LEARNING. It is only when we get out of our  
own way that the Lord can take over and fill us with  
greater capacity. But it’s a gruelling process to come  
to this level of surrender, and few of us go willingly.”**

**Richard Rohr**



**“Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that. You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new. The old will defy the new; The old will deny the new; The old will decry the new. There is only one way to bring in the new. You must make room for it.”**

Neale Donald Walsch

# What do we need?

1. Curiosity
2. Humility
3. Bible study and discussion
4. Study Cultural resistance to Christ
5. Review Myths via God's words
6. Criticise Habits
7. Check our words



# “Unlearning to Learn”

