

January 6, 2013

How to Stay Plugged In **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

It is the first Sunday of a New Year and as we start it, we think about New Year resolutions: diets, exercising, praying more consistently, read our Bible more, walking in love, forgiving quickly, putting the Word of God into our hearts. All of these are good, but many times these resolutions are dropped after a few weeks, however, there are some who will follow through with their commitment.

Pastors should have the discernment needed in order to minister to their people effectively for the different seasons in their lives. The seasons will change over the course of time. Joshua tells us the importance of the Word and how it will affect our lives. Attitudes play an important part in this. Learning to "stay plugged in" becomes a way of life for us.

Joshua 1:8 *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* KJV

There may be times in our lives when we are in need of some extra help from the Lord, we are unable to get our minds working as they should due to some kind of mishap. The following scriptures allow us to draw from God's Word, if we will meditate on them. Again "staying plugged in" to the Word enables us to do this.

Pro 6:21 *"Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck"* KJV

Psa 103:1-5 *"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. 2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. 3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. 4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. 5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"* KJV

Pro 4:20-22 *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."* KJV

An example was given of an electric razor which could not hold a charge for a very long period of time, but once it was plugged into the source, it would function properly. This is how we are as believers, we must stay "plugged into the source", the Word or our charge will run down and we will be ineffective in our walk with the Lord and His plan for our lives.

In Jesus, we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness, anything that we would ever have needed is there in Jesus. However, if we get to the place where we are unplugged and are in need of something we will find that we are unable to get the switch of faith turned on because we are not "plugged into" the power source. Jesus reminds us of the importance of abiding in Him. In Jesus we have it all.

John 15:4 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."* KJV

1 John 2:27-28 *"27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall*

appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." KJV

There can be sources from the devil that we have "plugged into" which are hindrances to us, and we don't realize that we are unplugged until we need power. Busyness in our lives, offenses, unforgiveness are a few.

Principles for staying "plugged in" are in the following scriptures.

Phil 3:12-21 *"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."* KJV

Paul was in prison in Rome at the time this epistle was written; he is writing to the church, he is not feeling sorry for himself. He is encouraging the people and still teaching them. He has his eye on the final goal; he is keeping focused on the finish line. We must copy his example and continually look to Jesus and heaven. This is how we stay "plugged in".

Phil 3:12-21 *"12-14 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. 15-16 So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. 17-19 Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites. 20-21 But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him."*
Message

v. 15 keeping focused on the goal

v. 16 the importance of staying on the right track

v. 17 encourages us to choose our friends carefully, those who are headed for the same goal

We must be faithful in the local church in what we have been called to do. Don't be drawn away with wrong teaching regarding church attendance and the importance of it. Commitment has not been done away with grace. God's grace is not earned but comes by faith and will make a better person of us and we will be more committed.

Heb 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one*

another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." KJV

Don't let circumstances dictate to us, forget about the past and what others have done to us, keep our eyes on Jesus. Let go and press on, stay "plugged in".

Principle #2 the importance of praying in tongues. Edifying ourselves means to be charged up, built up, and "plugged in". Praying in tongues promotes spiritual development.

1 Cor 14:4 *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church"* KJV

Phil 4:1-5 *"My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God. 2 I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges. 3 And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you're right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the Book of Life. 4-5 Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!"* Message

v. 2 and 3 encourages these people to stay "plugged in"

Paul continually is praising God, not looking at the circumstances around him.

Luke 9:62 *"Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day.""* Message

It is a New Year, so get "plugged in" today, don't put it off.