Monday
Three Nails Did It

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" Gal 2:20.

By the Bible, we know that it took three nails to crucify our Saviour to the cross. God says that if we are to allow Christ to live through us then the old man must be crucified. We can each voluntarily crucify our flesh, but we often cannot complete the process by ourselves. It usually requires a third party to put the third nail into the old man that allows the work to be completed in us.

For Jesus, it was Judas.
For David, it was Absalom.
For Joseph, it was his brothers.

Betrayal is a nail that will either complete the death process, or we will linger in unforgiveness and bitterness that will result in an even worse state - partial death.
This condition never allows you and me to experience true freedom.
When Jesus died He was freed to fulfil His mission on earth. He was resurrected from death to glory. When you and I die we are freed to become all God wants us to become in our lives before God. God gives us the cross to give us God and a new life in Christ.

Tuesday
Seeing Through God's Eyes

"They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword." - 2 Samuel 1:12

How would you respond if you heard something bad happened to someone who had been trying to cut off your head for several years? King Saul had been seeking to kill David for many years before Saul was thrust into battle against the Amalekites. In this final battle, a sword killed Saul. When the news reached David, instead of rejoicing that his enemy was no longer a problem for him, he responded in a totally different manner. He mourned. Imagine that; he mourned for the one who sought to kill him.

This is a sign of one who can look past an individual who is the source of pain and consider how God views him. God looks on that individual and sees his needs and knows why he responds the way he does. When we begin to see people as God does, we'll no longer look at them as enemies, but as souls in need of grace. This is how Jesus could give of His life for us. He saw our great need, not what we did to Him. When someone wrongs you, do you seek to retaliate, or do you pray to understand the need behind the offender’s actions?
Wednesday
Relationship Based on Rules

'Blessed are they...who walk according to the law of the Lord.' Psalm 119:1

Psalm 119, the longest psalm in the Bible with 176 verses, is a love song to God's law. But you'll never understand the Psalmist's enthusiasm about a moral code until you think about children playing near a cliff's edge. Without a fence, they're always in danger, never able to relax. Because of the fence, they can play freely and without fear. God's law is a safety fence that brings incredible freedom. Of course, it's only a matter of time until a kid starts to wonder what's on the other side of the fence. If he or she doesn't know or trust the fence builder, they hop over the fence and fall off the cliff.

And if they're fortunate enough to survive, they come back saying like the Psalmist, 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your word' (v. 67 NIV). But there's more to this story. God's law is not only a safety fence, it's also a mirror that shows us we can't live up to His standards without His help. Only when we realise that the fence builder loves us and wants the best for us, are we happy to stay on the right side of the fence. The Christian life is not a question of rules or relationship, but rules based on relationship. It's morality because of intimacy with God. When you understand that, you'll trust whatever God asks of you.

Thursday
Stop Condemning Yourself

'Who is he who condemns?...' Romans 8:34

Stop being mad at yourself because you're still struggling in certain areas of your life. When it comes to an area of your life that needs improvement, be concerned about it, but not consumed with it. You are always going to be working on something, so learn to separate your 'who' from your 'do'. Who you are in Christ is a settled issue. 'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...'. Because God has chosen to see you 'in Christ', you are always acceptable to Him and you always have access to Him. Your 'who' is not based on your 'do'. Your 'who' determines your salvation, your 'do' determines your future rewards in heaven.

God is not condemning you, you are condemning yourself. God will convict you, and when you repent of sin He will cleanse you, but He will never condemn you. Satan does that. You do that to yourself. But God never will. 'Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us' (v. 34 NKJV). Every time you fail, Christ your advocate offers His atoning blood to cover your sin. As a result, God sees you as 'accepted'. Stop comparing yourself with somebody else.

Friday
Unexplainable Power

"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony." John 3:11

When was the last time God did something in your work life that can only be explained as God? Was it yesterday? Was it just last week? A month ago? A year ago? The answer to this question
may mean several things. If it has been some time since you saw God's activity in such a way that you know it was His hand, you may not be trusting to a level that required faith. The members of the early Church changed the world they lived in because of what they saw and heard. It was the power of the gospel that changed lives, not what they learned from mere teaching. This power drew people to Christ. Things happened that could not be explained as anything other than the activity of God. Is that the kind of faith you are experiencing in your life? Many of us live a wholesome, moral life, but those we associate with do not see this activity as anything that cannot also be achieved by themselves. That is why many are not drawn to our lives. God's power is not evident. We have responsibility to showcase His power and glory today.

Saturday
Spiritual Strongholds

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:4

One of the great discoveries I made in later years in my walk with God has to do with living in victory over generational strongholds. The Bible speaks of punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generations. The only way out of living under the curses of generational strongholds is to acknowledge them before the Father and repent of their reign in our lives. This breaks the curse's future effects on you and the generations after yours.

A stronghold is a fortress of thoughts that controls and influences our attitudes. They colour how we view certain situations, circumstances, or people. When these thoughts and activities become habitual, we allow a spiritual fortress to be built around us. All of this happens on a subconscious level. As a businessman, I discovered that I had been influenced by a generational stronghold of insecurity and fear that was manifested in control. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete (2 Corinthians 10:3,5-6).

Sunday
Love Expects The Best

“Love ... never stops hoping.” 1 Corinthians 13:7b GW

Lasting love always expects the best. It is forward looking. It is optimistic. It is not stuck in the past and does not always look backwards. Lasting love is hopeful. The Living Bible translation says love will “always expect the best.” The Message paraphrase says love “always looks for the best.” Have you noticed that people tend to live up to your expectations of them? We shape the people around us by what we expect of them. You set people up all the time. You set your wife up by what you expect of her and what you don’t expect of her. You set your friends up by what you expect and what you don’t expect.

Whatever you want the people in your life to become, treat them that way — not the way they are. Guys, you want your wife to treat you like a king? The solution is real simple: Treat her like a queen. Emphasize the positive. Forget the nagging. Tell it like it is? No. Tell it like it can be. Start expecting the best from each other.