



What Does Real Success Look Like?

MAIN IDEAS OF THE TALK

1. The Search for Success



- Society defines success as achievement, accumulation, status, and experience.
- These values are shaped by economic growth and psychological consumerism.
- We're told: "Success is all about you."

2. The Struggle with Success



- Even when we attain worldly success, it often leaves us unfulfilled.
- Statistics show that countries most successful by material standards face rising levels of mental illness, loneliness, addiction, and relational breakdown.
- The problem isn't that our metrics are wrong—but they're incomplete.

3. The Secret to Success



- Success must begin with purpose, not possessions or position.
- Tagore: A violin string is free, but it cannot make music until it is fixed to a violin.
- Jesus redefines success around two relational and two vocational mandates:

4. The Pearl of Great Price



- Jesus is the true Pearl—worth giving everything for.
- And you are also God's pearl. He gave everything to redeem you.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Personal Reflection

1. How have you personally defined success until now?
2. Where have you been chasing pearls that may not be worth it?
3. What has your “ladder of success” leaned against?

Relational Metrics

4. In what ways are you investing in your relationship with God?
5. How are your relationships with the people around you—at work, home, church?

Vocational Metrics

6. What does “doing your work with excellence” look like in your field?
7. Where is God calling you to grow in integrity?
8. Which fruit of the Spirit is currently being most tested in your life?

PRACTICAL STEPS

1. Redefine Success

Write a one-sentence definition of success grounded in relationship and purpose, not possessions.

2. Create a “Success Audit”

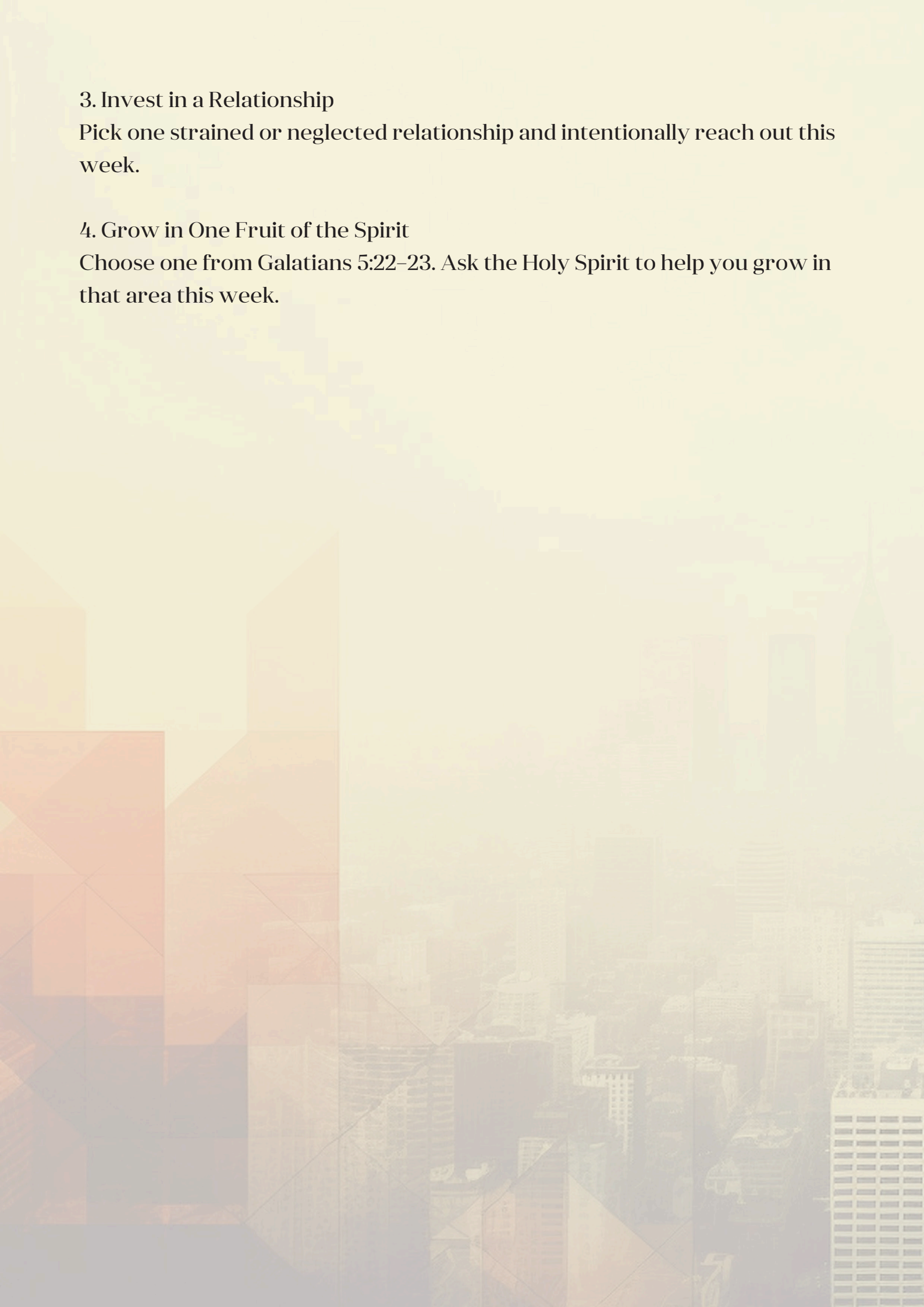
List the top 5 goals you’re pursuing. Are they aligned with loving God, loving others, working with excellence, and living with integrity?

3. Invest in a Relationship

Pick one strained or neglected relationship and intentionally reach out this week.

4. Grow in One Fruit of the Spirit

Choose one from Galatians 5:22–23. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in that area this week.





About the Speaker

Priyan (Max) Jeganathan is an international speaker and writer. He is passionate about helping people make sense of current issues and life's big questions through the lens of the Christian message. A former lawyer and political & policy adviser in the Australian National Parliament, Max has spoken around the world in banks, businesses and universities, including Facebook, Google, Nike and Goldman Sachs. He is based in Sydney, Australia and is currently undertaking a PhD on the ethics of human dignity.



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