

Green Pastures Ministries

Discipleship Course

Train to Reign

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Praying in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (KJV)

Apostle Paul knew that when it comes to prayer, he knew that prayer was a weakness to everyone.

1. Prayer is the most important key to any Christian. Don't lead people if you do not have a strong prayer life.
2. If you do not pray with all perseverance you can become lazy and your prayer life will not become effective.
3. But for your prayer to be effective, you have to pray in the Spirit. You have to be capable of praying in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Praying in the flesh is not praying the will of God.
4. The flesh is the greatest enemy to every leader. When you give into the flesh, it takes control and dictates to you what to do.
5. There is a fine line between praying in the Spirit and praying in the flesh (when you perfect prayer in the flesh - you think you are praying but you are not! You only end up mastering the art of praying but you are in fact praying in the flesh and not in the Spirit. In this state of prayer you can give birth to an Ishmael - fleshly, worldly life or plant fleshly seeds, ideas that is not in the will of God.) God will not answer prayers, prayed in the flesh and He will just want to cut of these ideas and seeds that come from these prayers.
6. But when you pray in the Spirit you give birth to an Isaac - a seed in the will of God. The difference between praying in the flesh and praying in the Spirit is that the Holy Spirit will come to divide the flesh.

Galatians 1:1-6

Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (KJV)

Paul wrote to the Galatians, because he was concerned about the report that he received concerning that area. Galatia was made up of 4 cities, who loved and embraced Paul when they were first saved. But now they had started to question Paul and the Gospel that he shared. So Paul reassures them that the Gospel he shares comes from none other than Christ Himself. The people of Galatia started listening to other peoples comments that said not to listen to Paul's teaching on grace and the started to included circumcision in order for people to receive Jesus. These people wanted to get back to the Law of Moses, even though they had been taught about grace they were now being taught a teaching about the flesh. So Paul writes to them to tell them the truth. The church in Galatia slipped from grace to the law and they were now under a curse.

1. You can very easily cross the line between moving in the Spirit and perfecting yourself in the flesh.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (KJV)

1. Our battle as leaders especially, is against the dark forces that rule cities and nations. These are principalities and rulers that govern our lands. Our battle is a spiritual one.

2. There is no time to be lazy or to be perfecting yourself in the flesh, because the war is a spiritual one.

3. Never drop your guard or be complacent, Paul said to 'pray always in the spirit'.

4. The secret to a successful life and to be a great leader is a strong prayer life. We are in a war zone. And in the battle field there are many casualties, people die.

5. Prayer is like at the point when you are being choked and you take in a breath of air... Prayer is breathing in the Spirit, the life of God, the breath of God.

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (KJV)

1. Jesus was a prayerful person. Jesus lead by example, He always wanted to be alone in prayer so that He could be with the Father.

2. Even after He died on the cross, He is making intercession for us right now. The highest ministry is prayer.

****There are seasons in your prayer life. Jacob built an alter then went out to find a wife, and later he built another alter. There will be seasons in your life that will come so that you can consecrate yourself.**

Psalms 42:1-7

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. (KJV)

David wrote this psalm about a deer and he compares this to how his soul longed for God. He describes a deer that longs for water. In the wild a deer cannot outrun its hunter. It can stay ahead of the wolf or wild dog, but the wolf has enough stamina to continue to chase the deer until it faints. But when a deer is being stalked or hunted by a wolf or wild dogs it searches for a brook that it can run into so that the wolf can lose the scent of the deer.

1. This is what prayer is...prayer is immersing yourself in the presence of God.

There are 3 levels or domains in prayer.

1. The Outer Court (flesh)
2. The Inner Court (soul)
3. The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) (spirit)

The Outer Court

1. When you enter into prayer, you enter into the outer court first. This is when you pray in the flesh. The moment you decide to pray the flesh will take control. The flesh likes food, laziness and wicked thoughts.

2. This is a place where wrestling goes on. This is a place where demons can enter into and they have a voice. At this level of prayer you will find all sort do distractions. Phones will ring, you will have thoughts to do things you have not yet completed, and you will suddenly feel hungry... All sorts of distractions come your way. These distractions come because demons have access to this realm of prayer. If you continue to pray at this level you are praying in the flesh and you will not give birth to anything in the will of God. You will give birth to an Ishmael. Do not stop at this level, you need to tell the flesh, how long you are going to pray for and stick with it... disconnect! Put you phone off, close your doors and shut yourself in. Don't give up.

4. The flesh hates the Spirit; the greatest war is between the flesh and the spirit. This battle will go on until you go to be with the Lord because we live in an earth suit. We are fleshly beings.

5. God wants you to surrender your flesh. The more you fight (continue praying and seeking God) the more you lose (lose the flesh) 6. The longer you stay in prayer the closer you get to the Spirit. This takes time, but it's based on your discipline over a period. The more you pray the easier it becomes. If you are rusty it will take time to breakthrough to the next level.

7. You need to be oiled and you always need to be in the spirit. Pray always in the spirit so that you are lubricated. And it becomes easy for you to l've from one domain and dimension to the next. When you pray often it becomes a lifestyle.

8. The war can be won, if you oil yourself by praying always. This is a good place to spend time in the word of God. The word has a capacity to renew your mind and to cleanse you. When you pray without the word, your thoughts will keep you back. Read and study the word so that your thoughts become pure.

9. God wants you in a deeper environment and atmosphere. *"Deep calleth unto deep"*

10. These are times of self discipline. We need to surrender to God, but Have patience because God takes time. It can take hours to move from this level if you are not oiled. But if you are lubricated moving to the next level could take minutes.

The Inner Court

1. You have a breakthrough, and you move from the flesh to the soul. You move from toxic thoughts to praises. Praise starts to ignite from with you. You will suddenly feel a sense of liberty and you will start to sing praises unto God. Something within you comes alive. This is a good time to put on so e worship music.

2. The realm of the soul is effective only to a measure in your life. But there is a fine line between the second dimension and the Holy of Holies, between the soul and the Spirit. But God wants you to move further.

The Holy of Holies

Demons can never enter into the Holy of Holies, the voice of the demon is cut out, every voice of the flesh is shut out, and here just the Spirit speaks. "Moaning and groaning"

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." Psalms 42:7

David describes "waterspouts" this is like a tornado of water rising up over you. When you enter into the Presence of God, you will feel an overwhelming rushing come over you. The glory of God is like waves crashing over you. This is the place that the life of God meets with you. At this point you and the Spirit become one.

I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. (Psalm 22:22 KJV)

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (Hebrews 2:11, 12 KJV)

Christ is the sanctifier and we are the sanctified. In a place of prayer the two become one. In prayer there is an oneness. When you get to the place of the spirit in prayer you become one with the spirit. When you have an oiled life of prayer when you are in the midst of the congregation the spirit will sing through you. When you are in church the Holy Spirit will speak through you. You become the instrument of the Spirit, because you are one with Him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24 KJV)

When you pray always in the spirit, you will lead a life in the spirit and you will worship in spirit and in truth because you will not be worshipping God, the Holy spirit will be worshipping God through you. Because of a playful life in the spirit, you will not enter into worship in church amongst the congregation in the the flesh but you will worship in the spirit, who worships in truth. The voice of God will take control, your flesh becomes His flesh, your bones becomes His bones. He talks through your body which now becomes the temple of the Spirit.