

Discipleship 301 Chapter 11

Open with testimony of what God is doing in your life.

This chapter will be looking at the gifting of prayer, specifically being an intercessor. In heaven there will be a lot of surprises as who did more of God's will and who didn't. It isn't what you started with that gets rewarded the most but what you did with what you got. You can't go wrong with praying because God takes what you pray and uses it according to his will. It's only not used if you pray against his will. What ever portion of what you pray is according to his will, he will use and are credited with riches in heaven because you are investing into his kingdom. We are conditioned to see results of what we do in the physical world and feel good about what we have accomplished. Most of what we accomplish in God's kingdom for him is unseen.

While all Christians are to pray, some can be gifted as intercessors and that gifting as all gifts, transform mind and heart with understanding God's will and desire for that work of the Spirit in your life. Discuss implications of this in your ministry and what to pray for each other. You are going to take time after to impart this to each other, praying for change of mind as an intercessor and increased heart for prayer. You may pray that the Lord stir prayer for specific areas of ministry. Some may have this gifting already but this will serve to strengthen it. These things can be prayed for regularly to further increase them. Discuss implications for the Church.

Matthew 6:9-15, "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]

¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

There are different aspects to a life of prayer... These are shown here. The first acknowledgement of the Lord and who he is in our everyday life. The next is to confess our sins and forgive those who sin against us as keeping our relationship right. Again this is a daily part of our walk with him. It's not a list we go through each time we pray something. Then it is important to pray for our daily needs. You know better than anybody what your daily needs are.

Next some time is to be spent on praying that we be protected from the schemes and traps of the enemy who seeks to ensnare us in our weaknesses. As we move forward in faith we are protected under the Lord's authority but the enemy seeks to distract us. Pray that he cannot. The last line is about forgiveness because the unforgiveness hinders our blessings in the Lord. Discuss the everyday prayer life. Then we move on to praying for the ministry work of the Lord.

Mark 11:12-25, The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

²⁰ In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

²² "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "Truly^[f] I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

The Lord's Spirit can prompt you and put impressions in your spirit of what to pray for. You can also be given dreams as if you are in some bad situation looking for a way out. Take that as a person in that situation but you are experiencing it so you know what that person is experiencing and you can pray for exactly what they need. Most of what you pray for God's kingdom and people is unseen. It is praying for that which is not to come into being. Scripture says that his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Discuss different ways you can pray for those you have opportunity to pray for. You are praying God's will to be accomplished in some measure in their life. You are trusting God to bring about what you pray with a confidence that he is bringing it about. The more you move in what God prompts you to do, the more he strengthens that aspect of your ministry.

Remember, we haven't talked about the gifts of Spirit that give you revelation or discernment, just the anointing that gives direction to how the Spirit works. The gift of prophecy, discerning of spirits, faith or knowledge can be used for the work in this gifting. Pray for one another accordingly. Ask the Lord that he guide you in what to pray.