

Disciplines of a Disciple: Prayer





A disciple

is a follower of Christ who is careful to observe and keep the commands of Christ and the instructions he gave.



A disciple

is a Christian who increasingly desires to be like Jesus and therefore prioritizes their life according to his will; by obedience to his commands, love of his Father, submission to his Spirit and conformity to his likeness.

The major theme in
all of these definitions is:

Obedience to
the *commands*
or the *instruction*
of Christ

Therefore a major aspect of
becoming a disciple or
making a disciple
is obeying & teaching
all the commands of Christ.

DID YOU
KNOW



There are
147 commands
of Christ in the gospels.

There are
1433 instructions
to disciples in the
New Testament.

What we want to try and do over the next few weeks is focus on the **major commands** that a disciple is instructed to obey over & over.



That is, of the 1000s of things a disciple is to be & do, **we want to focus on the main things that a disciple is commanded be & do over & over** to in the New Testament.



5 Major **DISCIPLINES**

FOR TRAINING IN GODLINESS

of a Disciple

Praying



The discipline
of regularly
communicating
with God.

Studying



The discipline
of consistently
learning

from the Word of God.

Walking



The discipline
of increasingly
growing
in obedience to God.

Living



The discipline
of graciously
interacting
with other people.

Telling



The discipline
of devoutly
sharing

the truth with other people.

Praying-Studying-Walking-Living-Telling
are the main disciplines in the engine room of the disciple.



Praying-Studying-Walking-Living-Telling
become the locomotive that leads the rest of a
disciple's life & growth.



“Prayer is the nearest approach to God and the highest enjoyment of Him that we are capable of in this life.”

William Law

Prayer

Prayer is personal
communication
with God – talking
and listening to Him.





Prayer

Prayer is *expressing*
our thoughts,
concerns, desires,
fears & questions to
the God of the
universe.

Prayer

Prayer is
having an ongoing
conversation with God.

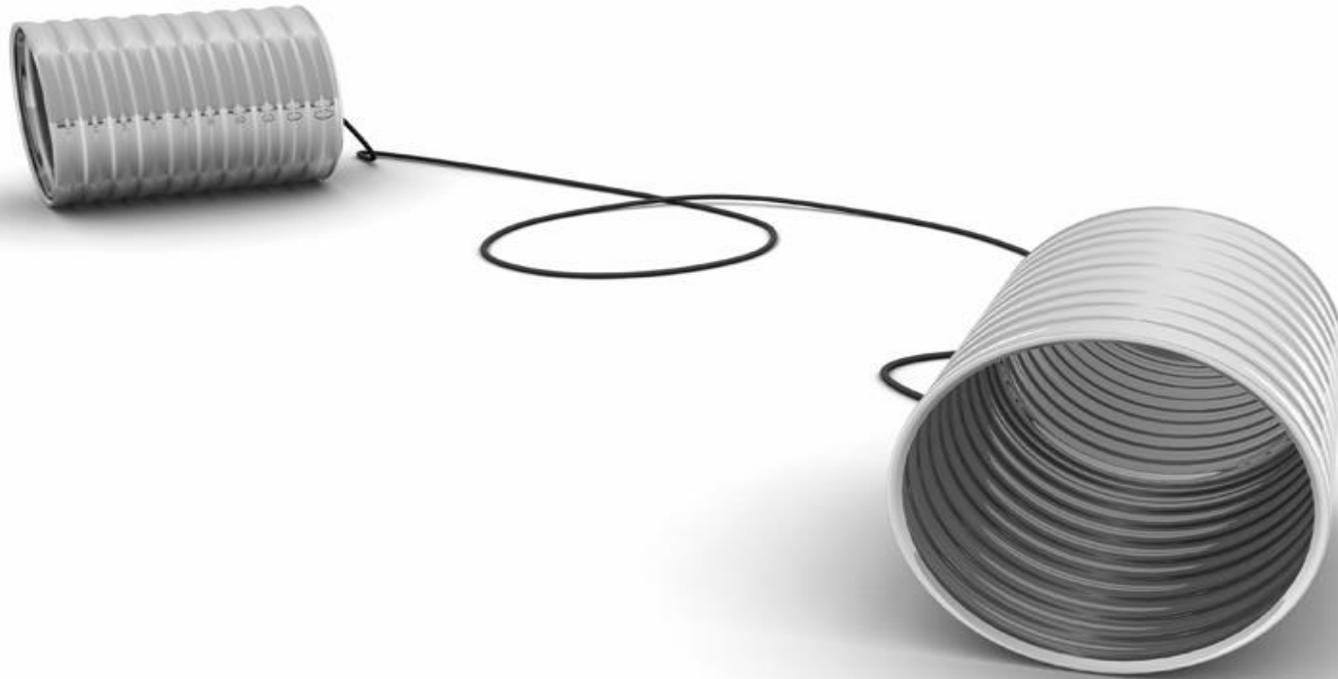


Prayer

*Prayer is, at the root,
paying attention
to God.*



When we think of prayer we often only think of the **“talking”** part of the conversation...and usually overlook the **“listening”** part of the conversation.





The danger of
thinking of prayer
as only
“talking” to God
is that it can
become easy to pay
little to no
attention to God.

Prayer includes **talking** to God about our thoughts, concerns, desires, fears.

Prayer includes **listening** to God's Spirit as he responds, urges, comforts, nudges, warns, compels etc.

Prayer includes **paying attention** to God by focusing on God's Word, God's instruction, God's character, His Son, His Spirit, & His actions in the world...

“To have God speak to the heart is a majestic experience, an experience that people may miss if they monopolize the conversation and never pause to hear God’s responses.” **Charles Stanley**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and **always keep on praying** for all the Lord's people.

Ephesian 6:18

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Rejoice always, **pray continually**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

James 5:16

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us *in whatever we ask*, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 5:14-15

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD
be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:10-12

I call on you, my God, for you will
answer me; turn your ear to me and
hear my prayer. He will respond to the
prayer of the destitute;
he will not despise their plea.

Psalm 17:6, 102:17

Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God. Give me relief
from my distress; have mercy on me
and hear my prayer... The LORD is near
to all who call on him, to all who call on
him in truth. Psalm 4:1, 145:18

Developing & Instilling

THE DISCIPLINE

OF PRAYER



Set a time.

Reserve slots in the day or week when you can set aside *consistent* blocks of time to just to pray.



Set an alarm.

Use your phone or watch to **remind** you of your **commitment** to pray. We will do what is scheduled, we will neglect what is unscheduled.



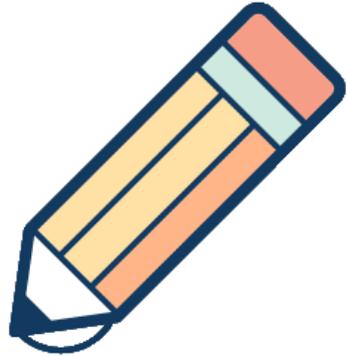
Set a place.

Find a quiet, removed & private location where you can go to ***concentrate*** on the Lord.



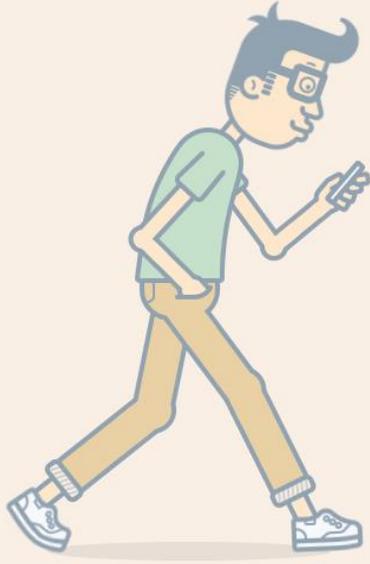
Get a routine.

Build prayer into the convenience of your daily routine. Make prayer a part of all the important things you do in a day.



Get a journal.

Record your prayers in a notebook. This way you will be able to *celebrate* all of God's answers to prayer in your life & others.



Get a partner.

Invite someone to join you in your praying. We will be more likely to be faithful in prayer if we do it

collectively.

INCORPORATING

ALL

KINDS

OF PRAYER



ACTS

ADORATION



We express our adoration and praise to God. We worship him in prayer for the wonder of His greatness, His sovereignty and mighty power. We *praise* and *honor* God for **who He is** and **what He has done.**

CONFESSION

Sorry!

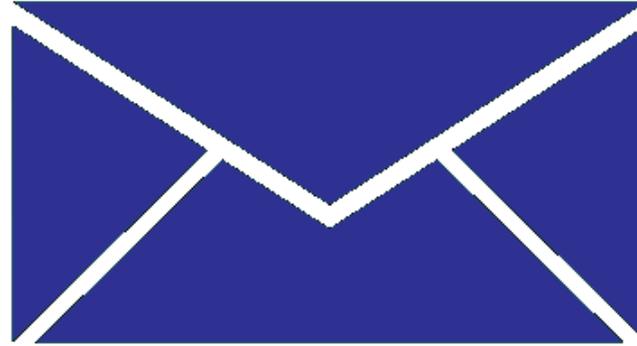
Confession means to agree with God about our sin. Confession involves *repentance*. Confession means we admit to God that we are wrong and He is right, in specific areas. We ask for His forgiveness and strength to change.

THANKSGIVING

Thank
you

We express *appreciation* to God for what He has done for us and others. Our *gratitude* pleases the Lord. Prayers of thanksgiving are meant to thank God for everything He has done for us.

SUPPLICATION



Making *requests*. We pray for **other people** and **their needs** and for **our own needs**. Pray not just for **physical things** (provisions, healing, needs) but also **spiritual things** (to grow with God, to commit to Him more each day, to grow in knowledge of Him, salvation & sanctification of others).

“The most important thing we can pray about for others is that they will know God better and that He will help them understand His will, grow in spiritual wisdom, and live lives that honor Him. We can pray that they will become more like Him and bear the fruit of His Spirit.”

Stormie Omartian

“When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.” **R.A. Torrey**