

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus
May 29, 2022

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple.

Disciple: *a student who accepts & spreads the teachings of someone famous*

John 13:34b AMP “...*Love one another.* Just as I've loved you, so you too are to *love one another.* 35 By this everyone will know that you're My *disciples* if you have love & unselfish concern for one another.”

Disciples are followers who are looking for direction from their Master

Come - *Near* to Jesus; *Hear* - Pay Attention; *Do* - Obey, Practice

1 Timothy 4:7b ...*train yourself* to be godly.

Being *dissatisfied* w/ our reality is good, but it won't *produce change*.

We know what we *don't* like, but we rarely focus on what we *do* like.

As long as we're just *upset* about & focused on our current reality, we'll never change. We can't change when we're *focused on our problem*.

As long as we only feel bad about & focus on our negative situation, we're planning to stay there. *Prayer* trains us to focus on *The Answer*.

Prayer is a daily spiritual exercise.

As disciples of Jesus, *prayer* is of utmost importance & worth.

Prayer has to be a part of our lifestyle

Matthew 26:40 Then He returned to the disciples & found them asleep. He said to Peter, “*Couldn't you watch w/ Me even one hour? 41 Keep watch & pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!*”

Many of us fall into temptations because of a lack of consistent prayer!

What if our church culture, our rally cry was to: *PRAY FIRST!*

Prayer is our **first response**, not our **last resort**.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 AMP. Be *unceasing* & *persistent* in prayer

Luke 18:1 Jesus told His disciples a story to show that they should *always pray & never give up*. (*story of an unjust judge a & a relentless lady*)

7b ...God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day & night?

Luke 11:5 Teaching them *more* about prayer, He used this story: (*midnight friend*) “8b...if you keep knocking long enough, he’ll get up & give you whatever you need because of your *shameless persistence*. 9 “So, keep on asking, & you’ll receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, & you’ll find. Keep on knocking, the door will be opened to you. 10 Everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. Everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Everything that you want, everything that you need is on the other side of not giving up, on the other side of not quitting.

Matthew 6:9 AMP Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors. & do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”

1. “*Our Father who is in heaven*” Connect with God relationally

Romans 8:15 You have *not* received a spirit that makes you **fearful slaves**. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He **adopted** you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, *Father*.”

2. “*Hallowed be Your Name*” Worship His holy name

Proverbs 18:10 MSG God's name is a place of protection-the righteous can run there & be safe. (*Hebrew words - Righteousness, Sanctifier, Healer, Banner of victory, Shepherd, Peace, Provider*)

Philippians 2:9 God elevated Him to the place of highest honor & gave Him the name above all other names, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, 11 & every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

3. “*Your Kingdom come Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*”

Pray **His agenda first** (His agenda is always *love others*) (**Matthew 6:33**)

Luke 12:31 TLB He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your **primary concern**.

(Romans 8:27; 12:2 *perfect will*; *I want Your will to be done, not mine.*)

4. “*Give us this day our daily bread*” **Daily depend on Jesus**

Philippians 4:19 This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. *Our needs are met!*

5. “*Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors (others)*”

Keep your heart right w/ God & people

1 **John 1:9** If we confess our sins to Him, He’s faithful & just to forgive us our sins & cleanse us from all wickedness. (*humbly examine our hearts*)

6. “*Do not lead us (do not allow us to be lead) into temptation but deliver us from evil*” **Engage in spiritual warfare** There’s a real enemy, the devil/satan. He’s a liar & he’s seeking whom he may devour.

Ephesians 6:12 We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers & authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, & against evil spirits in the heavenly places. *“If you’re not fighting the devil daily, then he’s working harder than you.”*

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord w/ all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek His will in all you do, & He will show you which path to take.

Psalms 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet & a light for my path

7. “*For Yours is the Kingdom & the power and the glory forever.*”

Express your faith in God’s ability

Jeremiah 32:17b ...Nothing is too hard for You!

Romans 8:37 TPT Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us to be more than conquerors. & His demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything!

***Lord, I’m praying for a passion for prayer in all of our hearts here at Kings Circle. Both for our personal lives & our church. God we can’t ask*

*for what you've called us to do as a church & individually unless we **pray first**. I pray for people here today, if this kind of freaks them out, or they think it's just too hard, help them see just how simple it is. And they would be encouraged & inspired to simply walk through these 7 clear steps.*

*For some of us, God seems far. Salvation is when He becomes close. That can only happen when Jesus comes into your life, & you & God are close. The first phrase, "Our Father" means connecting w/ God relationally. Salvation isn't just going to church. It's connecting w/ Him relationally. Simply receive what Jesus did on the cross & invite Him to take over. If you're here today & God seems far & everything in you desires Him to be close & you really want to be close to Him, I want to lead you in a simple prayer. You may know God, believe in God, but you're not close to Him. You need to come to a deep relationship w/ the Lord. I'm going to help you w/ a prayer. If that's you, right where you are, say these words after me...

"Thank You Jesus, for what You did on the cross. For providing a way, for God & I to be close. Come live inside of me, & begin the work of change. Today I say out loud, Jesus is Lord. I receive You. Have Your way in me. I give You my life. Everything. Thank You for setting me free. In Jesus name, amen."