

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

April 7, 2007

Perseverance through prayer—part I

5:55 – 6:05	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coffee & Donuts 2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 6:25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is prayer? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Most central of the disciplines because it “ushers us into perpetual communion with the Father” (Foster, 33). 2) Why pray? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) We are commanded to pray (1Thess 5:16-18) b) Jesus prayed 3) What does prayer accomplish? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) “To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us” (Foster, 33). b) “A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But, he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening” (Søren Kierkegaard cited in Foster, 39). c) In prayer we learn to think God’s thoughts after Him: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) James 4:1-4 ii) Jn 15:7 iii) 1Jn 2:24 4) Does prayer work? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gen 25:21; 30:6, 22 b) Ps 56:9 c) 1Jn 3:21; 5:13-15 5) Model of prayer (Lk 11:1-4) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prayer is learned <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>A</u>ccolades to God ii) <u>C</u>onfession of sins iii) <u>T</u>hanksgiving iv) <u>S</u>upplication b) Prayers can be long or short c) Prayer should be continuous (posture of the heart: always looking up)

	<p>d) Prayerlessness is probably due to a lack of desire and prioritization</p> <p>6) How do I start?</p> <p>a) Give God your best time (Jesus prayed both early and late, so pick your best time)</p> <p>b) Pick a quiet place</p> <p>c) Set a reasonable, attainable goal when starting this discipline—</p> <p>i) E.g., 5 min Bible reading, 5 min meditation, 5 min praying = 15 min each day</p> <p>d) Prayer posture is up to you</p> <p>e) Prayers can be varied:</p> <p>i) Resist temptation; receive wisdom; for power; for self-restraint; protection; growth; persistence; to forgive; for forgiveness; healing; etc.</p> <p>f) Persist with God</p> <p>g) Make a list</p> <p>h) <i>It is a discipline!</i></p> <p>7) Our responsibilities as Men of Christ</p> <p>a) Model prayer for our family as Christ did for us (Eph 5:23)</p> <p>b) Let your family know you pray regularly</p> <p>c) Pray FOR and WITH our families</p>
6:25 – 7:00	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <p>1) Why did Jesus pray?</p> <p>2) What would you like your prayer life to be like for yourself? Your family?</p> <p>3) What are the barriers standing in your way?</p> <p>4) How can you begin to overcome them?</p> <p>5) How can you begin to overcome them?</p> <p>6) Will you commit to practicing at least the 5-5-5 prayer discipline suggested above for the next week?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The Bible
- McCall, Larry E. *Walking Like Jesus Did*
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of the Disciplines*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*