

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 13, 2007

Perseverance through prayer—part II

5:55 – 6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coffee & Donuts 2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 6:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is prayer? <ul 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We are commanded to pray (1Thess 5:16-18) b) There is a benefit to us because God is a benevolent God. However, we do it because He commands it, not because we get something out of it. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ex 20:1-17...I am the Lord ii) Ex 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32...Moses did as the Lord commanded iii) Lev 19-22...I am the Lord your God 3) How do we pray? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mt 6:1-15; Lk 11:1-4 b) Cautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Pray with a right heart (i.e., not to receive accolades yourself for your great prayers) ii) Do not make your prayers long for the sake of appearing pious c) OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BY YOUR NAME. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Praise God for his glory. E.g., Psalms 145-150. d) YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Conform my will to Yours. E.g., Rom 8 e) GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ask God unabashedly for the gifts He has promised His children—Lk 11:5-8, 1Jn 5:14-15 ii) All I am and have comes from You; conform my desires to Yours. E.g., Ps 139; Matt 6:19-21, 24-34; Phil 4:11-12

	<p>F) FORGIVE US OUR SINS (DEBTS) AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US (OUR DEBTORS).</p> <p>i) It is good to confess our sins (James 5:16); however, we should balance it with our desire to keep moving toward Jesus (Phil 3:8-14). We are not caught in the powerlessness of the Law as Paul describes in Rom 7:19.</p> <p>ii) NOTE: The warnings in Mt 6:14-15, 18:21-35, and Mk 11:22-26. Our response to Jesus' forgiveness of us is to forgive others. Our unwillingness to forgive may be an indication of an insincere response to God's offer of grace.</p> <p>G) DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.</p> <p>i) Do not <i>lead</i> us into temptation:</p> <p>(1) God doesn't tempt us—James 1:13—so, it must mean something different</p> <p>(2) God does test us (but doesn't "trick" us—Gen 22:1; Ex 16:4; seven other OT examples, each indicating a test of our orientation toward God—so, it cannot mean "don't test us")</p> <p>(3) Best meaning: "Grant that we may not fail the test"—see Mk 14:38 and parallels</p> <p>(4) Help me run from sin! See Job 28:28</p> <p>(5) Give me strength and focus—James 1, Phil 4:4-9</p> <p>ii) Deliver us from evil</p> <p>(1) Satan is on the prowl—1Pet 5:8</p> <p>(2) Satan may be asking to sift us like wheat—Lk 22:31; Job 1-2</p> <p>(3) God, protect me from my enemies—Ps 23, Jn 17:15</p> <p>(4) NOTE: In Jesus' great prayer for His disciples, he doesn't pray that they will be kept from harm, but that they will persevere and not give themselves over to Satan</p>
6:25 – 7:00	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <p>1) How did your dual challenge go this week? [1) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 min in meditation, 5 min in prayer; 2) praying with your family]?</p> <p>2) How can we help each other be better at prayer?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- McCall, Larry E. *Walking Like Jesus Did*
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of the Disciplines*
- Hybels, Bill. *Too Busy Not To Pray*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*
- Kaiser, Walter C., et al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*