

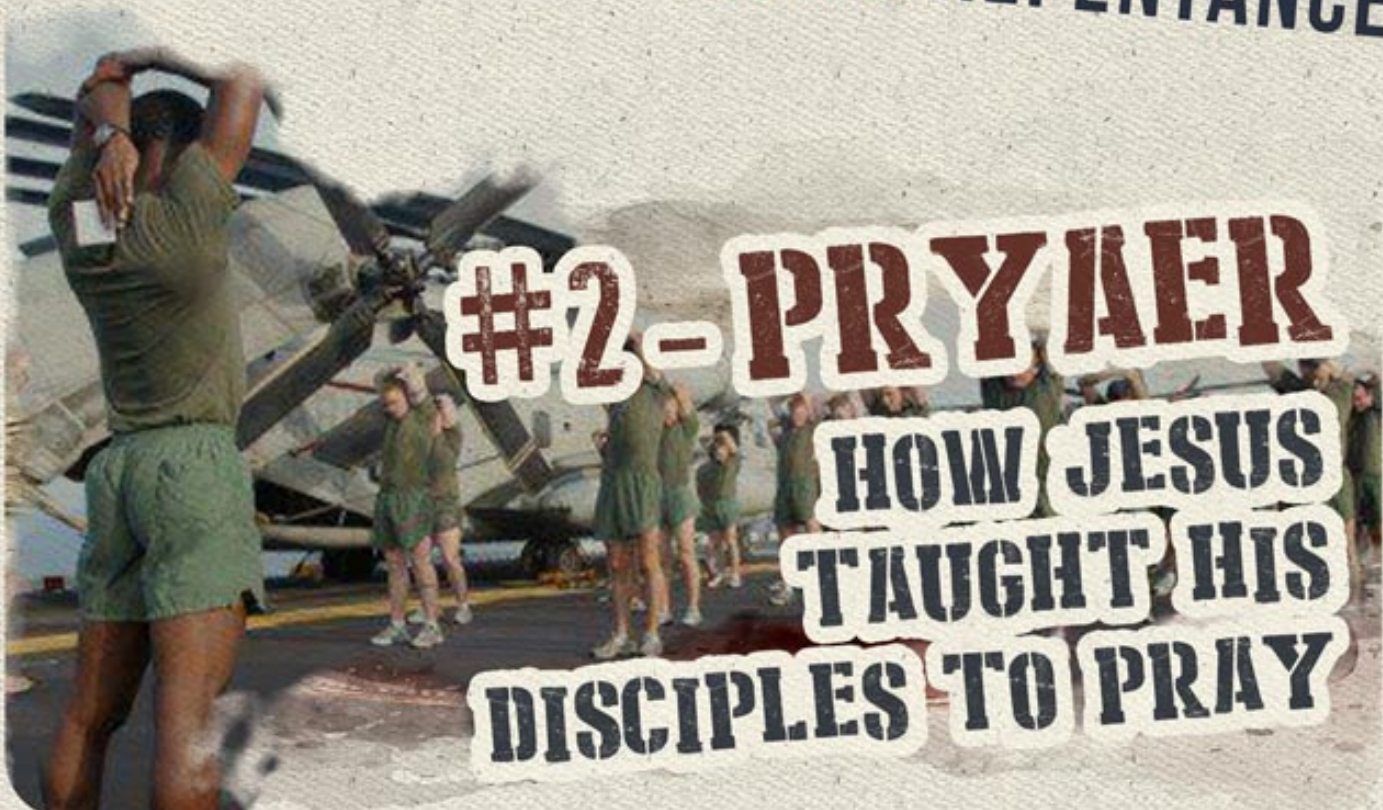


DAILY DRILLS

RADICAL **DISCIPLESHIP** REPENTANCE

#2 - PRAYER

**HOW JESUS
TAUGHT HIS
DISCIPLES TO PRAY**



The DAILY DRILLS of Jesus

Mark 1:35 (NLT)

35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

Clearly prayer was a central part of Jesus life

- the primary purpose of his morning habit was prayer

Examples of what He prayed for:

- **DIRECTION** - mentioned here
- **DECISIONS** - choosing the 12
- **STRENGTH** - after feeding the 5000
- **DETERMINATION** - when he was feeling weak before facing the cross

Jesus DISCOVERED A SECRET IN PRAYER THATS IS WAITING FOR US TO DISCOVER AS WELL

In fact prayer was such a distinct part of his lifestyle that it produced this passage:

Luke 11:1-13 (NLT)

1 Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 Jesus said, "This is how you should pray:

"Father, may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

3 Give us each day the food we need,

4 and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation."

5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' 7 And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' 8 But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Notes:

- **Jesus was a man of prayer** - it was a distinct characteristic of his life to dedicate large portions of his time to prayer. His disciples didn't ask him how to preach or perform miracles. They realised this distinct aspect of his life was **the source of his power. To grow as a follower of Jesus should include growth in the area of prayer.**
- **"When he had finished."** - that means that Jesus didn't just talk to God on the go but also had dedicated prayer times. He had fellowship prayer with the Father and dedicated prayer times that had start and finish times.

- **Jesus taught his disciples to pray by teaching three things:**
 1. A simple but powerful structure for all types of prayer
 2. The most crucial ingredient to prayer - a persistent attitude that demonstrates faith
 3. The most important characteristic of the Father that we peg our hopes on - the GOODNESS of God

POINT 1: A beautiful structure for prayer

Illust: One of the best things ever learnt at school

- memorising the Lord's Prayer
- Every assembly
- Now let's put it to full use

RUN THROUGH: Think structure not formulae

Eg. Scaffolding around the building to help build

- **Relational** - The relationship we pray from is critical
- **The BIG WHY** - It's all about Gods glory
- **Our mission** - the Kingdom - His rule and reign
- **His will** - it's not faith if it's not his will
- **Daily needs** - be specific
- **Unblock grace** - forgiven and forgiving
- **What's the danger** - what temptation does this answered prayer open?
- **Protection** - from the enemy
- **Glory to God**

Let me use this prayer in three examples:

- basic prayer for me, my family, church
- Healing
- Building project

POINT 2: The truest test of faith is persistence

- faith is not wishful thinking. Faith is believing that something is Gods will
- Delays test our faith

Eg. Elijah - he knew that God had said that it would rain then he asked for rain

- but it didn't
- So he asked again
- And again .. and again
- Temptation would have been to doubt what God had said. Or doubt the timing of God. Or doubt the goodness of God
- Elijah was persistent and the result was miraculous

Why the delays?

- Daniel prayed and after 21 days and angel appears
- Said he was sent immediately to help but was detained in warfare for 21 days!

Daniel 10:12-13 (NLT)

12 Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13 But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

Revelation moment: Instead of trying to persevere with a prayer you don't really have faith for - reframe the question. What are you willing to bang on the door of heaven for, for at least 40 days? Pray for that!

Why is persistence so important? It is the truest test of faith

Luke 18:6-8 (NLT)

6 Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

It is true faith that is the doorway through which the answer to prayer comes

- the greatest test of true faith is the refusal to let go

Point 3: The motivation for prayer is the GOODNESS of God

Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

Quote: "God will never give you an idol as an answer to prayer"

- **illust:** Praying for a job then never seeing that person again

The best gift is the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:29-31 (NLT)

29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

- they prayed for boldness
- They prayed for healing power
- The answer was a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

Illust: Baba Godfrey - word of wisdom. Let's not pray for money for the building. Let's pray for wisdom - because when Solomon got wisdom' money followed!

- the Holy Spirit is the wisdom of God. The Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God. He is the answer to our prayers

CONCLUSION:

Practice praying the Lords Prayer this week

- over your life
- Your family
- Over the church
- Your business / job / community

Start basic and then begin to expand it

- don't prayer as a parrot
- Pray as a Son of a GOOD, GOOD FATHER

AMEN