

Membership † **Discipleship** † Leadership

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I am a disciple of \_\_\_\_\_.

"A follower of Jesus Christ who studies the scriptures and diligently seeks to comply with what God commands." Jesus said "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." (John 8:31)

## "Pray Attention"

† Proverbs 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"*

As we've been devoting time to fasting, it's imperative to recognize the amount of attention that we should devote to prayer. Prayer is very significant because it's how we personally communicate with God. We often fail to tap into the true power of prayer because we fail to continually acknowledge that prayer is two-way communication. Just as God wants to hear from us, He wants to talk to us. If you ever feel lost for words and do not know what to say, Romans 8:26 reminds us that the Spirit helps us and makes intercession for us. Never allow anyone to make you feel as if you need some kind of extended vocabulary to talk to your Heavenly Father. He wants to hear from a sincere heart. Another reason we fail to acknowledge the true power of prayer is because we get discouraged when our prayers are not answered. We must remember that God knows what's best. When the spirit man grows and matures we begin to thank Him for the prayers He did not answer in our immaturity. When we pray, we should pray according to God's divine will. 1 John 5:14 says *"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."*

When Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, He was under great distress. He instructed the disciples to watch and pray as He went a little further to have private prayer with the Father. He prayed that the God's will be done and not His own. Jesus knew that the cross was ahead of Him. He was demonstrating the necessity of prayer and also teaching the disciples a very valuable lesson. He knew that we too would have to depend on communication with the Father as we face the trials of life. He said to the disciples *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* It is important to remember that the flesh profits nothing (Jn. 6:63). Our flesh will provide all kinds of excuses to have us miss out on adequate time in prayer with the Father. When Jesus found the disciples sleeping, He asked "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?" (Mt. 26:40). The disciples were found sleeping each time that Jesus returned to them. We must submit to our willing spirit and train our weak flesh to remain in constant contact with God in prayer. It's amazing how alert we are during events that pleases the flesh but we're tired during times that edify our spirit. Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14: 32-42; Luke 22:39-46

† Romans 12:2 “. . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The disciples knew how to pray. In Luke chapter 11, the disciples asked Jesus “Lord, teach us to pray” and Jesus provided a model prayer:

“Our Father 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.  
 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.  
 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.  
 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”

In the garden, the disciples did not execute the knowledge and power they possessed. The disciples later got on one accord (Acts 1:13-14) and miraculous things happened that changed the history of the church. Through prayer, we can also accomplish miraculous change. The power of prayer lies in our belief. If we believe it, we can achieve it. Ephesians 3:20 encourages us to trust that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. We have to ask in prayer, believe in our heart and trust God. His answers may not always be yes but they will always be for our best. Commit to a life of prayer and be anxious for nothing. Let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7). Never underestimate the power of prayer. Prayer provides wisdom, healing, deliverance, peace, a changed heart, an empowered mind and whatever else you believe God for. The answer is in prayer! No one can hold back the hand of God.

 This week pay attention to your prayers and record the results. Watch and pray!

† Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Day/ Week of	Daily Reading	What verse had the most impact?
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 36-40	
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 41-45	
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 46-50	
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 51-55	
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 56-60	
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 61-65	
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 66-70	

Submit questions to MCCquestions@yahoo.com

