

Discipleship Tip: Praying

"Teach people to pray and 80% of your pastoring will be done for you." – Kong Hee

If we teach people how to pray and how to read their bible, many of their issues will be resolved by the Holy Spirit and revelation. God will give them an answer or a strategy.

Connect Group Notes 27 June 2010

Stepping Out – Ps Mark Kelsey

Genesis 15:5-15 (NKJV). "Then He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ..."

What happens when you get outside your comfort, experience, faith or capacity zones? Stepping out in God is when things happen, outside your normal boundaries of life; the zone where things happen, a whole new world exists – when we stretch ourselves, God begins to do things. He brings us from something to something - from the kingdom of darkness to a purpose, a hope, a future and a vision

Commitment: Live in the place of commitment because then we live in the new place he has for us

- God often takes much longer than we want Him to take, don't give up
- Abraham believed and God credited this as righteousness
- God can make a commitment and a vow for us both – he swears by his own word
- When we make a commitment we go into a place of vulnerability, the 'vultures' will come
- Commitment in one area leads to commitment in other areas of your life
- Needs context – committed to job but because you have the job it keeps you committed
- Motivation and inspiration keeps you going but commitment causes you to finish

Offerings: Never underestimate the power of an offering and its ability to do something before God.

- Elijah brought an offering; fire came down from heaven, and shifted a nation, revival came.
- Ultimate offering is Christ himself – offering of his life, making a covenant with humanity

The Vultures: **Prov 20:25** – Drive the vulture away – when they came Abraham would have yelled at them – good righteous anger. Get angry with your own emotions

- Second guess yourself – when you buy something and wonder later
- Fear – "oh no I won't be able to do this" Peter stepping out of the boat, the miracle takes place in the commitment if you overcome the fear
- Storms – opposition, come because of the commitment and seem opposing to the commitment you have made. God's opportunity for us to growth in faith, courage and more.
- In Matthew 16 Jesus started to prepare their hearts for what he was about to do at the cross – often friends can oppose our commitment if they don't understand.

Overcoming vultures: firstly make the commitment:

1. Believe in yourself – if you say and don't fulfil you are undermining faith in yourself
2. Need others to believe our word, when they see you fulfil your word you will be trusted.
3. Need to believe in God's word because as we step out it reinforces the power that He will fulfil his promises to us.

Ps 78:9 & 4-7 – not lack of weaponry or skill that really counts, at the end of the day it is the lack of courage and commitment that cause us to give up.

What we do now is not just for us but the generations to come – we are leaving a legacy for our children and children’s children. The courage we fight for today is creating an inheritance. Not just buildings but spiritual legacy – generations of faithfulness and Godliness. We are laying a foundation of integrity and commitment of Christ like living for the people that are coming and this city is going to be changed because of that.

TALK ABOUT

- **What would our life look like if Jesus had given up on his commitment to being that living sacrifice for our salvation?**
- **Jesus needed to be committed to fulfilling the vow of being the sacrificial lamb for all eternity for our sins. How many times do you think he would have gone “what am I doing”?**
- **When was the last time you made a commitment?**

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Welcome Lunch

The next Welcome Lunch is coming up on Sunday July 11th at 11:00am, in the Glasshouse at the Oxford Falls Campus. If you’re new or would like to know more about C3 Church, come along, meet our Pastors and enjoy a delicious complimentary lunch. To RSVP or for more questions, go to the Concierge Desk in the foyer or email welcomelunch@myc3church.net

