

PRAY IN FAITH

CBCWLA, MAY 22, 2011

Discipleship

- MasterLife is a developmental, small-group discipleship process that will help you develop a lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ.
- A positive, committed attitude is needed for the success of the Masterlife experience.
- The goal of MasterLife is discipleship—for you to become like Christ.

I. SIX SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

- 1. Spend time with the Master
- 2. Live in the Word
- 3. Pray in faith
 - 1. Praying for what God wants
 - 2. Enter his gates with thanksgiving
 - 3. Enter his courts with praise
 - 4. The altar of confession
 - 5. In God's presence
- 4. Fellowship with believers
- 5. Witness to the world
- 6. Minister to others

II. PRAY IN FAITH

What is prayer?

- To pray is not to say something you don't really mean.
- To pray is not to make statements to impress people.
- To pray is not to make statements to lecture God.
- To pray is to enter into the presence of God.
- To pray is speaking to God from your heart.

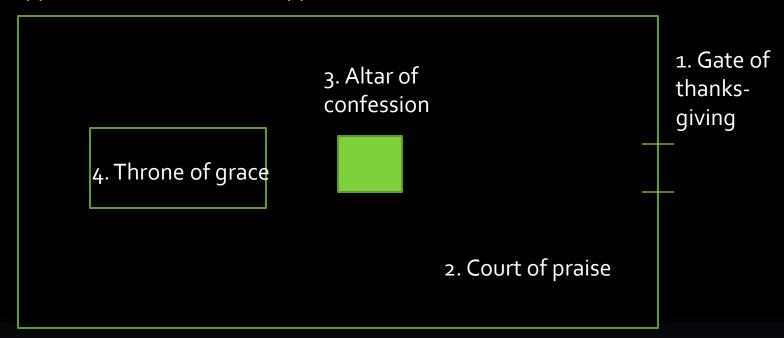
Praying for what God wants

- Prayer is intended to involve me in God's purpose rather than my involving him in my plans.
- God delights in answering prayer that is asked according to his will, but he refuses to answer prayer that is not consistent with his purpose.
- Do you read God's word for direction and pray in faith when you need to make a major decision?

The ACTS of prayer

- ACTS is an acronym that shows various components of prayer.
- Adoration: to praise God for who he is.
- Confession: to confess your sins to God.
- Thanksgiving: to thank God for what he has done.
- Supplication: to pray for someone.
 - Petition: pray for yourself
 - Intercession: pray for others.

- 1. Enter His gates with thanksgiving
- 2. Enter His courts with praise
- 3. Come to His altar with confession
- 4. Approach his throne with supplication



Enter his gates with thanks-giving

- Prayer is an act of actually coming into God's presence.
- Prayer is a way to enter into God's presence, that's why amazing things can happen when you pray.
- When you approach God, it is not proper to rush into his presence and bombard him with your needs.
- First, thank him for all he has done for you.
 Thanksgiving is the way to approach God.

Thank God for

- Deliverance from trouble
- Forgiveness of sin
- Answered prayers
- His faithfulness
- Creation
- Your family
- Your church
- Things you have
- _ •••

Enter his courts with praise

- The word *praise* means *value* or *price*.
- To praise God is to proclaim his worth.
- Praise raises your prayer life above yourself and helps you to focus on who God is.
- You will know God better by praising his name.
- Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalms 100:4

God's names

- 1. El Elyon: God Most High
- 2. El Shaddai: God Almighty
- 3. Yahweh, Jehovah: God who always is
- 4. Elohim: God who creates
- 5. Jehovah Jireh: God who provides
- 6. Jehovah Shalom: God who brings peace
- 7. Jehovah Shamma: God who is there
- 8. Jehovah Rapha: God who heals
- 9. Jehovah Nissi: God is my banner of victory
- 10. Jehovah Rohi: God is my shepherd

The altar of confession

- In confession you let God to examine your heart, and he shows you what separates you from him.
- Full fellowship with God is blocked if your life contains unconfessed sin.
- The purpose of confession is to restore your fellowship with God.
- If you open yourself to God, the Holy Spirit will show you things that offend God.

In God's presence

- Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16
- There are two types of requests: petition and intercession. Petition is asking for yourself. Intercession is asking for others.
- God loves you. He is pleased to hear your personal requests.
- God's answers to your prayers help mold you into the person he wants you to become.

III. MEMORY VERSES

Memory Verses

- John 15:7
 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
 - □ 你們若常在我裏面,我的話也常在你們裏面, 凡你們所願意的,祈求,就給你們成就。

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

- If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
- □ 你們若常常遵守我的道,就真是我的門徒。你 們必曉得真理,真理必叫你們得以自由。

■ John 15:5

- I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- 我是葡萄樹,你們是枝子。常在我裏面的,我也常在他裏面,這人就多結果子;因為離了我,你們就不能做甚麼。

■ Luke 9:23

- Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
- 若有人要跟從我,就當捨己,天天背起他的十字架來跟從我。

IV. HOW TO USE MASTERTIME

Redeeming the time

- Ask God's purpose for our time
 - Time is God's gift to us. Spend your time in ways that are more consistent with his purpose.
- Ask God's direction for the day
- Prioritize what you do before you do it
 - Put God first. Be alert to every opportunity for Christian ministry and witness.
- Do it in priority order, but leave yourself open for God to redirect you.

MasterTime

- Page 138.
- Do "my walk with the Master this week."
- Plan your daily work.
- Ask the Lord. Pray as you make your plan.
- Discipline yourself. Reduce spontaneity. Make wise use of your time.
- Leave the result to God. It's okay if you don't finish everything you've planned.

V. THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

PRAYER John

15:7

Luke 9:23

Deny

Cross

Follow

WITNESS John 15:8 CHRIST

John 15:5

FELLOWSHIP John 13:34-35

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

MASTER LIFE THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS WORD John

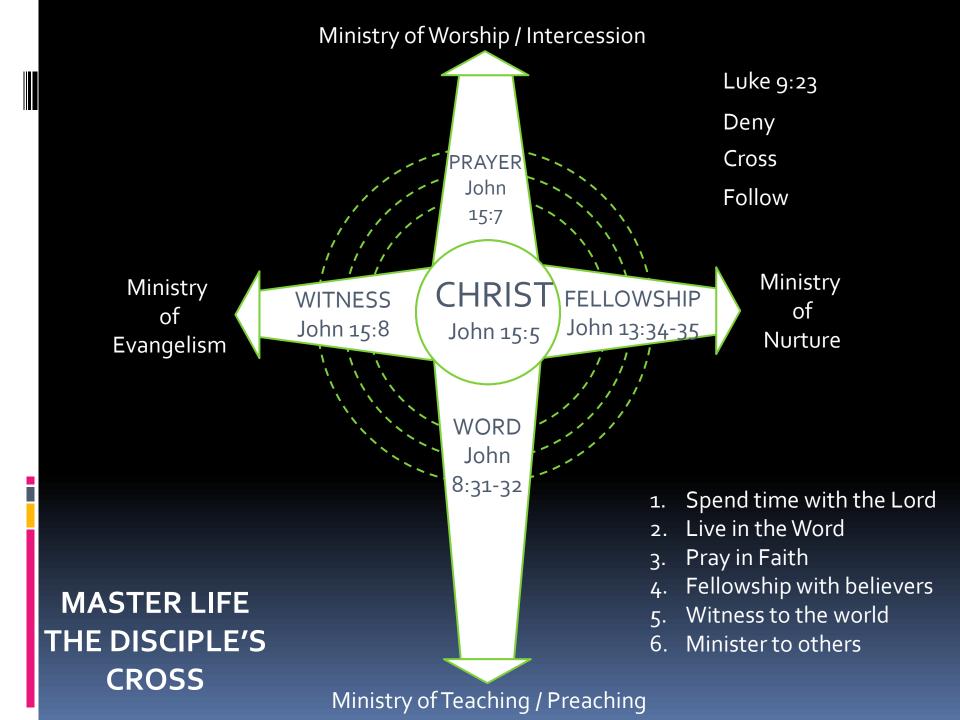
8:31-32

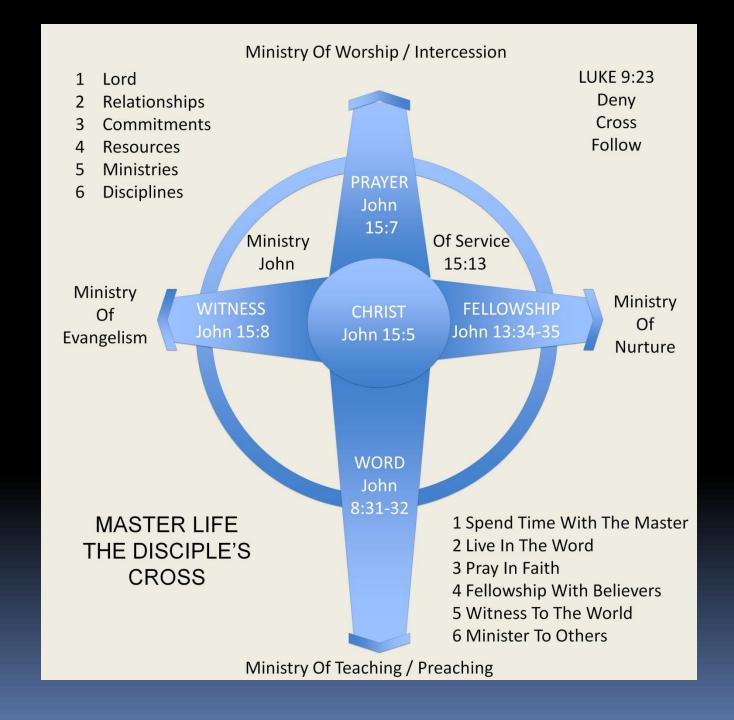
"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

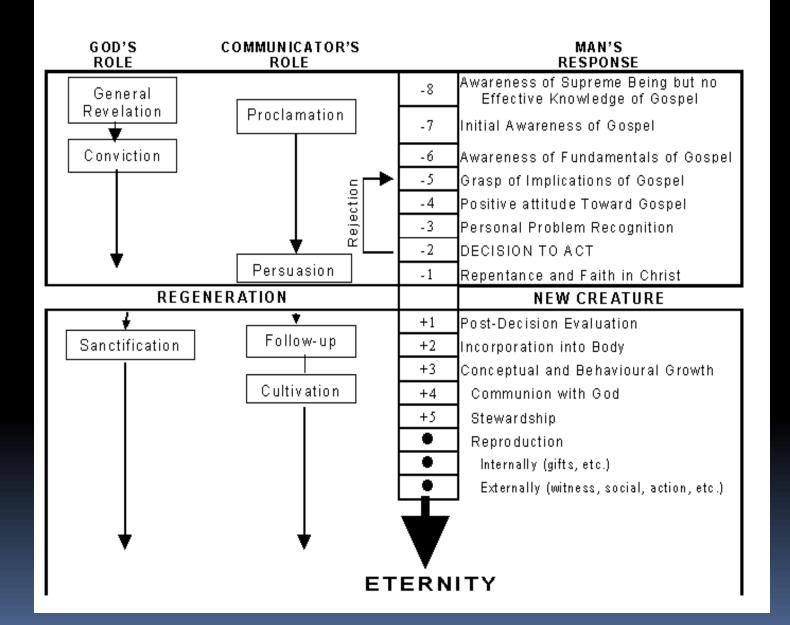
To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

5/22/11 Warren Wang





VI. THE ENGEL SCALE



VII. NEXT WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

Week 4 assignments

- Read your Bible according to your plan.
- Next week's topic is "fellowship with believers."
- Memorize John 13:34-35.
- Befriend someone in the church who is not a close friend.
- Learn how to master your time.

VIII. SMALL GROUP TIME

Small Group Time

- 1. Pair with someone other than your spouse to check each other's "my walk with the Master this week."
- 2. Quote memory verses John 15:7, John 8:31-32, John 15:5 and Luke 9:23 to each other.
- 3. Practice explaining the center and two vertical crossbars of the Disciple's Cross to each other.
- 4. <u>Discussion</u>: Why thanksgiving and praising God occur first in prayer? What are the benefits of doing so?
- 5. Sharing: which of the four types of prayer is easiest for you to pray? Which is the most challenging? Why?
- 6. Pray for each other.