

In the next verse He says, "However, when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?" What a sad question! Will Jesus find men and women persisting day and night before Him in prayer when He returns? For years I have prayed but not like the persistent widow. My prayer was not like the intense cry of that widow crying for justice.

5. Relying on God's Leadership

I came to Idaho on a mission to evangelize and make disciples. God brought me to Idaho to change me. I must bow my proud head before you now and say with the Psalmist, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain..." It was in the mountains of Idaho that I learned. "I can't do it Lord." I can't change these people. This is Your work. I will pray and pray and pray. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will acknowledge You in all my ways. You will direct my path. (Proverbs 3:5,6). As I daily wait upon God in faith I know that He is leading. I can't hurry up the process. It's in His hands and He will do it right.

Conclusion:

A year ago I was given the opportunity to lead a prayer meeting every Sunday in one of the local churches. I was provided a room. At 10:30 a.m. the worship service began. So at 10:00 I opened the room and sat down to pray over the church bulletin and every aspect of the church for the coming week. The prayer meeting was faithfully announced in the bulletin each week and the church members were invited to participate. During that following year the numbers grew to two. A few times we had three. Proverbs 24:32 says, "I applied my heart to what I observed

and learned a lesson from what I saw." What did I observe? In a church of about 100 only two people were willing to take time to pray. What was the lesson? I do not speak for the whole body of Christ but I suspect that prayer is not occupying the prominent place in most of our lives that it should.

I Tim. 2:1-8, "I urge, then first of all.... Prayers. "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer..."



If you would like help or more information on becoming a disciple maker, please write or email:

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DISCIPLE MAKER



and PRAYER

What I Learned on the Mountain

by Ron York

I learned to pray at age seventy. I met Christ as my Savior at the age of nineteen. For fifty-one years I received wonderful help, training and experience in prayer. I thought I knew a lot about prayer. I believed it was important and even taught others about prayer. I read many books on prayer and participated in numerous prayer meetings. But at age seventy I learned what it really meant to pray. Hopefully this brochure will stir many who read it, as I have been stirred, into a new level of prayer.

In 2002 my wife, Joyce, and I moved to the Silver Valley of North Idaho. Five pastors of five local churches in five surrounding towns invited us here. They asked us to come and help with evangelism and disciple making. Soon after the move I turned seventy. A routine medical exam revealed that my

cholesterol was 270. My doctor told me that it should not be over 200 and he recommended a drug called Lipitor. I said, “No.” He said, “Then you must diet and vigorously exercise.” It took a wake up call from my doctor to get me willing to set aside time and energy for a daily walk. But God had far more in mind. Isaiah 55:9 says, “*My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*”

Behind our home in Osburn is a canyon called McFarren Gulch that leads to two logging roads extending high up the mountain. I decided to walk up the canyon five days a week. My initial reason for walking the mountain was my need to bring my cholesterol down. At first I could only handle a 30-minute walk. Then I pushed to 45 minutes and then an hour. One day it occurred to me that while I was walking I could also pray. Initially, I could only pray 15 minutes. But it was not long before I could pray for 30 minutes. Now I walk and pray one to two hours rain or shine, cold or hot, in every season. My cholesterol dropped to 170. That was encouraging but not near as encouraging as the realization that God stepped into my walking and taught me how to communicate with Him!

I would like to share with you five things God is teaching me in the process of walking and talking with Him.

1. *The Power of Praying with Others*

In 2005 my wife and I were in India to help men and women in disciple making. When we arrived I got up early and went out to walk and pray. On the third morning, two men, Jiju and Arun joined me. We prayed for an hour. Soon there were four

to six of us walking and praying for an hour. Our hearts were quickly and wonderfully knit together through prayer. In India I learned the power of walking and praying with others and the effect this has upon their lives and ministry.

2. *The Priority of Prayer in Evangelism*

There is no doubt that God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (See 1 Timothy 2:4). 2 Peter 3:9 notes, “*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*” I have never met a man or woman who is saved that cannot think of someone who was praying for them before they met Christ. My own father came to Christ in 1951 and began to pray earnestly for my salvation. Here are a few words from his journal, “*But as time went on and you were on your way overseas and into battle (the Korean war), I became desperate. I had to admit – only God could save my boy’s life. I must find Him as my personal Savior; then I could plead for your life and personal salvation.*” Thank God for dad’s prayers. I met Jesus in August 1951.

When God gives us a burden for specific people who are lost it is clearly a sign that He is going to call them to Himself (1 John 5:14,15). I have my list of unsaved people that are on my heart that I bring before Him. I know that God will save them in His time.

3. *The Priority of Prayer in Disciple Making*

I memorized Matthew 9:37,38 decades ago. But I did not understand until recently that the real

workers in the harvest are the prayer workers. Look at the verses, “*Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.*” God sends out workers. Jesus says the workers are few and the harvest is plentiful. What is the problem? I had not been giving myself to prayer for those harvest workers. My job is to pray. God’s job is to send out workers. Why are they few? Could it be that most of us are not doing our part in prayer for disciple makers? A beautiful illustration of Matthew 9 is found in Exodus 17:8-16. “*As long as Moses held up his hands the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning ... Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword*” (vs. 11-13). “*For hands were lifted up to the throne of the Lord*” (vs. 16).



Notice God’s battle plan in using men in team work has not changed.

4. *The Importance of Persevering in Prayer*

In Luke 18, Jesus gives a parable to show His disciples that they should pray always and not give up. Verse 7 says, “*And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off?*”