

## MEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2013

Review of concentric circles

- SELF--SPOUSE--FAMILY--CHURCH—MISSIONS (All Christians: self, church, miss)
- The concentric circles for your life are determined by the will of God (married/children)

In discussing the concentric circles, we are dealing with “How to prioritize your life according to God’s will for God’s glory”

- The greatest desire for the believer is to glorify God
- We noted that worship is not merely singing songs on Sunday (part) but the whole of life being brought into conformity to Scripture and the image of Christ
  - **Romans 12:1** *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies (life) as a living sacrifice (given to God), **holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.***

We are talking about the **practical implications** of Biblical truth (We all say we believe the Bible, and it is our supreme authority in all matters of life & faith)

- The Word of God is sufficient (**2 Tim 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*)
- If we believe the Bible then the truths in it must shape our everyday lives/time
- It is inconsistent to merely confirm Biblical truths and not have continual reformation of life accordingly
- As we grow in understanding and wisdom according to the Word we will then be Always reforming (life of Christian is one of continue and constant conformity)

Another important truth to reiterate: **God’s will for our lives is perfect**

- **Meaning:** we do NOT have to forsake one aspect of our responsibility to fulfill another
- We must be good stewards

The first focus of our priority must be self (everyone has prioritized their life but around what)

- If there is a break down in our own personal communion with God (in our spiritual life), it will have a domino effect on every other area of priority
  - Example (Lead wife, children, church, evangelism)
  - This is why it must be priority number one
  - Knowing this, we must structure our lives (time and priorities) around the purposing of our own spiritual walk

In these meetings we cannot be all inclusive but today (concentrate on 3 areas of focus)

Our overall goal here is conformity to Christ for the glory of God

**Sanctification**-The progressive synergistic work of God and man where we are set apart for God's will (according to Scripture) and purpose to His glory

## Word/Prayer

### Word

- **Romans 12:1** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
  - We live in a fallen world that is constantly bombarding us (tempting), we are not to be conformed to this world
  - We are to be transformed and the way this happens is through the renewing of the mind in Scripture (continually transformed/On-going process)
  - Creating a Biblical world view (a lot of undoing and redoing)
  - Through the renewing of our mind, we test everything that we may discern what the will of God is (gain perspective)
    - Will of God is what is good and acceptable and perfect (holy)
- Consistent daily time in the Word of God must be a priority in your life demonstrated by your schedule (If it is not right now, you need to do whatever is necessary to make this happen. FITTING THIS WHEN is not an option, won't happen).
  - Select a time, and schedule around it (write it out, talk it over with your wife, change bed time, fellowship time, etc)
  - This is what it means to prioritize (Examine life by writing out current week accounting for every hour to see where your priorities are)
- This is something we must purpose to do. (intentional and reflected in the structuring of our life (time))
  - **Ezra 7:10** *For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.* (Set his heart, prepared, established)
- If our goal is sanctification, it will not happen apart from the reading/study of the Word of God **John 17:17** *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*
- We are on a personal pursuit of Godliness/holiness for God's glory
  - In order to accomplish this we must discern and know the will of God (How?)
  - **Eph 5:12** *Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit* (be being filled)
  - **Col 3:16** *Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...*

## **Psalm 1**

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

## **Not only the Word but the need for the Holy Spirit and Prayer**

- Put those two together bc it is through prayer that we ask for the Holy Spirit and demonstrate our inability (humility) to do anything without Him (John 15:5)
  - **Luke 11:13** *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*
  - **John 16:7** *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you...v12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth*
  - **John 14:26** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
  - There must be a continual acknowledging of our inability to do anything without Him (John 15:5) and our need for the help of the Holy Spirit

**Now about prayer specifically: two aspects to prayer (most people do well in one aspect and neglect the other but both aspect of prayer need to be a reality in our lives)**

- **1 Thess 5:17** *Pray without ceasing*
  - The truth that we should be in continual, constant, un-broken communion with the Lord (out of necessity and delight)
  - This is a relationship-Speaking with our Father in all aspects: Thanksgiving, Praise, Petition, Cries
- **Matthew 6:6** *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*
  - Purposeful intentional prayer
  - Not while you are doing something else but where your intention is to pray

Study life of Jesus prayer from Gospel of Luke