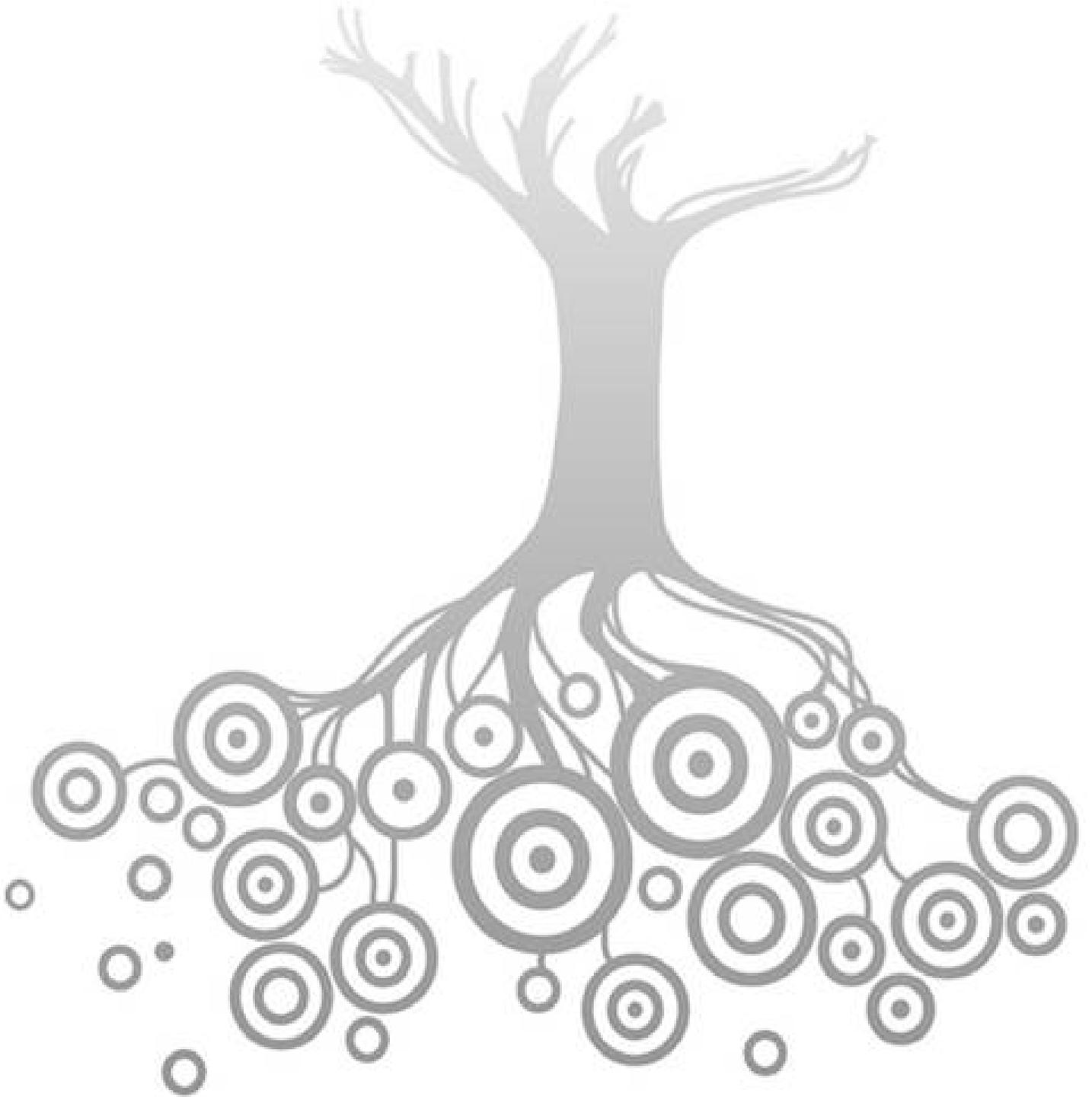


GROW 201



:Roots:

Discipleship Class 201

The Purpose/Objective of this class is taken from the Book of Colossians and is that you may become mature Christians and that you may fulfill God's will for you.

Goal:

...that I will commit myself to the Habits necessary for spiritual maturity.
Rom 6:19

I. Spiritual Maturity

Eph 4:13 – “In the unity of common faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity, the measure of development which is meant by the fullness of Christ.”

A. Spiritual Maturity – Growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and developing Christ-like characteristics.

- It's God's desire that we become like His Son. *Rom 8:29*
- We are not meant to remain as children, but are to grow up in every way into Christ. *Eph 4:14-15*

1. It is intentional.

2. It is a process *2 Peter 3:18*

There are no shortcuts, there is no easy button, it's a lifelong continual process and a learning experience.

3. It takes Discipline *1 Tim 4:7*

4. It involves bearing your cross.

Luke 14:27 Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

How often are we to do this?

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily.

Matt 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23

So, how do we become a disciple?

By developing spiritual habits.

Col 3:9-10 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you. 9) Seeing that you have put off the old self and it's habits, and instead, 10) have put on the new self which is formed from the knowledge of Christ.

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B. Time Spent in God's Word

If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples indeed. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

1. By Hearing *Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.*

a. Write it down/ take notes on what you hear.

b. Be ready & eager to hear *James 1:19*

Prepare your heart to receive and understand God's Word.

c. Consider carefully how you listen *Luke 8:4-15*

Are you distracted? More importantly, deal with attitudes that prevent you from listening.

1. Closed mind

2. Superficial mind

3. Preoccupied mind

d. Confess any sin in your life.

James 1:21 Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word.

e. Act on what you hear.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:25 Whoever does not simply listen and then forgets it, but puts it into practice, that person will be blessed in what he does.

2. By Reading. *Rev 1:3*

How often should you be reading the Bible? God wants you to read His Word Daily *Deut 17:19*

a. Systematically.

b. Use different translations.

c. Read it aloud. This will help keep your mind from wandering.

d. Don't be afraid to underline, highlight.

e. Choose a reading plan

3. By Studying. *Acts 17:11*

You don't have to be a theologian to study God's Word. We are to know what God's Word says, and what it means. We can only do this by studying it.

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4. By Memorizing. *Prov 7:2-3*

- Benefits of memorizing:

a. Resist temptation *Ps 119*

b. Aids in making wise decisions

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Ps 119:105.

c. It strengthens, comforts (*Jer 15:16*), it helps you to witness to unbelievers (*1 Peter 3:15 – Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have*).

5. By Meditating.

Definition: Focused thinking on the Bible in order to discover how you can apply its truth to your life..

a. It's key to becoming like Christ.

Prov 4:23 Your life is shaped by your thoughts

What you think about is what you become! (Think, feel, act)

1 Cor 3:18 As we contemplate the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness.

As we meditate and think deeply about the Lord and His word, we become more and more like Him.

b. It's key to answered prayer.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

c. It's key to a successful living.

Josh 1:8 Meditate on the Word day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous & successful.

1 Cor 3:18; John 15:7 – A couple of verses to review (On student Outline)

6. By applying. *Jm. 1:22*

Bridge the gap between what did it mean then vs. what it means now. Ask yourself what is this verse saying to the people it was written to, what's the timeless principle, and how can I apply it to my life.

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II. Spiritual Habits

A. Habit of Daily Time with God

Quiet Time = Daily time set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him.

1. Purpose of Quiet Time

- a. To give devotion to God.

Ps 29:2 Give to the Lord the glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.

- b. To get direction from God. *Ps 25:4*

- c. To grow daily to become like Christ.

2 Peter 1: 3-4 For as you know Him better and better, God will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life. He has promised to save us and to give us His own character.

2. How to have a Quiet Time

- a. Discipline

1. Select a specific time
2. Choose a specific place.

Luke 22:39 - Jesus left the city and went, as He usually did, to Mt. Olives...to pray.

What's important here is solitude, somewhere where you can be alone with God.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mk. 1:35

3. Gather your resources, (bible, notebook, etc) begin with the right attitude, and follow a simple plan.

- b. Avoid distractions

- c. Spiritual Dryness

When you feel as though you're getting nothing out of your quiet time, don't judge your quiet time by your emotions. It's probably when you need it most.

- d. Diligence

One of the biggest problems with daily quiet time is consistency. Some suggestions to stay consistent:

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Summary: Our goal is to become mature Christians by committing to the Habits necessary for spiritual growth. Understanding that being a disciple requires an intentional decision, and is a lifelong process, and we may first need to begin by getting a grasp on God's Word by Hearing, Reading, Studying, Memorizing, Meditating, & Applying its truth., then work at establishing the Habit of a Daily Quiet Time with God

B. The Habit of Prayer

Things to consider when developing the habit of prayer and ways to revitalize your current prayer life:

1. **Be honest**

Matt 6:5-8-And when you pray, don not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

a. Don't try to impress others like the Pharisees who stood on the street corners so everyone could see and hear.

b. Don't try to impress God. He knows your heart & thoughts. Just talk to him.

2. **Go to a place where you can concentrate, and be alone.**

vs. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

3. **Reveal what's really on your heart**

Matt 6:7-8-And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

a- Begin with Praise. Expressing your love for God.

vs.9 "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name.."

- In adoration – praising God for who He is.
- And in Thanksgiving – praising God for what He's done in your life, or His deeds.

b- Commit yourself to God's purpose and will for your life.

vs. 10 "thy Kingdom done, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

c- Ask God to provide for my needs. *Phil 4:19*

vs.11 "Give us this day our daily bread.." (provision)

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d- Ask God to forgive my sins. Pardon.

vs. 12 *“Forgive us our trespasses...”*

e- Pray for other people.

vs.12 *...”as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*

1 Tim 2:1 “ Pray much for others; plead for God’s mercy upon them, give thanks for all He is going to do for them.”

f- Ask for spiritual protection.

vs.13 *“ lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

C. Habit of Tithing

1. The Bible talks more about giving than it does about heaven or hell.
2. Jesus talked more about giving than any other subject. Over half of His parables had to do with money.
3. There are more promises in the Bible about giving than any other subject.
4. The word ‘believe’ is used 272 times, the word ‘pray’, 371, the word love, ‘714’ times, and the word ‘give’, 2162 times. God is a giver and as stated at the beginning of class, God desires us to become like Him. That is why we feel it’s essential to make giving one of the four indispensable habits.

About collection for God’s people: Paul said, “do what I told the Galatian churches to do.”

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come, no collections will have to be made. And this he sent as a gift with those Paul sent off the Jerusalem.

“On the first day of every week...” Is that habit?

a. Why does God want me to give?

1. Giving makes me more like God. God, the ultimate giver, gave us His son. You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.
2. Giving draws me closer to God. *Mt.6:21 Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.*

“Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share what God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity.”
Luke 12:33

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3. Giving is the antidote to materialism.

Matt 6:19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

4. Giving will strengthen your faith.

- We demonstrate our faith by what and how we give.
- The measure you use to give, is the same measure that will be used when getting back. *Luke 6:38*

Is the reason you don't give because you don't believe?

5. Giving makes us happy and blesses us in return.

A generous man will himself be blessed. Prov 22:9

Good will come to him who is generous. Ps 112:5

There is more happiness in giving than in receiving. Acts 20:35

b. What does the Bible say about tithing?

Tithe – tithe means a tenth part. In the Bible, (Lev 27:30) God tells us to give the first ten% of what we earn back to Him. Giving a tithe is 10% of your income. What's the difference between a tithe and an offering? Again, a tithe is 10% of your income whereas an offering is anything you give in addition to your tithe. So the question is why should I tithe?

1. God commands it. *Lev 27:10*

And because He says it, we should obey it.

2. Jesus commends it. *Matt 23:23*

In Mt., Jesus commended the Pharisees for their giving. In fact, it's the only time he commends them for what they are doing. They were way off base on some things, but right on in their giving.

3. Tithing demonstrates that God is a priority.

Deut 14:23 The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life.

4. Tithing serves as a reminder that everything I have was given to me by God.

Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth. Deut 8:18

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5. Tithing expresses my gratitude to God for the blessings He's done for me.

Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord has blessed you. Deut 16:17

6. Refusing to tithe is stealing from God. *Malachi 3:8-10* "God says, 'will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, "How do we rob you?" God says, "In tithes and offerings...bring your whole tithe to my house."

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove he exists and wants to bless you.

Bring your whole tithe to my storehouse. Test me in this, 'says the Lord' and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it! ((I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues.)) Mal.3:10-11

8. Tithing demonstrates that you love God.

"If you love me, do what I command"

Paraphrase: Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of your income .2 Cor 8:19

- **Where should you tithe?**

"Bring your whole tithe into my storehouse."

- **When should you tithe?**

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.

- **How should I tithe?**

1. With the right attitude!

God is more concerned about our attitude than about the amount.

2. We are to give willingly.

2 Cor 9:7 Each on should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure.

2 Cor 9:12 "For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have.

3. Give joyfully.

God loves a cheerful giver.

4. Give generously.

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2 Cor 8:3-4 They gave as much as they were able and **even beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege for sharing in this service.

5. Give expectantly.

D. Habit of Fellowship

Heb 10:25 Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another.

1. You belong in fellowship with other believers.

As you read through the NT, you'll notice that the words brother, sister, father, and mother are used often. The focus is on relationships. In fact, Jesus says of His disciples that you are my brothers.

Gal. 6:10 Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Eph 2:19 You are a member of God's very own family and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Rom 12:5 So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. It's a very unique relationship if you understand the concept.

2. You need encouragement from others to grow spiritually. You need accountability & support.

3. I need accountability to grow spiritually.

Prov 27:17 Just as iron sharpens iron, we need each other to correct us at times and hold us accountable to a life above reproach.

"Everyday keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin." Heb 3:13

If your brother is trapped in sin, restore him gently. Gal 6:1-2

4. When we fellowship together, Christ is present.

For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them. Matt 18:20

5. Fellowship is a witness to the world.

My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:21

Your strong love for each other will prove that you are my disciples John 13:35.

6. As members of one body, you belong to each other.

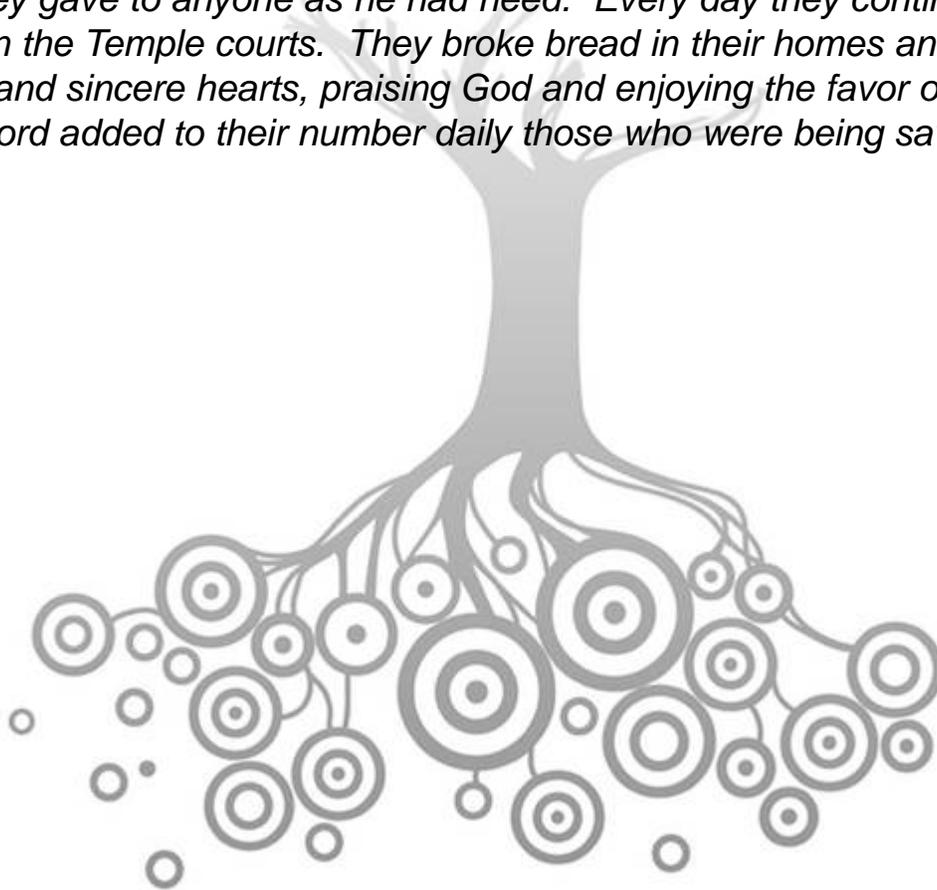
E. Small Groups:

Acts 5:24 They met day after day in the Temple courts (lrg grp celebration) and from house to house (sml grp fellowship).

1. It's God's desire that we live in community with one another.

2. The Fellowship of Believers.

According to Acts 2:42-47, They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Vs. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the Temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



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