

Pray and Plan

**Discovering and Obeying
the Heart of God**

Self-Perspective

But I am a worm and not a man,
a reproach of men
and despised by the people.
(Psalm 22:6)

Transformed in Christ

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Pray and Plan Overview

- Preparation of hearts and minds through worship

True Worship

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (John 4:23)

First Pray and Plan

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up

First Pray and Plan

While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid

Pray and Plan Overview

- Preparation of hearts and minds through worship
- Discovering what needs God has created
- Ask God what He will do to fulfill the created needs

Topics for Today's Teaching

- Worldly versus heavenly wisdom
- Who we are to work for
- How to prepare to work in God's kingdom

Wisdom from Above

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

Wisdom from Above

This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

(James 3:13-18)

Wisdom from Above

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(James 3:13-18)

Characteristics of Worldly Wisdom

- Jealous and selfish
- Arrogant and lying
- Earthly, natural and demonic
- Leading to disorder and evil

Characteristics of Heavenly Wisdom

- Pure and peaceable
- Gentle and reasonable
- Full of mercy and good fruits
- Unwavering & without hypocrisy
- Leading to righteousness & peace

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great lovingkindness, and have made me king in his place. Now, O Lord God, Your promise to my father David is fulfilled, for You have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you.”

(2 Chronicles 1:8-12)

How to Seek God's Guidance

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

(Matthew 6:33)

Paul's Prayer for Mature Believers

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of

Work Only for God

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Who Are We to Work For?

God

- Perfect guidance
- Unlimited resources
- Excellent outcomes

Others

- **Limited human wisdom**
- **Limited human resources**

Self

- Focus on personal needs and identify
- Do things their own way without God's guidance

How Is a Christian to Work?

- Work heartily in whatever you do
- As for the Lord rather than for men
- In order to receive the Lord's reward of inheritance

Imperishable Inheritance

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance *which is*

(1 Peter 1:3-5)

Imperishable Inheritance

imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1:3-5)

Spiritual Preparation

The ants are not a strong people,
but they prepare their food in the
summer. (Proverbs 30:25)

Spiritual Preparation

In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. (John 14:2-3)

Spiritual Preparation

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)

Jesus' Parable of Ten Virgins

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in

Jesus' Parable of Ten Virgins

Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give me some of your oil, for my lamp is going out.'

Jesus' Parable of Ten Virgins

But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the

11:11-13

Jesus' Parable of Ten Virgins

Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

(Matthew 25:1-13)

Three Important Lessons on Preparation

- Always be prepared to serve God
- Always be willing to wait patiently and alertly for God to act
- Always follow God's lead—never go ahead of Him or lag behind Him

Lesson Summary

- Two types of wisdom — worldly and heavenly
- Work only for Christ instead of men
- Always be prepared to serve God

Three Advertisements

- Pray and Plan book sales
- Pray and Plan booklet
- Pray and Plan Seminar on Friday at 1400

Salute to our Creator
God

**Thank you for
allowing me to share
these thoughts!**

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