

Passing the Baton of Prayer to the Next Generation

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Resources by Dave Earley

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SESSION 1

JESUS WAS A YOUTH PASTOR

When they met Jesus, the disciples were all under the age of 18, with the exception of possibly Peter, and Matthew. Certainly, none of them were over the age of 30.

1. The _____ tax: Only Jesus and Peter were old enough to pay _____.
2. Jesus called them the "_____."
3. All but Peter were _____. A Jewish man did not receive a wife until after the age of 18. (Matthew 8:14-15).
4. The _____ of Israel at the time of Jesus reveals that they were between the age of 15-18, except Peter.
 - Education was provided for children *ages 5-15*. At age 15 a young man would either be selected by a rabbi for further study, or they would be apprenticed to a trade (such a fisherman).
 - Age 18: Men were expected to marry *after* the age of 18
 - Age 30: For those under Rabbinic training, their formal teaching of others began at 30.

Q: Why did the disciples often act like teenagers?

A: Because they were teenagers!

1. They displayed **the zeal and folly of youth**.
2. James and John **argued over who would be the greatest**. Then **their mother** chimed in.
3. After seeing Jesus feed 5,000 men, they **cowered in fear** when a storm blew up.
4. Peter asked to **walk on the water**.
5. They **rejoiced over demons being under their authority**.
6. When Jesus was washing their feet, **Peter wanted Jesus to wash his whole body**.
7. When Jesus told of Lazarus' death, **Thomas wanted to die with him**.
8. **Peter pledged his loyalty to the death**. But a few hours later, **Peter denied Him three times**.

9. **Peter cut off the soldier's ear.**
10. Yet, after the day of Pentecost, they **fearlessly filled Jerusalem with their teaching!** Then they ended up **taking the gospel all over the known world.**

If we want to see the results Jesus had, we ought to do what Jesus did.

Father in heaven, please:

- Help me prioritize the time to invest in high potential students and young adults.
- Lead me to 70 hungry hearted people to teach, 12 to train, and three to deeply disciple.
- Help me give them the vision to change the world.
- Help me invite them to pray with me.

SESSION 2

iPACEM • How Jesus Made Disciples

I: _____ and _____

Mark 1:17 Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.

P: _____

He prayed for disciples. Luke 6:12-13 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:

He prayed for His disciples. John 17:9 I pray for them.

He tells us to pray for disciples. Matthew 9:38 pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

A: Availability, Accessibility and Accountability

C: Contact

E: Example*

Mark 1:17 Follow Me

*How Jesus Modeled Prayer

1. He had a daily morning prayer practice they knew about. Mark 1:35
2. He taught them about prayer. Luke 11; Luke 18; Matthew 6
3. He would take mini-prayer retreats that they knew about. Luke 5:16; 6:12
4. His prayer life was contagious. Luke 11:1
5. He let them know that He was praying for them. Luke 22:32
6. He invited them to join Him when He was praying through the toughest time of His life. Matthew 26:37-38

M: Mentor:

- I do. You Watch.
- We do it.
- You do. I coach.

Henrietta Mears was the Educational Director at Hollywood Presbyterian Church. Her Wednesday night college and career Bible study meetings were legionary. Some of her many mentorees included Dick Halverson, who became Chaplain of the US Senate, and Bill & Vonette Bright, who founded Campus Crusade for Christ. **On Sunday mornings**, her huge college department always had **a half hour prayer session with her before each meeting.**

On Wednesday nights, the leaders met with her an hour beforehand to get down on their knees, confess their weaknesses and implore the Holy Spirit to empower them. They prayed that the visitors might accept Christ. They prayed for a moving of God's presence.

Another one of her biographers observed, *Teacher was always there, and **the greatest effectiveness of her ministry was generated in these and similar prayer times.***

Jesus' Disciples caught His passion to pray!

1. After His resurrection, they spent a week in the upper room and temple courts praising and praying leading to the outpouring of the holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Luke 24:52-53; Acts 1:12-14
2. They built twice daily prayer into the DNA of the first church. Acts 2:42; 3:1; 2:15; 10:9
3. They responded to every challenge with prayer. Acts 4:24
4. When overly busy, they re-prioritized prayer. Acts 6:4
5. They taught their people to pray. Acts 12:5

Thanksgiving: *Heavenly Father, I thank You for:*

Praise: *Heavenly Father, You are absolutely above and beyond the best of the best because only you are:*

Confession: *Heavenly Father, I am so sorry for (doing, thinking, saying):*

...and I do not want to do it again.

Supplication: *Heavenly Father, I need:*

Intercession: *Heavenly Father, _____ needs:*

SESSION 3

Three Things Every Leader Must Do

Moses & the Three Things Every Shepherd Must Do

Exodus 18:14-18 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"

¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶ When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws."

¹⁷ So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. ¹⁸ Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.

The Three Things Every Shepherd Must Do

Exodus 18:19-23 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. ²⁰ And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. ²¹ Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times.

1. _____ . **18:19** Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.
2. _____ . **18:20** you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.
3. _____ . **18:21-22** Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.

Exodus 18:23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

Jesus & The Three Things Every Pastor Must Do

1. _____ (15x in Gospels)

2. _____ **the Word** (His full-time job)
3. _____ **leaders** (the 12 and the 70)

The Apostles & The Three Things Every Pastor Must Do

Acts 6:2-4 Then the Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, “It would not be right for us to give up preaching about God to wait on tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry.”

1. _____ - we will devote ourselves to prayer (6:4)
2. _____ **the Word of God** - It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God... we will devote ourselves to ... the ministry of the word. (6:2,4)
3. _____ **and deploying other leaders** – Pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty (6:3-4)

Acts 6:7 So the preaching about God flourished, the **number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly**, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

Paul & Timothy & The Three Things Every Pastor Must Do

1. _____ : **1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone...
2. _____ **the Word: 2 Timothy 2:15** “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles “the word of truth” **2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word”
3. _____ **leaders: 2 Timothy 2:2** And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Church Health & The Three Things Every Pastor Must Do

Ephesians 4:11-12, 16 He gave... some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ ... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Pastors equip saints
- Saints do the ministry
- The ministry grows in quality and quantity.

How to Equip Saints:

1. _____.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. _____ **and Preach the Word.**

2 Timothy 3:16-4:2 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word!

3. _____.

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

- Do you feel burnt-out and worn-out?
- How well have you been doing on focusing on the three things?
- Which of the three areas needs work?
- What can you do about it?
- How can you re-prioritize prayer in your life?
- How can you re-prioritize prayer in your ministry?

SESSION 4

A Prayer-Powered Ministry

Do You Believe that God can do things ...

- _____ than you can?
- _____ than you can?
- _____ than you can?

Prayer is the Common Denominator of High-impact Leaders

Prayer is certainly not the only act of spiritual leadership, but it is the indisputable common denominator of spiritual difference makers in every generation and in any setting.

Henry Blackaby states, “More than any other single thing leaders do, it is **their prayer life that will determine their effectiveness.**”⁴ Nineteenth century author Andrew Murray said that prayer in the life of the pastor should be regarded “as the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work... **there is nothing we need to study and practice as the art of praying alright.**”⁵

J.C. Ryle, another well-known nineteenth century Christian leader, writes: “I have read the lives of many eminent Christians who have been on earth since Bible days. Some of them, I see, were rich, and some poor. Some were learned, some unlearned...some were Calvinists, and some were Arminians... But one thing, I see, **they all had in common. They all had been men of prayer.**”⁶

Prayer is the Key to Effective Ministry

I scoured the New Testament some time ago, looking for things God does in ministry that are not prompted by prayer. Do you know what I found?

Nothing.

I don't mean I had trouble finding an item or two: I mean I found nothing. **Everything God does in the work of ministry, He does through prayer.** Consider:

- Prayer is the way you defeat the devil (Luke 22:23; James 4:7).
- Prayer is the way you get the lost saved (Luke 18:13).
- Prayer is the way you acquire wisdom (James 1:5).
- Prayer is the way a backslider gets restored (James 5:16-20).
- Prayer is how saints get strengthened (Jude 20; Matthew 26:41).
- Prayer is the way to get laborers out to the mission field (Matthew 9:38).
- Prayer is how we cure the sick (James 5:13-15).
- Prayer is how we accomplish the impossible (Mark 11:23-24).
- ... everything God wants to do in your life; He has subjugated to one thing: Prayer.

David Jeremiah

Prioritize Prayer in Order to Maximize Impact

Hudson Taylor was an English missionary to China. He founded the China Inland Mission which became miraculously influential for God in China. At his death, the mission included 205 mission stations with over 800 missionaries and 125,000 Chinese Christians.

How did he do it? He said that he discovered, ***“It is possible to move men through God by prayer alone.”***

Prayer is the Under-utilized Weapon in Ministry

Billy Graham was one of the best-loved spiritual leaders of the 20th century. He believes in the untapped power of prayer. He wrote, ***“More can be done by prayer than anything else. Prayer is our greatest weapon... very few of us have learned how to fully develop the power of prayer.”***

Prayer Multiplies Time and Impact

A survey of small group leaders revealed an interesting correlation between time spent in prayer and small group multiplication. It revealed that **leaders who spent 90 minutes or more in daily devotions multiplied their groups twice as often as those who spent less than half an hour.**

Charles Spurgeon was a pastor of one of the first modern day mega-churches, plus doing many other things. He also founded a college for pastors and missionaries. He also founded a large ministry for orphans and widows, wrote many books, edited a ministry newspaper, and oversaw the planting of dozens of churches. He modeled the importance of prayer and said,

*Sometimes we think we are too busy to pray. That also is a great mistake, for **praying is a saving of time**... God can multiply our ability to make use of time. If we give the Lord his due, we shall have enough for all necessary purposes. In this matter seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Your other engagements will run smoothly if you do not forget your engagement with God.*

*We not ought only to pray more, but **we must!** The fact is the secret of all ministerial success lies in prevalence at the mercy seat. (emphasis his)*

We are too busy not to pray.

- Is prayer a very high priority in your life?
- How does your schedule reflect that?
- Is prayer a very high priority in your ministry?
- How does your church calendar reflect that?

SESSION 5

How to Prioritize Prayer in Your Ministry

1. Prioritize prayer on your ministry and events calendar
2. Prioritize prayer in teaching calendar
3. Set the example

*History would teach us that there is no revival or spiritual awakening unless churches begin to pray. In addition, **most churches will not become houses of prayer unless pastors lead the way through their personal example** and through skilled and strategic leadership in prayer. - Paul Cedar*

The Secret Life of Pastors

- One survey said the average pastor prays only seven minutes a day!
- Another said that 80% of pastors surveyed spend less than 15 minutes a day in prayer.
- The most generous survey said that pastors pray all of 37 minutes a day.
- In China the average pastor prays 120 minutes a day. - Stuart Robinson

In the early 1970s, there were an estimated 3 million Christians in China. Now, the number may be as high as 130 million.

Jerry Falwell was the highly influential founder and pastor of the famous Thomas Road Baptist Church, which had a membership of tens of thousands. He also founded Liberty University which has over 100,000 students.

When Jerry Falwell was a college student, he learned the immense value of having a daily prayer time. He went to the dean of students and asked for a key to the third floor of the administration building. There he prayed from 1:30 to 5:00 every weekday afternoon, crying out to God to bless his ministry as a 5th grade Sunday School teacher. It paid off. The class grew from 2 boys to 57 by May. 20

Suggestion for More Effective Personal Prayer

1. Have a Set _____
2. Have a Set _____
3. Have a Set _____
4. Use a _____ to Record Requests and Answers

A Small Town House of Prayer: Dee Dukes

1. Spend one uninterrupted hour per day praying by himself.
2. Spend one hour per day praying with a partner.

3. Pray for everyone in the church by name weekly.
4. Pray at least once a month with other pastors.
5. Preach on prayer for three months.
6. Plan at least four major church prayer events each year (always to precede a major evangelistic thrust).
7. Identify the church's "farm" (twenty miles in every direction from the church), claim it, and target prayer for it. 13

"The more we prayed, the more God put it on our hearts to reach the lost. We experienced a growing sense of urgency to reach our neighbors and the world. We grew in creative ways to reach out to the lost. Almost everyone in the church began praying for lost friends, work associates, family members, mission efforts, and countries around the world."

How do you need to re-arrange your personal and/or ministry calendar to reflect a higher commitment to prayer?

What are some goals you will set for prayer for yourself and your ministry?

SESSION 6

Praying with Jesus

Matthew 6:9-13

Matthew 6:9-13 *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Adoration: *“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”*

“Our Father in heaven, I praise you because you are:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Infinite. You are unlimited. | Trustworthy and Faithful. You can trust Him. | Creator: The Maker of Heaven and Earth |
| Almighty. You are strong enough. | Holy, separate from and beyond any and all sin. | Redeemer |
| Knows Everything. You are wise. | Loving. | Savior |
| Everywhere Present. You are near. | True, Righteous, and Just | King of Kings |
| Majestic. You are grand, glorious, regal, and beautiful. | Merciful (withholding the punishment you deserve) | Lord of Lords |
| The One and Only true God | Gracious (giving you blessings you do not deserve) | Wonderful Counselor |
| Sovereign and does what you wants when you wants | Worthy of Worship | Good Shepherd |

Submission: *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done.”*

“Our Father in heaven, I submit my entire life to you. Specifically, I surrender to You my:

| Submit to His Lordship | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Past | Food | Children |
| Future | Furnishings | Grandchildren |
| Health | Equipment | Friends |
| Finances | Vehicles | Time |
| Income / Job / Career / Business | Reputation, recognition, rights | Vacation |
| Home | Parents | Hobbies |
| Clothes | Mate | Talents, gifts, abilities |

Petition: "Give us each day our daily bread."

"Our Father in heaven:

| I NEED | WE NEED | THEY NEED |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Confession: "Forgive us our sins."

"Our Father in heaven, please forgive me, forgive us..."

| Confession A, B, C's | | |
|--|---|--|
| A: Apathy, anger, anxiety, addictions, and arrogance. | G: Greed and gluttony | R: Refusal to trust, refusal to submit, refusal to obey; Resentment and rationalizing |
| B: Bitterness | H: Hatred, high-mindedness, and hypocrisies | S: Self-centeredness, self-righteousness, self-pity, selfishness, self-righteousness, self-seeking |
| C: Carnality, complaining, covetousness, and a critical spirit. | I: Idolatry – making gods out of things that are not godly & making gods out of people who are not god. Ignoring my sins. | T: Taking the love, goodness, mercy, and death of Jesus for granted. |
| D: Deception, dirty mouth/dirty mind, dishonesty, disappointment, discouragement, and doubt. | J: Jealousy | U: Unbelief, unethical, unmerciful, and unyielding. |
| E: Envy, excuse making, | L: Lack of passion, lack of love, lack of faith, lack of courage, laziness, loving money, and lust | W: Worrying instead of prayer. |
| F: Fear, folly, and failure to follow through on my commitments | P: Pouting, procrastination, promoting myself and my agenda, and pride | |