

SSOM Class - Session 12

Philippians 1(NKJV) 27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you ***stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*** 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

Class assignment: Look for a scripture for each of the points below that tells us how we can do the following 3 things.

- 1) Stand fast in one spirit (find a scripture that talks about this)
- 2) With one mind (find a scripture that talks about this)
- 3) Striving together for the faith of the gospel (find a scripture that talks about this)

"Unless the Lord build the house, those who build it, labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

"Can 2 walk together, less they are agreed?" Amos 3:3 (speaking of husband and wife)

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great." Luke 6: 46-49

Three pillars of prayer that will build a firm foundation for your family

- 1) **Personal altar - quiet time/ministering to the Lord**
- 2) **Partner altar - Word, worship and prayer together with your spouse**
- 3) **Parent altar - Word, worship and prayer together with your children**

Personal Altar

Prepare a private/quiet space that you enjoy going to **if you have that as an option**

- Do you enjoy hot tea or coffee etc? You can prepare something to drink during your quiet time as a way to stay awake and engaged.
- To keep yourself awake and alert, walk around while you read and pray if that helps

- Read/pray out loud. Hearing your own voice can help keep your mind from wandering

Set the environment for no distractions if at all possible

- don't take your phone with you
- have your quiet time while children are still sleeping
- Have your quiet time before people are up and moving around your house to start their day

**Here are some suggestions on how you can spend your time with God -
(15 - 30 mins in the morning)**

- Pray in the spirit
- Read Scripture out loud
- Meditate on a scripture
 - We will talk about how to do this in class
- Pray for your spouse (use the pdf provided as a guide for your prayers)
 - Singles: (use the pdf provided as a guide for your prayers)
- Pray over your day
 - Sample prayer: We will write an example together as a class

Partners Altar (30 minutes right before bed)

Give yourselves about 15 Minutes for each of these

- Share with each other about your day - High point and low point (Prayer and Praise)
 - Sample: Tell me the best thing that happened in your day today
Tell me about the worst/hardest part of your day today
- Pray together
 - Sample: Acknowledge Him in your day
Thank Him for the day
Give Him any challenges or burdens
Invite the Holy Spirit to cover your house and property
Invite Jesus to walk through your house while you sleep
Pray peace over your house
Pray for rest for everyone

One of the biggest traps of the enemy is to allow things to go smoothly for a period of time in your life. You learn to get comfortable, relax, and believe that you are okay because you are "managing" the distance, the areas where you don't partner together, the tension, and sometimes the chaos. If you are not building a spiritual foundation under you, when the storm comes, when the challenge comes, when something takes you by surprise... you will have no spiritual capital to withdraw from and only then will you see that you are in trouble, with no spiritual foundation to help you draw closer to each other and HIM as you weather the storm.

SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

A lack of spiritual intimacy in your marriage means you will have a harder marriage.

Let's define 3 types of intimacy in a marriage:

1. **Intimacy** = a deep connection of the emotions, intellect and physical body
2. **Spiritual intimacy** = pursuing the LORD
3. **Spiritual intimacy in marriage** = pursuing the LORD together

When there is no spiritual intimacy, your marriage is harder because you are missing the single most important piece of your marriage..... **The FOUNDATION. That's why we refer to this as one of the 3 pillars in the foundation of a home that is built on kingdom principles.**

When you lack spiritual intimacy you lack:

Discernment	Joy
Wisdom	Peace
Direction	Patience
Growth	Kindness
Intimacy	Grace for one another

When you pray together, you are saying, "LORD we can't do this on our own, we need You."

God, sit with **us**.

When you read your Bible together you are declaring, "We will learn the truth of God's word together so we can discern what's true and what is a lie."

God, speak to **us**.

When you worship together in tough times you say, "LORD we choose to trust you even when we don't understand Your ways. We know you are good."

God, draw near to us.

When your spiritual intimacy suffers, your marriage suffers because we weren't meant to do it all on our own.

"A cord of three strands is not easily broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

3 strands = you + your spouse + Jesus

2 strands will never be stronger than 3 strands

Standing "steadfast" Together as Partners

Standing steadfast in Philippians 1:27 means living worthy of the gospel by maintaining unity, acting with one purpose, and defending the faith against opposition. It requires focusing on Christ's mission over personal differences, acting as one team ("striving together"), and finding strength in a shared faith.

How to Stand Steadfast and Strive Together:

- **Live Worthily:** Conduct yourselves as citizens of heaven in a manner that reflects the Gospel of Christ, regardless of circumstances. (*Kingdom Culture*)

Maintain Unity (One Spirit/Mind): Cultivate unity in the Holy Spirit. (Look where Paul says he could only endure due to prayer and the spirit Phil 1:19)

- **Strive Together (Side-by-Side):** Work together as a team ("fighting shoulder to shoulder") to advance the faith, recognizing that "striving" is the active form of "standing".
- **Show Courage:** Do not be afraid when the enemy opposes you; rather, view persecution or suffering for Christ as a privilege granted to you.
- **Focus on the Gospel:** remember and live like the purpose and goal is always the advancement of the gospel, not just personal comfort or superficial unity.

Philippians 1:27 emphasizes that standing firm requires active, combined effort to defend and spread the gospel, **not just passive endurance.**

Now ask yourself: Are there areas of my life where I have “checked out,” or stopped engaging in the process? Am I “enduring” my relationship with God, without putting much effort into it? Am I just “enduring” my marriage; accepting the status quo, with no real alignment or partnership together for the gospel? Am I just “enduring” my role as a parent and treating it more like a job that I have to do, rather than a privilege that God has entrusted me with one of His children?

MEN:

It is not a burden to be the high priest of your home; it is a BLESSING to lead your family. This requires and demands your leadership; not your lordship. Lead first in the spiritual matters of your personal life, and set the example for your entire family (wife and children) to follow. Respect will come naturally when they see you submitted to Christ and devoted to Him. Your wife cannot follow you, if you refuse to lead.

WOMEN:

You are not less of a human being because you submit to the Lordship of Jesus, and the leadership of your husband. You truly step into your assignment as his helpmate when you understand and walk in the Biblical principles of being a “kingdom wife.”

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

It is time to align yourself with God's Word in order to establish proper structure and order in your home and family.

Alignment

- **the correct positioning of something**
- **bringing one's will, actions, and character into agreement with God's purpose and Word (walking in the Spirit) Galatians 5: 16-25**
 - **prioritizing God's Kingdom**
 - **developing Christ-like character**
 - **submitting to His will - which leads to spiritual fruitfulness**

Principles of Biblical Alignment

Amos 3:3: "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

Galatians 5:25: "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Romans 8:29: "...conformed to the image of his Son..."

- **Agreement with God:** Similar to Amos 3:3, it is the decision to walk in harmony with God's will rather than your own desires. Jesus was our example when He lead in this - "not my will but Thine be done".
- **Conforming to Christ:** a process of transformation and sanctification, where we become more and more like Christ ("conformed to the image of Jesus Christ") Romans 8:29
- **Walking in the Spirit:** Galatians 5:16-25 living a life guided by spiritual principles rather than fleshly desires
- **Unity within the Body:** Biblical alignment is the process of maintaining unity with other believers, starting in your home first, and extending to our church Romans 12:16

Maintaining Alignment:

- **Obedience and Scripture**
 - Practicing obedience to God's Word (James 1:22) is a key demonstration of love and alignment
- **Prayer and Repentance**
 - Regular prayer and communion with God, along with repentance, are crucial for staying aligned or returning to alignment when we misstep
- **Priorities and Service**
 - Focusing on kingdom values over worldly pursuits and engaging in service ensures your life matches God's

Parent Altar: (15 Mins of an evening)

For those of you who have children, spend a few minutes with them at night before they go to bed to pray and share something about God. We will discuss greater details in class, but this is a brief overview. Be prepared to ask questions during class.

Examples:

- Talk briefly about their day (I will explain something I practiced with my own children, and in children's ministry called "Prayer and Praise")
- Read a story from a Children's bible
- Let them read a story from a children's Bible
- Let them read a verse from the Bible
- Let them lead a song (give them 3 options and let them choose)

- Teach them a simple prayer and let them lead the prayer (you can start by having them repeat after you as a way to learn, or you can write the prayer for them)
~~ I can provide some sample prayers if that is needed

There are many creative ways to engage our children before bed to set their minds and hearts on God. I'd love for you to share some suggestions with us in class.