**How Do I Grow Mature as a Believer in Jesus Christ?**

***Ask the Root Question***

*How do I glorify God with my life?*

***Grow in the knowledge and application of God’s Word***

***Develop the practice of prayer***

**1 Timothy 6:15-16**

15 . . . he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

**Matthew 11:28**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**Hebrews 4:15-16**

15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in t

**Acts 2:42**

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Colossians 4:2-4**

2Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

*Why pray?*

* God’s compassion: Humble admission of need

**Matthew 7:7-11**

**7**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. **9**Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? **10**Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? **11**If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

* God’s power: Bold request for change

**James 5:16-18**

16The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

**Luke 18:1-8**

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

* God’s wisdom: Anxious desire for resolution/peace

**James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

* God’s holiness: Concern over progress of sin

**Psalm 109:1-4**

1Be not silent, O God of my praise!
2For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
    speaking against me with lying tongues.
3They encircle me with words of hate,
    and attack me without cause.
4In return for my love they accuse me,
    but I give myself to prayer.

*How do I pray?*

* The Lord’s Prayer

Submit our will to His

Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Ask for Provision

Give us this day our daily bread

Praise God’s name

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Praise God’s name

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Ask for Guidance & Protection

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Ask for Forgiveness

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

* The Lord’s example

Luke’s record of Jesus praying

(6:12; 9:28) “mountain” (6:12-13) whole night

(5:16) “desolate places” (22:31-32) praying for Peter

(9:18) “alone” (23:46) dying on the cross

(11:1) “certain place” (24:30-31) blessing bread after resurrection

(22:39-46) Mount of Olives “as was his custom”

**Let’s Put This Together**

ESV app + Echo app = growth

Sermon Study Notes CIC, Sunday, 24 January, 2021