



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

Father, Son Relationship



As we read the book of 1 Timothy we get to witness the relationship between a spiritual father and his son. Paul has given Timothy a challenging, but an ordained assignment of pastoring the church in Ephesus. As overwhelming as this may have been, Paul was sure to instruct and encourage Timothy along the way. Interestingly enough, as we see Paul giving detailed instructions to his faithful student, we learn many things that are expected from the church and also how we should conduct ourselves as a member of the body of Christ.

One of the first points that stand out is Paul's testimony as a new man in Christ. He gives a brief reminder of who he was, then quickly gives honor to God for who Christ is. We learn that Christ is merciful and forgiving. We also learn that He is capable of saving and transforming the worst of sinners. Because of this, we have an awesome opportunity to be examples to the world concerning God's grace. Who we were "then" and who we are "now" is the same difference between night and day!

Second, Paul encourages Timothy and the church to habitually pray for all men. This includes the unbeliever, the profane, and even the would-be hopeless. Because of the effective prayers of the righteous, we expect results when we pray, especially in unity. For God our Savior desires that all men be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. As we pray and intercede, our expectations should be to see God's work of salvation performed in the lives of the lost.

Last, Paul emphasizes the importance of using God's gift. He advises Timothy that this gift of God is not to be neglected. In order for ministry to be as effective as we would like, we must utilize what the Lord has given to us. Since the church is the vessel God has chosen to use to fulfill His will, devoted and well-trained saints are essential. Just as Paul told Timothy, we are to guard what has been committed to our trust. Let us remain faithful to what we have been taught and what the Lord has shown us.

Information on Fasting

Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.

Bethel Prayer Schedule

Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.
Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.
Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.

“Before and After”

READ

1 Timothy 1:12-15 • 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 •
1 Peter 2:9 • John 1:11-12 • Philippians 3:7-8 • Galatians 2:20
• Romans 5:8 • 1 Corinthians 6:17

REFLECT

“I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” These are the lyrics from the former slave trader turned abolitionist, John Newton’s Amazing Grace. This also marks the testimony of all who have truly come to know the love of Christ. We have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord. Since we were forgiven of much, we now love much. Upon salvation, there is an undeniable work that takes place within us which slowly, but surely transforms our lives. 1 Corinthians 5:17 confirms, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are past away, all things have become new!” In Christ, we find our identity and direction.

As a former blasphemer and persecutor, Paul identifies himself as the chief of sinners. Yet, instead of expressing feelings of guilt and condemnation, he boasts on the mercy that God showed towards him. God’s amazing grace has no boundaries it cannot reach. We all have an imperfect story and a blemished past, but that is what makes the Gospel of Jesus of Christ so amazing. We do not need to be ashamed of our testimony. For some, it will introduce the power of Christ and others will be reminded of the power of Christ! He loved us while we were still in sin and His power freed us from that sin. Just like a before and after picture, the grace of God should be evident in our lives for all to see. We were once trapped in darkness, but now we shine in His marvelous light!

What is your testimony of God’s grace?

Why shouldn’t we be ashamed of our checkered past?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Pray for those who have yet to experience the transformation power
- Be read to share your testimony at all times
- Thank God for His amazing grace

“Pray for All Men”

READ

Job 42:10 • Colossians 1:9-12 • Hebrews 7:25 •
Philippians 2:3-4 • Matthew 5:44 • Acts 7:60 • James 5:16 •
Ephesians 6:18 • 1 Timothy 2:1-2

REFLECT

If you live long enough, you will experience that life comes with its own set of barriers and challenges. These challenges will typically cause us to rise to the occasion, begin looking for help or find a way to escape. As believers, it should be an obvious first choice to “cast our cares upon the Lord” knowing that He cares for us and hears our prayers. At the same time, this can become such a common routine that we develop tunnel vision, praying for only ourselves and close family. This may be the reason Paul encourages Timothy to remind the church that prayers and intercessions are to be made for all men (1 Tim 2:1-2)!

According to James 5:16, the prayers of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Our prayers are meant to be used for more than just requesting things from God. They are weapons of spiritual warfare, designed for the pulling down of strongholds and advancing the Kingdom of God. He does not desire our self-centered prayers, but rather us praying for all nations and all people, even the ones who would spitefully use us. We must also consider that some people lack the confidence to pray to God themselves, some do not believe that there is a God to pray to, and some simply elect to use their time in other ways. Regardless of the situation, we have been ordained to pray. So, let us now come boldly to the throne of grace. As intercessors we can walk in confidence, praying without ceasing.

How can we avoid the habit of praying for ourselves only?

Why is it important to pray for all men?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Ask God to show you what and who to pray for daily
- Remember that God desires you to intercede for those who can't pray
- Repent for any self-centered prayer habits you may have formed

“The Gift of God”

READ

1 Timothy 4:14 ● Ephesians 2:10 ● James 1:17 ● Romans 11:29
 ● Ephesians 4:7 ● 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 ● 1 Peter 4:10-11 ●
 Romans 12:6-8 ● 2 Timothy 1:6

REFLECT

More often than not, special events and occasions end with some type of gift giving. While we can expect excitement on both ends, the giver is typically watchful to see how their gift will be implemented in someone else's life. Everyone loves a good gift, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Sometimes even the most thoughtful, expensive gift can end up as a dust collector. In this case, it is safe to assume that the receiver has no interest in using it. Similarly, God too is a giver of gifts, but each one is both good and perfect! Once received, it is our responsibility to unwrap, discover, and commit ourselves to use our gift to His glory. Although 1 Timothy 4:14 admonishes us not to neglect the gift of God, we still are left with a choice to decide.

Just like David, Timothy, and many others in the Bible, there is an anointing that takes place in our lives where we are bestowed with certain gifts. Your gift is a tool God has given you to make progress in your life, but even more so to advance His kingdom. He, too, is watching to see how His gift to us is implemented in our lives. With it we are to “serve others, as faithful stewards of His grace.” Although we all receive different gifts, the overall purpose remains the same: to glorify God. It is not our own talent or ability, but rather His ability working in and through us to do His will. We should not neglect such a great gift, but rather stir it up to make full use of it.

Have you discovered the gift that God has bestowed upon you?

Are God's gifts in operation in your life or have you neglected His gifts?

What is the purpose for the gifts from God?

RESPOND

- Ask God to reveal His gifts to you
- Expect to be put in a position to use your gift
- Think of ways your gift from God can be useful to His kingdom

