



PRAYER: SHARING IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Joy in Agonizing Prayer

Week 3 - January 29, 2017

Jesus went out and His disciples followed him over the Brook Kidron, to the Mount of Olives, entering a garden called Gethsemane, as He was accustomed. He said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter, James and John, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther, about a stone's throw, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup (hour) pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.' Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Simon, Are you sleeping? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And being in agony, He prayed a second time, more earnestly, 'O, My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, Your will be done.' Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.'

- Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-41, Luke 22:39-46, John 18:1

...in the days of His flesh (Jesus), when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...

- Hebrews 5: 7-9

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. How do you view Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing that Gethsemane means "oil press?"
2. What changes, about your view of Jesus and his time of prayer, just before his trial and crucifixion, knowing that he carried so much emotion?
3. How does Jesus' success at "drinking the cup" give you hope in your places of difficulty in prayer?

4. As a son, Jesus learned obedience through suffering. How does that change your perspective of your own places of challenge?
5. What “joy” are you discovering in the place of prayer?

NEXT STEPS:

1. One of Pastor Lance’s purpose for this series is to have confidence, joy and hope in the place of personal prayer. What truth is God asking you to believe, so that your confidence, joy and hope increases, even though you face challenges in prayer?
2. Hebrews 12 says Jesus endured the cross because he had a vision of joy. What vision is God giving you, to give you what you need to pray with endurance?
3. With whom will you share the answers to questions 1 & 2, within Next Steps, so you can be encouraged in your journey and growth?

Share with a friend the answers to questions in the Next Steps and establish a **SMART*** Goal so you can purposefully agree with God’s involvement in your journey.

***SMART GOALS:**

- a. *Specific - Can you state specifically what you are doing?*
- b. *Measurable - How can we measure this goal so we will know when you have reached it?*
- c. *Attainable - Is it within your capabilities and does it depend on you?*
- d. *Relevant - Do you care enough about this goal to make it a priority?*
- e. *Time Specific - It has a deadline.*