



Week of  
September 22

# Pray for Guidance and Seek Training

**While on earth, Jesus discussed every major decision and turning point in His life with His heavenly Father.**

Bill Bright

## **Pray for Guidance**

Pray in faith that God will guide you in developing your personal strategy to reach your immediate area of influence for Christ. You do not have to design your own strategy; you are simply discovering the plan that God has already designed.

Jesus was a perfect example. While on earth, He discussed every major decision and turning point in His life with His heavenly Father. And remember, as you pray, to expect God to provide the best strategy and whatever is needed to begin to put your plan into action. Expectant faith pleases God.

## **Outline the Strategy God Reveals in Answer to your Prayers**

Make lists of specific people with whom you wish to share Christ. Consider specific groups in your life and develop a strategy to reach each one. Begin with your family. Remember that in your home, more than in any other place, your life will be your testimony. Trust God continually to fill you with His Spirit so that your actions – the fruit of the Spirit – will bear witness to what Jesus has done in your life.

## **Suggested Action Steps**

Plan how you can reach the people with whom you work. Seek out those whom you know are Christians, and ask them to join with you in evangelizing your office. In your church, make yourself available to your pastor. Offer to teach Sunday school, and especially to be a part of the visitation evangelism team. Encourage other members of your church to develop their own strategies.

Invite your neighbors for an evangelistic coffee or tea or dessert, or start a neighborhood evangelistic Bible study. Tell your friends what Christ has done in your life and that He can do the same for them.

Pray for those with whom you want to share the gospel. Then go to them. Tell them of God's love and forgiveness, available through Jesus Christ. Give them opportunity to receive Him.

Share your faith as a way of life – talk about Christ wherever you go. As people trust Him as Lord and Savior, begin to disciple them and involve them in the cycle of multiplication. Invite them to join you in an effort to saturate your entire community with the message of Christ.

## **Seek Training**

Learn everything you can about how to accomplish your personal strategy to help fulfill the Great Commission...

I encourage you to write out your personal strategy today. Make a list of those with whom you want to share Christ. Make another list of individuals whom you can disciple by training them to experience and share the abundant life in Christ. Begin immediately to work out your strategy.

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# Take the Initiative in Evangelism

**In this changing and chaotic period of history, sincere, thinking Christians cannot be satisfied with business as usual.**

Bill Bright

Take the initiative to help fulfill the Great Commission where you live in your Jerusalem. This should be your priority. Claim your relatives, friends, neighbors and business associates for Christ in prayer. Then present His claims to them. As you implement this personal strategy, think beyond your local goals to the worldwide goals for fulfilling the Great Commission. This will prevent your becoming side-tracked on time-consuming and relatively unproductive tangents.

Under the Holy Spirit's guidance, you can proceed with complete confidence to plan your work and work your plan. Every Christian, whether a student, homemaker, businessman, pastor, or missionary, needs a personal strategy to help reach his own community or area of influence for Christ.

In this changing and chaotic period of history, sincere, thinking Christians cannot be satisfied with business as usual.

## **Become Passionate About the Gospel**

Dr. James Stewart of Scotland, one of the most famous New Testament scholars of our time, has said, "If we could but show the world that being committed to Christ is no tame,

humdrum, sheltered monotony, but the most exciting, thrilling adventure the human spirit can ever know, those who have been standing outside the church and looking askance at Christ will come crowding in to pay allegiance; and we might well expect the greatest revival since Pentecost.”

This statement has had a profound impact on my life and ministry since I read it in 1947. I believe millions of Christians like ourselves are discovering the importance of being involved in our heavenly Father's business. As I observe God's working in the lives of men and women around the world through many movements, I am persuaded that the greatest spiritual awakening since Pentecost has already begun.

## **Paul's Example**

Some time ago, I was visiting Rome. One evening as I sat in the Roman Forum, I saw and heard portrayed, through the medium of light and sound, the drama of that ancient Empire.

The Forum vibrated with history, and I was enthralled as I sat there. For almost a thousand years, Rome ruled the world. Into this Forum had come the conquering generals to receive their laurels. Here the senators had met to legislate the laws that governed the Empire. Here Julius Caesar had been assassinated. Earlier that afternoon, I had visited a dingy dungeon cell across the street from the Forum where it is believed that the apostle Paul, imprisoned for his faith, had spent the last few months of his life until his martyrdom.

Had I been living in those days, and had I visited Paul in that dungeon, it is not likely that I would have been as impressed with this “bond slave of Christ” as I would have been with many of the leaders of Rome. Paul was probably neither a commanding figure nor an eloquent speaker according to his own admission; but here was a man with a brilliant mind, a flaming heart and an anointed pen – a man who had linked his life with the risen Christ. He was a man chosen and anointed of God. He shared Christ's vision and burden for the world, and he was committed to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

What God did in that cell had far more significance for the good of mankind than anything that happened in the Roman Forum. God took a life that was yielded to Him and used it to help change the course of history. Today millions of Christians are worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ, in large measure because of what God did through this dedicated apostle, a “bond slave” of Jesus Christ.

## **Discussion Questions**

- List five people whom you would like to train (disciple) to share the gospel, or one person whom you can ask to disciple you.

- All of us have resources and talents that can be used to accelerate the fulfilling of the Great Commission. Share with your group one special resource that you believe God has given you.

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## Sermon Discussion Questions

Good Fruit Takes Time  
Galatians 5:22-25

Big Idea: Presence—not principles—produces disciples!

- Randy reminded us that every believer in Christ has been gifted with the very presence of Christ. Take some time to share in your group the ways in which you recognize the very presence of Christ in the lives of each other.
- As we yearn to allow the Holy Spirit to develop Christlikeness in our lives, we could fall off of one side in legalism and performancism, or off the other side in living however we want. Off of which side do you tend to fall? In what ways?
- Martin Luther said that “holiness is hidden in offensively ordinary tasks.” Share some of those “little duties of the day and hour” that you could do this week to “keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25). In what ways can you consistently cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s desires in your life?
- We all have areas of our flesh that need to be crucified. Make a commitment this week to moment by moment crucify those desires of the flesh