

# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

### PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

#### **PRAYER: A WAY OF LIFE**

P.U.S.H (Pray Until Something Happens) Series – 7
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Prayer is meant to be a way of life for Christians, a way of talking to God and <u>listening for His voice</u> with the 'ears of the heart." Prayer helps us to develop a elationship with God, and just like a loving parent, God vants to hear from us. In the same way, it is important o pray before making decisions just as Jesus did. Through prayer, God provides us the grace and the guidance to succeed in life. Hence, we need to cultivate prayer as our way of life particularly in making our lecisions.

## . The significance of prayer as a way of life in making lecisions

#### A. Selection of Apostles

- 1.Jesus spent the whole night in solitude to pray for guidance in choosing the apostles with differing background and character traits (Lk. 6:12; Mk. 1:35; Lk. 5:16.).
- 2.Before He started His ministry, He prayed and fasted (Mt. 4:1-11). He also prayed at the garden of Gethsemane prior to His sufferings on the cross (Mt.26:36-46).
- 3. Although Godly power already resided in Jesus, He received extra grace and extra strength from those moments that He spent with His Father.
- 4.Even the apostles prayed and asked God to guide them in the selection process for the replacement of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:21-26).

#### B. Prayer is our vital link with God.

- 1. Without God's grace and guidance, even the best-laid plans can fall apart.
- 2. The busier we are, the more time that we must dedicate ourselves to prayer. Ironically, however, God is sometimes the last to be consulted in our plans.

## C. God, our Father, is extremely interested in our choices.

- 1. He is not only after our right decision, but He wants to guide and to show to us the way to succeed (Ps. 32: 7 8).
- 2. God alone knows what is best for us. We need to remember that God is ALWAYS on our side.
- When we learn to lean on God in times of trouble, we will be filled with His peace and comfort.
- 4. God wants us to make our choices based on our love for Him and our desire to obey Him.
- 5. He wants to ensure that our decisions are within the overall blueprint of His will.

#### D. Ways to ask God before making decisions

- 1. Spend time talking to God about it in prayer.
- 2. Sit in silence and listen to God's voice.
- 3. Read and study the Bible to see if the decision conforms to God's Word (Psalm 119: 105).

#### E. What to do when torn between decisions

- 1. Consult Godly advisers (Prov. 11:14).
- 2. Check decisions aligned with God's Word.
- 3. Consult those who encountered similar problems (or online reviews).

**CONCLUSION**: We need to seek God's guidance before making decisions that will affect our lives. Because God loves us, He wants the best for us. He wants us to succeed. So, we need God's best plan to guide us in our choices/decisions.

#### REFLECTION:

- 1. Are you in a dilemma about an important decision that you intend to make?
- 2. After consulting with God in prayer, what have you decided?

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