

CELEBRATING TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF MINISTRIES



“WALKING BY FAITH – RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE”

(Hebrew 12:1/II Corinthians 5:7/II Timothy 4:7)

ICF BIBLE INSTITUTE

2015 Winter/Spring QTR

TEACHINGS ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

LESSON #4

MINISTRY INTRODUCTION COURSE (C1)

Friday, April 10, 2015

(6:30 pm - 10:00 pm)

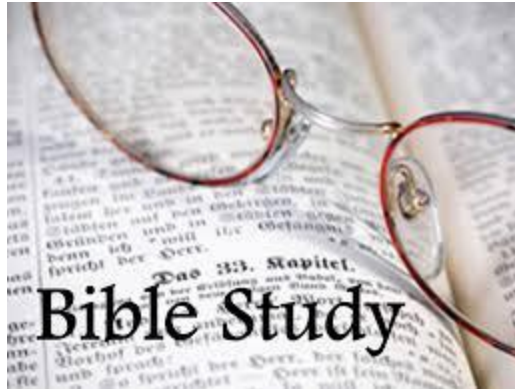
ICF MINISTRIES, ATLANTA

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OUR BIBLICAL FOUNDATION



THIS STUDY IS TO OFFER AN OVERVIEW OF HOW THE SUBJECT WILL BE TAUGHT AND DISCUSSED BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD.
BIBLICAL FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

A. **THE AUTHORITY** – The Word of God... **THE BIBLE** ...It means: *Basic Instructions Before Leaving The Earth*. This is what the **Word** says: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (ref II Timothy 3:16).

B. **THE PURPOSE** – To Cut Deep... **THE CUTTER** ...It means: *An instrument that cuts on both side for greatest impact*. This is what the **Word** says: For the **Word** of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any *two-edged sword*, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the *joints and marrow*, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (ref Hebrews 4:12). Additionally, we also know that **Word of God** is a sword (Ephesians 6:17)

C. **THE FOCUS** – To Preach The **Word** In All Seasons... **PEOPLE WILL HAVE ITCHING EARS** ...It means: *Folks will not want sound doctrine but want that makes them feel good*. This is what the **Word** says: ²Preach the word; be *instant in season, out of season*; **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine**.³ For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they *heap to themselves teachers*, having **itching ears**; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the **truth**, and shall be turned unto **fables**. (ref II Timothy 4:2). Let me ask you to notice that the Authority and Focus as taught in II Tim 3:16 and II Tim 4:2 respectively say nothing about **comforting or prosperity** when it comes to what the **Word of God** primary purpose is about. (For example... profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine**). On the other hand, this does not mean that the world of God does not offer **comfort** and **blessings** but we must be very mindful assure

that our teachings and preaching is balanced. Its best to not use the *Bible* as a **McDonald's menu** of personal selections but select text from Genesis to Revelations and not only selected passages or chapters.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this study is to focus on our **Christian Discipleship**, its biblical mandate, its meaning, its purposes and its application as well as prayer for evangelism and church growth. Again and again, the question is asked: “*What Christians Get Wrong About Discipleship?*”. It was Jesus called us to “*make disciples of all nations,*” but what does that mean? To those of us who follow Jesus, discipleship should be a central aspect of our faith. This is because Jesus commanded His followers in what is commonly referred to as “**The Great Commission**”—to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (**Matthew 28:18-20**). It is important to note the **Matthew 28:18-20** is not a suggestion that Jesus makes here. It’s a command, a charge.

So what is discipleship? Put simply, discipleship means intentionally partnering with another Christian in order to help that person obey Jesus and grow in relationship with Him - so that he or she can then help others do the same. Jesus taught His disciples to follow Him and obey His commands so that they could lead others to do the same after His death, resurrection and ascension. The Apostle Paul continues the pattern with Timothy and encourages him to keep the cycle going: “*What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*” (**2 Timothy 2:2**). Furthermore, discipleship means intentionally partnering with another Christian in order to help that person obey Jesus and grow in relationship with Him. But how do we live out this command and actually do what we’ve been called to do? It can help, I think, to look at what we might be getting wrong about discipleship in order to understand how to get it right.

Discipleship Isn’t Easy.

Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost us our lives. Jesus put it bluntly: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” (**Luke 9:23-25**). To be a disciple of Jesus means that we have given up our lives in order to follow Him wholeheartedly and unreservedly. It means that our lives are no longer our own...they are His.

Discipleship Isn’t “Just Me and Jesus.”

While discipleship is all about Jesus, it’s not a solitary endeavour. Discipleship is relational, and to fully respond to the Great Commission, we need to be disciples who are making disciples of

Jesus. This means we need to spend consistent time with other believers. Jesus and His disciples spent a lot of time together (Acts 1:21-22). They ate together, walked together, rode in boats together. They even fought together (Luke 9:46-48). The 12 disciples were in one another's lives, constantly and intentionally. While we are all called to become disciples of Jesus, we become disciples with one another, learning how to love God and each other as we go. We need to allow others to disciple us by letting them challenge us and encourage us in our walk with God. This is why church and honest relationships with other believers are so central to the Christian life we need one another in this journey of becoming wholehearted disciples of Jesus.

II. CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP :

Question: "What is Christian Discipleship?"

Answer: By definition, a disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike. This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to examine their thoughts, words and actions and compare them with the Word of God. This requires that we be in the Word daily—studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. In addition, we should [always](#) be ready to give testimony of the reason for the hope that is within us ([1 Peter 3:15](#)) and to disciple others to walk in His way. According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38). The disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world. Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. We must put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.

2. Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31-32). We must be obedient children and doers of the Word. Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God ([1 Samuel 28:18](#)), and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death ([Philippians 3:6-8](#)).

3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8). Our job is not producing fruit. Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit, and this fruit is the result of our obedience. As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways, our lives will change. The biggest change will take place in our hearts, and the overflow of this will be new conduct (thoughts, words and actions) representative of that change. The change we seek is done from the

inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we can conjure up on our own.

4. Love for other disciples (John 13:34-35). We are told that love of other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family ([1 John 3:10](#)). Love is defined and elaborated on in [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#). These verses show us that love is not an emotion; it is action. We must be doing something and involved in the process. Furthermore, we are told to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)). The next verse in Philippians (verse 5) really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: "our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What a perfect example He is to us for everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20). We are to share our faith and tell nonbelievers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer. Too often, we believe the lie from Satan that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference. Not true! Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God. They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the "accepted" way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share.

III. CHRISTIAN WITNESSING – CASTING NETS AND FISHING FOR SOALS :

CONCERNING THE ICF SPIRITUAL NET

By Rev. William B. Harris-June 13, 1993

I. INTRODUCTION:

In the 5th chapter of the Gospel of Luke, It is recorded that Jesus instructed Simon Peter, James and John to launch their nets into the deep for a catch (**Luke 5:4**). Peter argued his case to Jesus that he had done that all night and caught no fish. Nevertheless, Peter was willing to take a risk and obey Jesus even though his past experiences could have been a stumbling block. Peter and his comrade did cast their nets into the deep and they were not disappointed. Their nets were loaded with fishes that they had to seek help with the breaking nets. Before the drama of courage and success was over, Jesus told them that they would have a new profession. They would follow Him and become fisher of men (**Luke 5:10**). They dropped their nets and boats and followed the Lord. From this narrative according to Luke that is also found in **Matthew 4**, we get a vivid picture what the Church is and should be about. Indeed, it was Jesus who commissioned the Church to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel (**Matthew 28**) which implies that the Church has no geographical limitations; just as it is that one could fish in a stream, pond, lake, river, sea, or ocean.

II. THE NET AND WHAT GETS INTO IT:

Having the proper tool for fishing is crucial for a successful catch. The net is a fishing tool used to gather fishes from the water. It is launched into the water and dragged for a while before it is lifted up. When it is brought out of the water, it could have various kinds of fishes and other creatures in it. One never knows precisely what could be in a net that has been let down for a catch. There is a possibility that a given net could have a vast variety of fishes to include many of these or a combination thereof: **trout, bass, shark, goldfish, catfish, snapper, minnow** and others. Additionally, depending on where one let down the net for a catch, the net could have a **snake, turtle, snail, crab, crawfish** and others kinds of creatures that dwell in the water. Notice that each type of fish or other creatures mentioned above have unique distinctions and characteristics. Consider the **bass** that is difficult to catch, the **crab** that pulls one another down, and the **turtle** that is known to be slow as well as quick to withdraw into its shell. In many instances, one will observe that when the net is raised from the water, the fishes or what is in it has the tendency to want to jump out and get back into the water. Some Church members try to jump out of the Church like fish!

III. RELATING THE NET TO THE CHURCH:

The net discussed above must be viewed as the Church, the Body Of Christ, the Rock that not even the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The Church is called to minister to the world and the world is our parish. When the Church throws out its evangelistic net into the depth of the society, it is likely to come up with different kinds of human which have similarly distinctions and characteristics of the fishes and creatures discussed. The Church must be seen as a "**spiritual net**" with all kinds of people with different racial, social, culture, economic backgrounds; religious experiences and understandings; as well as personalities. All of such individuals are created by God and Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Christ also said, who so ever will let him come and that is inclusive. Therefore, when Christ mentioned that those who follow Him would become fishers of men, it should be no surprise that they would be expected to launch out into the deep to win souls for the Kingdom of God. Once the nets are launched out, the catch could be loaded with individuals of diverse background and personalities. Nevertheless, the beauty of it is that everybody is precious in the sight of Christ who loves all the children of the world and this the Church must do to be true to its calling. The Church must love the crabs, the basses, the turtles, the minnows, and even the snakes that end up in its net as it strive to bring out the best in each. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The challenge of ministry is to reach out into the depths of the world and strive to follow the footsteps of Christ .

IV. RELATING ICF TO THE "SPIRITUAL NET:

ICF is the Body Of Christ and indeed is a "spiritual net" with a special focus. The vision of ICF stands on four (4) giant pillars. The "**ICF Vision**" given by God in 1986 are based on the message of Jeremiah as recorded in chapter **29:1-14** and **Psalm 137** concerning a people in a "**strange land**". The **first** pillar is to meet the spiritual needs of individual and afford them an opportunity to worship God in the context of their cultural experience with the Holy Bible as the "Word of God". The **second** pillar is to expose the larger community and in particular the youths to the rich African culture and heritage. The **third** pillar is to provide a forum for formal and informal socialization, fellowship, and caring. The **forth** pillar is to establish economic opportunities so that individuals and families in a strange land can enjoy the fullness of what life has to offer and prepare them for restoration.

Considering this background, ICF seeks to minister to individuals who find themselves in a strange land. Our ministry in nature and design is **international** and **interdenominational**. We serve a variety of people in the name of Jesus Christ and the members are of a "**spiritual nets**" composition of different types of human beings. In essence, ICF is a "**spiritual melting pot**" to push the point of incisiveness further. ICF membership is composed of individuals from different countries and racial backgrounds. ICF is composed of members from different denominations including the **Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Catholic, Anglican Church, Church Of God In Christ, Petecostals Churches, Assembly Of God, Holiness, the Seventh-Day Adventist,**

and other groups. ICF seeks to minister to all of these people and provide opportunities for spiritual growth, economic growth, cultural expressions/appreciation and fellowship. The Constitution of ICF based on the Vision reflects that the Church offers individuals a "Watchcare Membership" status which afford individuals all rights and privileges of a "full members" with the exception of being on member of the Deacon Board. Such members are not required to leave their original church!

IV. THE CHURCH AND THE "PROBLEMS" OF THE AGES:

Jesus established the Universal Church and called Peter the Rock. It was at Pentecost when the Church was born upon the descend of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and others. The Bible records that they were on one accord on that day in the Upper Room. Notwithstanding, it seems as if there has always been division since then due to different interpretation of the Scripture. The Bible does not always provide direct instructions on the "**how**", "**what**" and "**specific methods**" regarding many subjects like baptism, marriage, the composition and distribution of the sacrament (**Lord's Supper**), the role of women in the Church, speaking in tongues, which day is the Sabbath Day and keeping it "Holy" in accordance with the Old Testament and others. This has given rise to human interpretations that led to division in the Universal Church. Consider Baptism that is one act that all Christians seemly agree is important. However there has always been heated disagreement among them when it comes to the mode, method, meaning, frequency and prerequisites of baptism. Even the "**Baptists**" who are known because of their stance on baptism, there are disagreements on the authority and methods of administration. They agree on the complete immersion of the believer as Jesus, but they have always not agreed on what constitute valid or proper immersion or the proper location. The Apostle Paul also stated that he was not called to baptize but to preach the Good News! This is in contradiction to **Matthew 28:19** where Jesus instructs us to baptize and spread the Good News. Some Christians focus less on immersion or pouring or sprinkling while others focus solely on the baptism of the Holy Spirit which is speaking in tongues. Moreover, there is no record of verbal expression of confessions as a requirement before a new convert was baptized in the New Testament. This is often assumed to have occurred. Others will not baptize children even though there are suggestion that families (household included children) were baptized in the early Church (**Acts 16:15; 33; 18:8**). Some Christen their children based on Hannah dedicating Samuel which was a Jewish custom that is done about eight days after birth when the male was circumcised. This, Mary and Joseph did for Jesus per the proper Jewish ceremony of offering a pigeon as a sacrifice. Many who **Christen infants instead of Baptizing them in accordance with the Jewish tradition and based their argument against infant baptism on age or understanding of the child.** However, when the dust of human interpretations settles down, the truth always remain and the scripture must be consulted from front to back to help believers discover the truth. Actions concerning the "Traditions Of The Past" is not good enough if the truth is to set believers free

from the rope of tradition. Believers who ignore the basic doctrines of the New Testament in relationship to baptism or other subjects are guilty of disrupting the unity of Christ's Body. Equally important, are believers who are guilty of ignoring "spiritual faith" and give higher priority to detailed methods and procedures. These and others can hamper our spiritual growth and relationship with Jesus Christ whom we claim as Lord and Master. There are Christians who tend to focus more on what Jesus said about **Baptism** and less on that He said about the **"Beatitudes; Golden Rules; Loving God and our neighbors"**? Are these of less importance to entering the kingdom of God?

V. **DRIVING THE POINT HOME:**

The Church which is a "**spiritual net**" is called to served, love, and bring others to Christ. Its members are "spiritual fishermen" who launch out into the depths of the world to win souls for the Kingdom of God knowing that there are no geographical constraints. The use of the proper tool in fishing is critical and for Christians, the **Bible** and **Prayer** are two essential tools for ministry. The Bible is the Word Of God and Christian must study it to become approved and well verse to teach others about Christ. **Coming to church without your Bible is like going to fish without a hook or net.** If Christian are to meet the challenges of the great commission, we must first understand what God desires of us, the acts of God in history, the plan of salvation, our Christian duties and obligations before we can introduce others to Christ. It is paramount that we meditate upon the Word of God, eat it as **Ezekiel**, and let it become shout-up in o

ur bones like **Jeremiah**. Above all, Jesus Christ is our common demoninator as Christians. His precious blood unites us and we should focus more on that instead of on what divides us based on human interpretations.

CONCERNING WITNESSING/BEING "FISHERS OF MEN"

By: Rev. William B. Harris-October 14, 1994

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this document is to discuss the importance and need for Christian Witnessing as instructed by Jesus Christ. Witnessing is an important task of the Church that is often not well understood and given little or no attention. Witnessing is the marching order of the Church and also the vehicle for Church growth; helping others to learn and feel the love of Jesus Christ. We are called to "Win Souls For Christ" and this should always be our primary focus. Our reason for being is based upon the theological foundation of going into all the world and making disciples. Note that the **"ICF VISION"** is based on two historic biblical passages as recorded in **Psalms 137** and **Jeremiah 29:1-14**. The question was asked many years ago as recorded in **Psalms 137**: "**how can we sing the Lord's song in the strange land?**". It was a real question for an oppressed people but we have responded to the same question with a compelling **"YES"** that we are able to

sing the Lord's song in a strange land". In years past, Africa received missionaries from the United States and other parts of the world and many things were accomplished. Now, Africans are in the United States and other parts of the world and we must be the "**new missionaries**" in a time of moral decline and respect for God. We must be about reaching the unchurched and lost souls who need to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Many churches spend a large portion of their resources, time and efforts on their "**internal**" ministries and little on the "**external**" ministries where the lost must be reached for Christ. Therefore, the business of focusing on "**self**" such as worshipping from Sunday to Sunday and not reaching out into the highway of life has to be constantly evaluated to be true to our calling. We are called to become **fishers of men**; witnessing to the world and this must be paramount to our ministry. We must put our faith into action and not become tempted to remain on the "spiritual mountain top" like Peter (**Matthew 17:4**). The Church must leave the narrow confines of the physical church building and go into the highways and valleys where the Good News must be preached, lived, and witnessed as a shining beacon of hope for all.

II. OUR CALLING TO WITNESS IS FROM CHRIST AND WE MUST OBEY:

A. Jesus commended us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel...(**Matthew 28:19-20**).

B. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to become fishers of men as disciples...(**Matthew 4:18-22**).

C. Jesus commanded that we go to the uttermost parts of the earth and witness but start in Jerusalem, unto the Judea, Samaria and then the world...(Acts 1:8).

III. THE ESSENTIALS OF FISHING:

If the Church is to be about witnessing as called by Jesus Christ, all of its members must become "Fishers Of Men" as the disciples. There are many parallels and lessons to be learned between the task of fishing for fish and fishing for souls as discussed. There must be a desire, the fisher must have the proper tools, there must be a proper place to fish as well as the proper time and approach to fishing.

A. Have A Desire To Fish-A successful fisherman fishes for the love of fishing or for economic reasons/gains. He is successful because of his desire and willingness to do what is necessary to catch a fish. Our Christian witnessing can be effective when we have clear goals and objectives. Our motives must be clear and Christ-centered; never personal.

B. Have The Proper Tools And Skills-Before a fisherman sets out to fish, there are certain basic tools/equipment that must be obtained for the task to be successful. It may require a boat, net, fishing lines and hooks, bait and tackle and so on. Additionally, a certain level of learned or acquired skills/knowledge is necessary for a successful catch. In like manner, fishers of men for Jesus Christ must have the proper tools/equipment/skills/knowledge to be effective at witnessing.

The primary tool for the Christian is the Bible which is the Word of God. Notwithstanding, we are to study the Word to know so that we may properly divide/teach it to others as Paul instructed young Timothy (**II Tim 2:15**). It is impossible to introduce Christ to others when you do not know Him personally. If the Bible is studied and we seek revelation through the Holy Spirit, it can be an effective tool for witnessing. It is a powerful tool that is sharper than any two-edged sword that is also a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart (**Hebrew 4:12**). Equipment such as TV, radio, computers, copiers, fax, telephones, tape recorders, cameras, musical instruments can be used for witnessing but care must be taken that they do not become the primary focus. Buildings and automobiles as well as other forms of transportation can be instrumental in witnessing when used properly.

C. Have The Proper Place And Time: Fishermen know that fishing at the proper place and time is crucial for a successful catch. Sometimes fish are scarce and sometimes plentiful, varying with the season and other conditions. For the fishers of men, the harvest is always plentiful but the laborers are often few. There is no closed season on this kind of fishing. Notwithstanding, we must know where and how to go; being prepared to meet the challenges. There will be times that you have to know what type of bait or hook to use and how long to stay at a particular fishing spot. The realization of not having a catch must be one of many possibilities to expect. We should not impose limits and restrictions on where we fish because beyond the confines of the church walls are ponds, streams, seas, and oceans with fishes to be caught for Jesus. Such places are to include the **bars, clubs, our offices, our businesses, our homes and neighborhood**. As a matter of fact, we must begin at home, starting in Jerusalem and moving to the uttermost parts (**Acts 1:8**). But we must be careful to not remain in "our Jerusalem" too long and never get beyond our immediate environments, relatives, friends, church and self. Moreover, when the "fishers of men" visits a bar or a club, they should do so with a different desire, purpose and goal as discussed. As there is a time for everything according to **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, proper timing is important for a successful witness. Knowing how, when and where to cast your net or line to individuals is related to the proper approach as will be discussed next. Nevertheless, the **Holy Spirit** must be our guide in this process and we must understand that the Holy Spirit is not rude or of confusion.

D. Have The Proper Approach:-The fisherman understands that fishing in streams requires cautious approach to ensure that the fish not be frightened away. Those who fish in the mountains for trout have to sometimes crawl upon their hands and knees to the brink before casting the hook quietly. Most fishing is done as noiselessly as possible to achieve effective results. This is to underscore that the Christian witness must be well planned and tactful. The "fishers of men" must be tactful, honest, frank, friendly, brave, courageous and most of all considerate! Understand that the circumstance in which you find individuals may dictate that you be expedient with your witness or caution you to wait for an opportune time. Remember if you are only interested in making a "quick" catch, your catch could slip off the hook before you reel

them in to be rooted in Christ. Therefore, take time to study the approach of Jesus who always met the physical/emotional needs of individuals before setting them on the spiritual path by saying: "...go and sin no more...". At the heart of witnessing, love and compassion has to be at the core of the process. Study how Jesus dealt with the **man at the pool** (Mk. 2:1-12); **Zacchaeus** (Lk. 19:1-10); the **Samaritan woman** (Jhn 4:6-48); **Nicodemus** (Jhn 3:1-21) and many others. Notice that the Samaritan woman went witnessing about what had happen and we must catch her zeal as we reach others for Christ.

IV. **THE FISHERMAN'S NET COULD HAVE DIFFERENT CREATURES:**

Once a net is launched into the water and dragged for a while, there are always many kinds of fishes and creatures that could get into it. One never knows precisely what could be in a net that has been let down for a catch. There is a possibility that a given net could have a vast variety of fishes to include many of these or a combination thereof: **trout, bass, shark, goldfish, catfish, snapper, minnow** and others. Additionally, depending on where one let down the net for a catch, the net could have a **snake, turtle, snail, crab, crawfish** and others kinds of creatures that dwell in the water. Notice that each type of fish or other creatures mentioned above have unique distinctions and characteristics. Consider the **bass** that is difficult to catch, the **crab** that pulls one another down, and the **turtle** that is known to be slow as well as quick to withdraw into its shell. Some human do exhibit similar characteristics (**slow, slippery, hard to get, like to bite, pretty**) of the mentioned creatures and are difficult to witness to. In many instances, one will observe that when the net is raised from the water, the fishes or what is in it has the tendency to want to jump out and get back into the water. Some Church members try to jump out of the Church like fish!

V. **SUMMARY:** Indeed, some Christians may be comfortable with staying in the narrow confines of the Church, never willing to go out and lead others in becoming disciples. This trend must be arrested and reversed without delay. Those who are in the Church should have already come to know Christ and need only nurturing and study to be better equipped. Those beyond the walls of the Church who do not know about the saving grace of Christ and that He died for their sins must be brought into the fold. We must drop our nets of excuses and pick up the cross of redemption as we go witnessing for Christ. We must drop our nets like the disciples and use our skills and talents to minister to others because we have been saved to be instruments of His love

We cast the net, we could come up empty-handed but Christ is calling us to launch-out.

CONCERNING HOW TO PRAY (Part 2)

By Rev. William B. G. K. Harris –ICF (Sept 26, 2008)

I. MAJOR CONDITIONS TO MEET IN PRAYING TO GOD:

- A. *We must ask in faith!* Notwithstanding, simply asking God for things will not assure you of a positive respond if you ask in prayer and believing according to **Matthew 21:22**.
- B. *We must be properly motivated when we ask!* **James 4:3** reminds us that if we are amiss...have the wrong motive when we ask in pray, we don't receive.
- C. *We must ask in accordance with the will of God!* How do we know what the will of God is for our lives? He will drop it in our spirit because we have a close relationship with him already and daily. Christ puts it simply as abiding in the Vine according to **John 15:7**. Remember, apart from the Vine, we are dead and can do nothing, But when we abide, we bear fruits!

II. MAJOR STEPS TO TAKE IN PRAYERING: (Brokenness & Surrendering)

(The Following Steps Are based On The Lord's Prayer As Jesus Taught His Disciples)

Note: The following steps are designed mainly for private type devotion but can be modified for other types of prayers accordingly

Step 1: *We must give praises and adoration.* (Sing songs of praises to God and give thanks for what He has already done...**be specific**) See reference list of praise songs!

Step 2: *We must confess our sins before God and ask for forgiveness* (God is faithful and just to forgive us)

Step 3: *We must our petitions/requests known before God* (The petition may take the form of an intercessory prayer for yourself, families, church, nations, individual or anything specific)

Step 4: *We must yield/surrender ourselves to the will of God.* (Like Jesus, we should say...not my will but your will be done in the matter at hand.)

Step 5: *We must rebuke and bind the Devil who has a stronghold on our lives.* (Remember what ever is bind on earth is also bind in heaven as promised by Jesus. We have the key!)

Step 6: *We must seal our prayer with the blood of Jesus Christ!* (In a typical manner of ...**In the name of Jesus**....)

Step 7: *We must give thanks and adoration in ending our prayer.* (Give praises to God again and end with a song of praise)

III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYERS: (For Broking Yokes & Surrendering)

(The Following Only A Few Example and Needs For Which To Pray- Not in any order!)

Need 1: Fasting and praying. **Need 2:** Personal Devotion. **Need 3:** Personal Retreat. **Need 4:** Family Retreat. **Need 5:** Church/Staff Retreat **Need 6:** Cooperate Prayer in Church (led by minister or designee or Pentecostal in nature) **Need 7:** Tarry & Vigils **Need 8:** Focused Group/Individual or Problem. **Need 9:** Invocation (**a short prayer**). **Need 10:** Benediction (**a short prayer**). **Need 12:** Dedication (child, home, church, auto, property) **Need 13:** Thanksgiving **Need 14:** Intercessory (for self, others, nation, organizations). **Need 15:** Vehicle/Automobile/Transportation (each morning before driving, when entering or seated in a transportation).

STUDY REFERENCES

-The Holy Bible (New King James, **Life Applications**/NIV Student Bible/Maxwell Leadership)

-The Warner Bible Commentary & Matthew Bible Commentary

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