

IMPERATIVES FOR MATURITY

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Aim of lesson

1. To explore key elements of the kingdom that aid in qualitative and early maturity,
2. To see how best to engage these qualities

Maturity & Purpose

We live to fulfill purpose but the immature can hardly do this with any great degree of success.

Mangoes which fall off the tree before getting fit are useless to the eater.

SO WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF WHICH WE SPEAK?

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1. Ask of God (Prayer)

▣ Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

▣ Luke 11:11-13

You fathers – if your children ask^[e] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

▣ John 16:24

You haven't done this before.

ASK,

*using my name, and you will
receive, and you will have
abundant joy.*

So go ahead..

ASK

For what you need to develop
and fulfill your
assignment/purpose for
God's glory.

But I never seem to Get what I
want!

How about changing what we
ask for?

Or re-assessing why we are
asking?

Our asking is often centered in
daily necessities,

But that has a glitch because Jesus
says take your focus off that, our
heavenly father already knows
what we need ...

Matthew 6:31-33

So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God^[e] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

The focus of our asking should be to accomplish the kingdom mandate:

Thy will be done... (Matthew 6:10)

▣ When was the last time we ...

“...pray(ed) to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask(ing) him to send more workers into his fields.”? (Matt 9:38)

▣ This is one prayer we can be sure will be answered because He, Jesus lamented...

“...The harvest is great, but the workers are few.” (Matt 9:37)

Our purpose is linked to the

▣ Dominion Assignment: *Subdue the earth* (Genesis 1:28)

And the

▣ Dominion mandate: *Go ye into all the world* (Matthew 28:18)

So start Asking:

engage in prayer and fellowship
with God, who wants to daily
load us with blessings.

Its hardly possible to get engaged with God's heart and not begin to manifest the very core of who He is.

This leads to the next element...

2. Love Others

▣ John 13:34

*So now I am giving you a new
commandment: Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should
love each other.*

GOD IS LOVE AND THE
CENTRE OF HIS LIFE IS
LOVE

If that Centre is located in us,
then it is only natural that Love
becomes the substance that fuels
our lives... it must flow out of us
even as it flowed/flows out of
Him.

It warms the heart and
revives the soul

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So hear what 1 John 4:7-8 says

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- ▣ This is the evidence of our being born again and possessing God's life!

1 John 3:14

If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers,^[a] it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

Coffee drinkers know the difference between
black coffee and coffee with cream...

In the same way the world knows the difference
between blighted Christians and maturing
Christians because the latter gets ripe with the
Love who resides inside!

So we must...

- ▣ Put on love, clothe ourselves with love which binds us together (Colossians 3:14)

- ▣ Train ourselves to love until it becomes a lifestyle

- ▣ Spiritual maturity is increasing in love...

We must

practise to perfect it!

- ▣ So one thing we can begin to pray for is the manifestation of the heart of God, which is love, in our daily lives.

Thy Kingdom come

▣ Now we go right back to where we started because Element three is the kingdom mandate

3. Witness to the World

- ▣ A fruit of our maturity is reproduction!

Everything after its own kind.

We are called to follow Christ and become ...

Fishers of men/women (*Matthew 4:19*)

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▣ We are sent into the world to recolonize it

Acts 1:8

Calls us to be witnesses

“...everywhere – in Jerusalem (our immediate spheres), throughout Judea (Kgn/St. Catherine/St. Andrew), in Samaria (Jamaica), and to the ends of the earth.”

- ▣ Jesus loved, so he died to save the world
- ▣ We have his love in us, so we must live that men do not die but get access to the saving power of the cross.

We must

- ▣ Carry the message of the kingdom
- ▣ Win the lost
- ▣ Disciple the won

It is an Imperative!

Want to discover your Purpose?

- ▣ Start at the beginning!
- ▣ Focus on what God is focusing on
- ▣ Put one foot in the water of Witnessing

- ▣ It will change what you pray for and how you pray
- ▣ It will get you connected to the very heart of God – Love
- ▣ It will transform who you are till you live only to see the will of God done, and when you ask you will receive because our heavenly father knows what things we need in order to best accomplish purpose here below.

This week's Imperatives

1. START PRAYING THE WILL OF GOD FOR

- ▣ Our nation
- ▣ Our churches
- ▣ Our children
- ▣ Our government
- ▣ Our families and personal lives

2. **Make deliberate conscious effort to**
 - ▣ Love the brethren in increased measures, living in greater levels of unity and respect.
 - ▣ Love the lost

3. MAKE A STRATEGIC PLAN TO WITNESS TO

- ▣ One person at work
- ▣ One person in your social sphere
- ▣ One person in your neighbourhood
- ▣ One person at home

And just do it!

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