

God's Calling Requirements
Part 32
At the Garden of Gethsemane

“36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. 45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” (Matthew 26:36-46)

People love to go to gardens where they can spend good time. In the bible there are gardens. In the Old Testament was the garden east of Eden, where God when He created man brought him there and instructed him how to live. But man failed God therefore the Lord took him out of the Garden of Eden and placed on him the burden of tending the earth and eating from its fruit. But God promised to send a Savior to save mankind from sin and the schemes of Satan. God told to the serpent, **“15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)** Christ ultimately came, born of woman; He came to save us from sin and death.

In the night He was betrayed, Jesus Christ went with His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane, not to spend a good time or have refreshments, nor to camp and have a retreat, but He went there to affirm His decision and to consent with the will of God. In His prayer He said to God the Father, **“Yet not as I will, but as you will.”** Gethsemane is a place that each and every disciple needs to pass through before he can make it to heaven. Gethsemane is that spiritual place that you will meet the following:-

- 1- To accept the will of God.
- 2- To face wrong doing.
- 3- To go forward.
- 4- To accept challenges.
- 5- To accept persecution.
- 6- To exist with persecution. **“3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (2Timothy 2:3)**
- 7- To pray, to kneel down and to cry to God in a holy fear. **The same of what Jesus did, “7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” (Hebrews 5:7)**

- 8- To feel the pain, and to accept all the coming struggles (insults, humiliation, rejection, denial, betrayal, physical hurts and excessive pain. **“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake*;” (Philippians 1:29 KJV)**
- 9- To face an old existing issues and problems. Jesus when He came, He faced old issues and wrong practices that were lasting centuries. These issues and problems were of old, but no one of the people was facing them or correcting them, because the people either avoid trouble, or they are part of the corruption that was going on.

Gethsemane, the meaning of this word is “Oil Press.” Is where you are squeezed and pressed in order for you to abide to do God’s will, **“8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.” (2Corinthians 4:8-11)**

Jesus would need to pass through that experience in Gethsemane in order for Him to fulfill God’s will. Therefore when He went to Gethsemane He did not go to decide but He went to pray so He will be prepared to do and achieve what He decided to do. Therefore it depend on you, if you had decided to do God’s will and to face and to pass through what God had asked you to do then no one can stop you or hinder from doing that. Prayer can make you strong; it clears your mind, and prepares you to be fit and firm to engage in the ordained event.

Jesus went to pray there and he prayed three times; prayer was like a warm up for Him to pass through that experience. When He went to Gethsemane, He took his disciples with Him, **“36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”** And He chose three of them to go and watch with Him in prayer, **“37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”** Jesus opened up His life to three of His disciple and was appealing to them to engage with Him in prayer. He opened to them His sorrow and how He is overwhelmed with grief. **“33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.” (Mark 14:33)** To live as a disciple of Jesus and living a Christian life it is not a journey or pleasant picnic but a painful series of events.

No one can force you to sin if you are not willing, and no one can stop you from doing what God wants you to do if you are willing. Many Christian now a day they hang around Gethsemane but they are none willing to pass through it. The narrow way would start in the Gethsemane Garden. Therefore when you are deciding to pass through Gethsemane, you may not find people who understand you and who are willing to support you. In fact Gethsemane is to bear further the followings:-

- 10- To accept to go through it even you are alone.
- 11- To accept seeing your very close people leaving you and even denying knowing you as what had happened to Jesus from His own disciples. Most of them they left Him. Judas betrayed Him and Peter profess that He does not know Him.

When Jesus' disciples left Him alone, the Lord did not leave Him. The Lord sent an angel to strengthen Him as He was in anguish, **"43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."** (Luke 22:43-44) Sometime you may think or say, 'If someone with me, then it is easy.' But even if you are alone God will strengthen you and will enable you to pass through it. Even, if you are alone and no one concern or tune with your case, but still you can do it if you already determined to do so.

Jesus took His disciples with Him, and even He chose three of them to accompany in a close distance in order for them to witness what Jesus would do and to be trained for the near coming future to pass through the same experience. Your life should be a testimony for others to encourage them and to lead them to do God's will passing through Gethsemane experience. When they will see your life and what you are passing through they will learn from you how to achieve and fulfill God's will in their daily life and walk with God.

Jesus said to His disciples, **41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.** Worldliness, lack of watching, and discernment, lack of prayers, and giving way for the lust of the flesh, all are ways and short cuts to fall into temptation.

Gethsemane experience bear further the followings:-

- 12- To be aware that, **'the hour has come.'** It cannot be continue on condoning and keeping the Pharisees manipulations, system corruption, love of money, betrayals hang around; we need to face, we need to be willing to go through hard time, embarrassing moments and strange situations of humiliations, insults, abuse, willing to forgive those who hurt you, disapproving evil doers, separating ourselves from evil doers, announcing to everyone that we have nothing to do with wicked people.
- 13- To be willing to pay the price, to receive hurt and physical pain, to give up what we had and even our personal things. Jesus received various kind of body hurt, beating, scourging and even lost His own cloth.
- 14- To be willing to see God's hand moving pruning His church, cutting every branch that bear no fruit, so that fruitful branches will give more fruit.
- 15- To be willing to see people hating you.
- 16- To be willing to face betrayer, **"46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer."**

My dear and beloved: "17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee." (Jeremiah 1: 17-19) Be firm in your leadership to your family, your wife and children, and in your leadership in the church and the ministry that you are placed in. Don't give way to people who are deceived and are in sin. Use your authority that is from God to cleanse your family and the members of your ministry as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself today to stand firm and to do the needful in my family and in the life of the ministry. Lord I will nullify the following situation _____ and will not approve these people _____ in doing their own will. Lord strengthen me, protect me and go before me so that your will be done. I thank you and praise you; this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



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