201 Class



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Discovering How to Grow to Spiritual Maturity

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A Note from Pastor Scott:

I am excited that you believe God is directing you to become part of the Shoreline family. The 201 Class "Discovering How to Grow to Spiritual Maturity" is designed to help you grow closer to God and give you the tools to discipline you in your daily walk with Christ. The class will help bring you understanding of what God expects from every one of us if we are to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

As you view the video lessons make sure to fill in all of the blanks and make notations of any questions you may have. These questions will be answered to the best of our abilities when you complete the class and final review.

Our vision is that every man, woman and child in Greater Akron has the chance to experience the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ because they hear the gospel from the lips of someone at Shoreline Community Church.

Our purpose is to be a family of believers committed to reaching people with the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ, which is evidenced in believers who are REAL...

Reproducing Other Disciples Matthew 28:18-20

Esteeming God Above All Mark 12:30

Announcing The Good News Luke 24:46-47

Living For Others - Mark 10:45

Finally, our goal is to ensure that *everything* we do at Shoreline Community Church is geared to see people come to **KNOW** Jesus, **GROW** in Jesus and to **SERVE** Jesus daily!

My hope is that you will find this <u>201 Class – "Discovering How to Grow to Spiritual Maturity"</u> experience rewarding and the beginning of a lifetime of spiritual growth and service to our Lord at Shoreline Community Church.

In His Service,

Dr. Scott Campbell

Lesson 1 – How to Pray

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

There are several thoughts concerning prayer that we should consider.

	A.	God expects us to pray (Proverbs 8:34)
"Bles	sed is th	ne man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."
	B.	Prayer is like anything else, it takes
	C.	Prayer is more than just words. It is a to be used in spiritual warfare. (Romans 8:36)
"For	Your sa	ke we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
	D.	God will us to pray.
I.	Prayer	r must have
	A.	He answers us when we search for Him: that is, we must mean business. (Jeremiah 29:13).
"And	you will	seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
	B.	The desire includes a consistent asking. (James 4:2)
		d do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have do not ask."
	C.	This desire must include a believing heart. (Matt. 21: 22)
"And	whatever	r things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
II.	Prayer	r must be regular and (We must pray regularly and for definite needs.)
	A.	Power in public comes from private prayer with God. (Matthew 6:6)
		n you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in ce; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
	В.	David, Daniel, Peter, and John had regular prayer lives. (Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10; Acts

Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.

3:1)

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

II. Prayer must be backed by		r must be backed by
	A.	Sin is a hindrance to answered prayer. (Isaiah 59:1,2)
2 But y		e Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. iquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He
	B.	Asking with a wrong motive in the heart will prevent answered prayer. (James 4:3)
"You a	sk and	do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
	C.	Answered prayer requires the dedication of faith. (James 1:6)
"But le	t him a	sk in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
	D.	Secret faults can be a hindrance to prayer. (Psalm 19:12)
"Who	can un	derstand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults."
IV.	Praye	er must be offered with
	A.	A heartfelt desire is necessary in prayer. (James 5:16)
		r trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent ghteous man avails much."
	B.	We need to take the attitude "I will pray until the answer comes" (Genesis 32:26)
And H	e said,	"Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"
	C.	If two agree prayer can be answered. (Matthew 18:19)
_	-	to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by heaven.
	D.	We are to be in the very attitude of prayer at all times. (I Thess. 5:17)
	"Pray	without ceasing."
	E.	Prayer is to be offered in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26)
		wise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
		How can I improve my prayer habits?

II.

Lesson 2 – Fasting and Prayer - Matthew 6:16-18

16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

- A. Has fasting been outdated, or should Christians fast today as they did in Bible times?
- B. Does fasting bring results, and if so, why don't believers fast?
- C. Fasting means that you eat no food, and you spend the time you would normally spend eating, in prayer.
- I. The Purpose of fasting.

A.	To loose	the bands of the	and	bring		to prayer. (Isaiah 58:6)
	v	I have chosen: To loose hat you break every yok	U	vickedness, to i	ındo the he	eavy burdens, to let the
B.			have ca	used people to	fast and	
	pray; this	should be true of us. (E	Ezra 10:6; Joel	2:12,13).		

"Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity."

Joel 2:12-13

"Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."

- II. The People who fasted.
 - A. Moses *Exodus 34:28*; fasted for 40 days. (At Mt. Sinai, receiving the 10 Commandments)
 - B. Elijah *I Kings 19:8*; fasted for 40 days. (To find the Lord' direction after escaping from Jezebel)
 - C. Daniel *Daniel 10:2,3*; fasted for 21 days (Sorrow due to the Lord's vision concerning the future of Persia and Greece)
 - D. Paul Acts 9:9 (After being saved and blinded on the Damascus road he fasted for 3 days)
 - E. Sailors with Paul *Acts 27:23-35*. (We're told to end their fast to gain strength for impending shipwreck on Malta)

III.	People who made it a habit to fast and pray.			
	A.	The disciples of John the Baptist (Matthew 9:14)		
	B.	Anna (Luke 2:37) (served the Lord by fasting in the temple night and day)		
	C.	Cornelius (Acts 10:30, 31) (Fasted 4 days before God set up a meeting with Peter)		
	D.	Paul (II Corinthians 6:5) (He lists "fasting" as one of the marks of ministry)		
IV.	When	did People fast and pray?		
	A.	At the time of public (II Samuel 1:12)		
	-	nurned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword."		
	B.	During private (II Samuel 12:16)		
"Davi ground		fore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the		
	C.	During approaching (Esther 4:16)		
	. My mo	all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night aids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I		
V.	Power	r of fasting		
	A.	The disciples could not cast out because they had not fasted and prayed (Mark 9:29)		
So He	said to	them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."		
	B.	A whole city of their sin when the people fasted and prayed (Jonah 3:4-10)		
Jonah	3:5 "i	So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from		

REMEMBER: You have not taken prayer to the limit until you have prayed and fasted.

the greatest to the least of them."

Lesson 3 – Praying for the Lost

each you the good and the right way."	sing to pray for you; but			
	"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way."			
Two things are necessary in one's life before he will consistently pray for	r the lost.			
1. These requirements are and	<u>.</u>			
2. But how can these qualities be obtained?				
Consider three ways in which we pray for the lost.				
praying. (Paul is a great example)				
A consistent warning (Acts 20:31)				
efore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn cears."	everyone night and day			
He was pressed in his spirit (Acts 18:5) (How did he reach this place of c	concern?)			
Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the vs that Jesus is the Christ."	e Spirit, and testified to			
He was willing to be judged in the place of his friends. (Romans 9:3)				
could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my csh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption."	ountrymen according to			
Remember, the seed that is planted must be prayed over with concern. (F	Psalm 126:5-6)			
se who sow in tears shall reap in joy. Tho continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtle ng, bringing his sheaves with him."	ess come again with			
praying. (Compassion means pity, sorrow, broker	nhearted, etc.)			
Jesus was moved with compassion for the lost people who were scattered (Matthew 9:36)	d abroad.			
1	2. But how can these qualities be obtained? Consider three ways in which we pray for the lost.			

B. Here Jesus is praying before His death. He prayed according to God's will, though it meant death. His death would mean forgiveness for sinners. This was real compassion (*Matthew* 26:39).

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

C. While on the cross, Christ had compassion for the lost. (Luke 23:42-43)

Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

III. praying.

A. The prayer of Moses is one of the greatest examples of consecrated praying in the entire Bible (Exodus 32:32)

"Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

B. Ezekiel 3:18 tells us if we fail to warn people, their blood will be upon us.

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand."

- 1. Why is this true?
- 2. Consider Genesis 4:9 and Romans 1:14.

"Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

"I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise."

C. Why did the rich men who went to Hell pray? (Luke 16:24-28)

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,

28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

- IV. A serious challenge concerning the lost
 - A. How many people are in the world and percent wise how many are lost?
 - B. How many people die each day without Christ?
 - C. Why aren't more people being saved?

Lesson 4 - Some Unanswered Prayers in Scripture

As we approach this Bible study there are some questions we should ask ourselves.

- A. What are some of the reasons God does not answer our prayers:
- B. Should we be disturbed when God does not answer all of our prayers?
- C. Why are there times in our lives when we are at a loss as to know how to pray? (See Romans 8:26-27)

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

What reason did God have for not answering prayer on these six occasions in the lives of these Godly men?

I.	Elijah requested that he might (I Kings 19:4)
	"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"
	Spiritual victories are often followed by valleys and deserts of and and designed to help us mature in our relationship with God.
	• Perhaps Elijah had come to expect the spiritual high life of extraordinary events and was hesitant to learn of other dimensions of service God has for all believers.
II.	Job prayed that God would him. (Job 6:8-9)
	"Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for! That it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off!
	• God always gives back more than He takes. Because God did not answer Job's prayer He was able to gain a new awareness of God's along with a new sense of the limits of his own wisdom and a new sensitivity to his own sin. Job was able to see his limited perspective, which enabled him to submit to God's will and authority.
II)	I. Paul prayed that the might be taken away (II Corinthians 12:8-9)
	Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in <u>weakness</u> ." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest

upon me.

IV. Moses prayed that he might go over into Canaan (Deut. 3:23-25)
"Then I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying: ²⁴ O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? ²⁵ I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon."
• Moses' ministry was now in God's eyes. His prayer was not answered the way he wanted. God's answer allows us to see that there are always others being prepared by God to continue the work where we have left off.
V. David prayed for his child's life. (II Samuel 12:16-18; 23)
"David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷ So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸ Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!" ²³ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."
• We learn from David's prayer that God is holy and must punish sin. There is ato
VI. The Savior's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:38-44)
Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." ³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You <i>will</i> ."
Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed <i>is</i> willing, but the flesh <i>is</i> weak."
⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are <i>you</i> still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.
• If Jesus' prayer had been answered according to the flesh, all of mankind would be for forgiveness of sin. Eternal life would not be
possible without the shedding of His on the cross of Calvary as the only acceptable payment as required by God the Father.

Lesson 5 – How to Have a Quiet Time

	A.	We can never over stress the importance of the quiet time in a believers' life (Psalm 46:10).
6	'Be stil	l, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
	B.	Everyone must work out the plan that best suits him or her. Here are some suggestions.
I. Get		, in a room where you will not be disturbed.
	A.	Have your Bible with you.
	B.	The Psalmist chose the morning as his best time. (Psalm 5:3)
	"My ч ир."	voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look
	C.	This time must be a in your life. (Luke 6:12)
		it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in r to God."
II. Our	approa	ach to the Father in prayer should be to pray the prayer of the Psalmist (Psalm 139:23-24)
		ch me, O God, and know my; Try me, and know my; ee if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."
III. W	hen Gof f Jesus	od convicts you of sin admit it; don't excuse it! of it and put it under the blood Christ. (I John 1:7)
	"But i Jesus	if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
IV. Ma	ike	if you have wronged anyone (Matt. 5:23-24).
	again	refore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something st you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your er, and then come and offer your gift."
V. Giv	ve God	your entire: feet, hands, mouth, etc - (Romans 6:12-13; 12:1; I Cor. 6:19).
	preser	refore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not not your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."
		reech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."
	Or do	you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from

God, and you are not your own?

VI. Give G (Roman	od your including 12:2; Colossians 3:2)	ng your mind, emotions, ambitions and desires.
	nd do not be conformed to this wor y prove what is that good and acce	ld, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you ptable and perfect will of God."
"Se	et your mind on things above, not o	n things on the earth."
VII. Ask th	ne Holy Spirit to do three things:	
A.	you with	Himself (Eph. 5:18)
"Ai	nd do not be drunk with wine, in wh	nich is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."
B.	Give you a greater	for Christ (John 17:26)
	nd I have declared to them Your nay be in them, and I in them."	me, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me
C.	Give you a	for some lost soul (Psalm 126:6)
	le who continually goes forth weepin oicing, bringing his sheaves with hi	ng, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with m."
VIII. Perso	ons for whom you need to pray and	witness:
A.	Ask God to burden your heart	with the specific names of persons for whom you should pray.
В.	Pray according to Romans 9:1-	-5.
I ha Chi ada are	ave great sorrow and continual grients for my brethren, my "countrymon option, the glory, the covenants, the	g, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that if in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from en according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom ding to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally
		everything as you pray and meditate. "Prayer must be" (Romans 6:17-18; Phil. 4:6).
doc		were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of
	e anxious for nothing, but in everyth wests be made known to God;"	hing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your

Congratulations!

You have finished the 201 Class "Discovering How to Grow to Spiritual Maturity".

Now you are ready to complete a review of all that you have learned! The review is found on the following page. Be sure to study all of your fill-in answers from every class before taking the review.

Please turn in all of your class work, including your completed review, to the pastor or leader in charge of this class and you will be presented with a certificate of achievement.

May God bless your efforts to grow closer to Him as a result of the time spent in the 201 Class.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Review

Fill In The Blanks

1.	God expects Christians to	every day.		
2.	is a hindrance to answered prayer.			
3.	You have not taken your prayers to the limit until you have	avea	nd	
4.	Fasting means that you sacrifice the time you would nor	mally spend eating and n	naking it a time of	
5.	The disciples could not cast out certainprayed.	from people because t	hey had not fasted and	
	True or False			
6.	It is the duty of every Christian to pray for lost souls			
7.	The apostle Paul demonstrated "concerned prayer" when he was willing to be judged by God in the place of his brethren			
8.	If we fail to warn people about their sin and present them with the hope of the Gospel, their blood will not be upon us according to the Scriptures			
9.	The Scriptures reveal that there are some situations God tells us not to pray about anymore because His grace is sufficient			
10.	God will hear our prayers even if we have never accepted	d Jesus as our Lord and S	Savior	
	Matching			
11.	A desire is necessary in prayer.		A. Two	
12	We need to take the attitude "I will pray until the	comes."	B. Attitude	
13.	The Scriptures state that if agree, p	rayer can be answered.	C. Offered	
14.	Christians are to be in the very	_ of prayer at all times.	D. Heartfelt	
15	Prayer is to be in the Holy St	nirit	F Answer	

Multiple Choice

16.	We are to give our entire body for service to God including
	 a. our hands b. our feet c. our mouth d. all of the above e. none of the above
17.	We are to ask the Holy Spirit to
	 a. Show us the good things we do in this life b. Fill us with Himself c. Give us a greater burden for some lost soul d. A+B only e. B+C only
18.	Which of the following men from our lessons had prayers that were not answered.
	 a. Jeremiah b. King Saul c. Elijah d. King David e. C+D
19.	If we as Christians are to grow spiritually mature we must give God our
	a. Fortunesb. Material possessionsc. Our minds, our will, including ambitions and desiresd. Good works
20.	When God convicts you of sin He expects you to
	a. Forget about itb. Confess to a priestc. Admit it, don't excuse it. Repentd. Worry about it
•	Bonus Question (5 points) – What must a person do to be saved?