

SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #14

PRAYER: THE HEARTBEAT OF A DISCIPLE

LUKE 11:1-54 | REV. DON GUICO

Many people try to follow Jesus with activity but without dependence. We can serve, study, lead, and do ministry while becoming self-reliant. Luke 11 shows that discipleship cannot be sustained by human strength. Prayer is the heartbeat of a disciple because it keeps us dependent on the Father.

Jesus began this chapter by praying in a certain place. When He finished, one disciple said, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus taught them to come to God as Father, to honor His name, seek His kingdom, and depend on Him for daily bread, forgiveness, and protection. He then called them to ask, seek, and knock because the Father is good and gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. (Luke 11:1-13)

Jesus then exposed the danger of rejecting God's work. After He cast out a demon from a mute man,

some accused Him of working by Beelzebul, while others demanded a sign. Jesus showed that His power over demons was kingdom power. The finger of God was at work, and the kingdom of God had come upon them. He warned that neutrality before Him is impossible and that true blessing belongs to those who hear and keep God's Word. (Luke 11:14-28)

Jesus also warned against demanding signs while refusing revealed truth. Something greater than Jonah and Solomon was standing before that generation, yet many remained resistant. The problem was not lack of revelation but lack of reception. Jesus used the image of light and the eye to show that spiritual clarity depends on receiving His truth with an obedient heart. (Luke 11:29-36)

Finally, Jesus confronted religious hypocrisy. The Pharisees cleaned the

outside of the cup and dish, but their hearts were full of greed and wickedness. They tithed carefully but neglected justice and the love of God. The lawyers loaded others with burdens, honored dead prophets, and resisted God's messengers. The chapter ended with religious leaders opposing Jesus, showing the danger of religion without inward integrity. (Luke 11:37-54)

Prayer is the heartbeat of discipleship because it keeps the follower of Jesus dependent on the Father, receptive to His kingdom, and guarded from religious pretense. The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that prayer is the heartbeat of discipleship, so that we may follow Jesus with dependent hearts, persistent faith, spiritual clarity, and inward integrity before the Father. ✱

REKINDLED FOR GOD'S GLORY

REV. LITO VILLORIA

A fire does not usually die all at once. It slowly weakens when it is not tended. The flame becomes smaller. The heat becomes lighter. The glow begins to fade. What once burned brightly can slowly become dim. The same thing can happen to our spiritual passion.

We may still attend worship, serve in ministry, join meetings, and fulfill responsibilities. But deep inside, our love for God can grow tired. Our obedience can become routine. Our witness can become cold. Our hearts can become distracted by many things that slowly take the place of what matters most.

The words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:31 are very timely: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." He reminded the Corinthian believers that even ordinary choices must be filtered through the glory of God. Eating, drinking, choosing, refusing, receiving, restraining, speaking, serving, working, and relating with others must all be surrendered to one clear purpose: the glory of God.

Spiritual passion is not measured only by what happens in a worship service, conference, retreat, or special gathering. It is seen in the daily direction of the heart, when ordinary decisions are brought under the lordship of Christ and our choices make Christ clearer to others.

This is why I am excited for IDMC

Manila 2026: Rekindling Your Spiritual Passion on June 12, 2026, happening in our church. We will be blessed to have Rev. Edmund Chan and Pastor Ann Chan minister God's Word to us. They are respected servants of the Lord in the global discipling movement and dear mentors to Linda and me in the Global Alliance of Discipling Churches. Through the years, God has used their lives, teaching, and example to deepen our convictions in intentional discipling, spiritual formation, and finishing well in ministry.

I pray that many of us will join this important gathering. This is not just another event on the church calendar. It is an invitation to pause, return, listen, and allow God to rekindle our love for Him. In a season when many hearts can become tired, distracted, or divided, we need the Lord to renew our passion, strengthen our obedience, and refocus us on what matters most. Please register and encourage your family, ministry core teams, growth groups, and friends to join. You may secure your slot at idmc-gcfsm.org/register.

At the same time, as you read this, I am with our young people at the Youth Crossroad Weekend 2026. This year's theme is "PS, I Loved You First," anchored on 1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us." This theme reminds our youth that true love does not begin with identity, approval, achievement, relationships, popularity, or personal fulfillment. True love begins with God. Before

we knew Him, before we could obey Him, and before we could love Him in return, He had already set His love upon us through Jesus Christ.

Throughout the weekend, our young people are being reminded that God's love leads to obedience, transforms us from within, is perfected as we abide in Christ, and enables us to overcome the world through faith.

Please pray for our youth. Pray that they will encounter God in a fresh and personal way. Pray that they will know more deeply that they are loved by God, secured in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life that reflects His love. Pray also for our speakers, Next Gen leaders, and co-ministers.

I also thank the Lord for those who generously sponsored some of our youth. Your giving made it possible for them to join this Crossroad Weekend. Thank you for investing in the next generation. May the Lord multiply its fruit in the lives of our young people.

Whether in IDMC or in Youth Crossroad, the call is the same. Return to the love of God. Renew your passion for Christ. Reorder your life for His glory.

A fire does not keep burning by accident. It must be tended. In the same way, our spiritual passion must be renewed in the presence of God, strengthened by the Word of God, and surrendered daily for the glory of God. ✱

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Let us continue to be found faithful in our giving. You may deposit your giving to:

ACCOUNT NAME:
GCF South Metro, Inc.

BDO
BRANCH: MADISON

Current Acct. No:
00650-802-2882

SECURITY BANK
BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Current Acct. No:
0000-0063-65400

CHINABANK
BRANCH: AYALA ALABANG

Current Acct. No:
128-195-0910

BPI
BRANCH: ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Current Acct. No:
1591-0091-56

SECURITY BANK
DOLLAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Dollar Account Number:

0000013183012

Swift Code:

SETCPHMM

Bank Code:

CHIPS UID 010457