

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Learning to Partner: Walking in the Spirit's Power

Speakers: Pastors Jason & Nikki Albelo

Date: February 2, 2025

Introduction:

In this powerful message, Pastors Jason and Nikki Albelo explored how believers can learn to partner with God through prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Drawing from Luke 11 and their experiences as missionaries, they emphasized understanding God as Father, learning to ask in faith, and walking in the Spirit's transforming power. Through personal testimony and biblical teaching, they challenged us to grow in our partnership with God.

1. Understanding God as Father:

Pastor Nikki shared vulnerably about how our view of God is often shaped by our earthly father relationships, emphasizing the need to see God as our perfect Father.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your relationship with your earthly father influenced your understanding of God?
2. When life's challenges arise, what does your response reveal about your view of God?
3. What "upgrades" might you need in your understanding of God's fatherly heart?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 11:11-13 - "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 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."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was revealing a revolutionary way of relating to God as Father.
- Theological Significance: God desires us to know Him intimately as a perfect, loving Father.
- Application: We can approach God with confidence, knowing He gives only good gifts.

2. Learning to Ask in Faith:

Pastor Jason emphasized how Jesus taught His disciples to pray with persistence and faith, sharing from his own experiences of depending on God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What holds you back from asking God boldly for what you need?
2. How has God built your "faith muscle" through past experiences of trusting Him?
3. In what areas do you need to move from self-reliance to God-dependence?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 11:9-10 - "And so I tell you, 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. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was teaching persistence in prayer through culturally relevant examples.
- Theological Significance: God invites persistent, expectant prayer from His children.
- Application: We should practice asking God first rather than as a last resort.

3. Partnering with the Holy Spirit:

The Albelos highlighted how the Holy Spirit transforms us when we surrender to His work.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's transforming power in your life?
2. What areas of your life need to be more fully yielded to the Spirit?
3. How can you create more space for the Spirit's work in your daily life?

Supporting Verses:

Colossians 3:10-12 - "Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator... As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was describing the practical outworking of spiritual transformation.
- Theological Significance: The Spirit enables us to reflect God's character increasingly.
- Application: We should actively cooperate with the Spirit's transforming work.

Conclusion:

Pastors Jason and Nikki Albelo's message reminded us that walking in the Spirit's power requires understanding God's fatherly heart, learning to ask in faith, and partnering with the Holy Spirit's transforming work. Through personal stories and biblical teaching, they encouraged us to take practical steps toward deeper partnership with God in 2025.

Reflection Questions:

1. What "faith muscles" do you need to exercise more consistently this year?
2. How can you grow in your understanding and experience of God as Father?
3. What specific step is God leading you to take in 2025 to partner more fully with Him?

4. How can you create more space in your life for prayer and the Spirit's work?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for inviting us into intimate relationship with you as our perfect Father. Help us to see you clearly, unhindered by past experiences or misconceptions. Give us courage to ask boldly in faith, knowing you delight in giving good gifts to your children. May we grow in trusting you as Father and yielding to your Spirit's work. Transform us to reflect your character more fully as we partner with you this year. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

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Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.