

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.41, October 16, 2012** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18)

## **A SPECIAL TIME For PRAYER And FASTING For Southsiders! October 15 - November 14, 2012 {Part 2}**

As stated last week, we once again call for Southsiders to band together for a time of prayer and fasting. **There are more than a few reasons** we could set forth as to why we call for a time of Prayer and Fasting— here are primary ones!

**1. Let this be a 31 day call to be much more focused in INTIMACY with and in the worship of the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDS!**

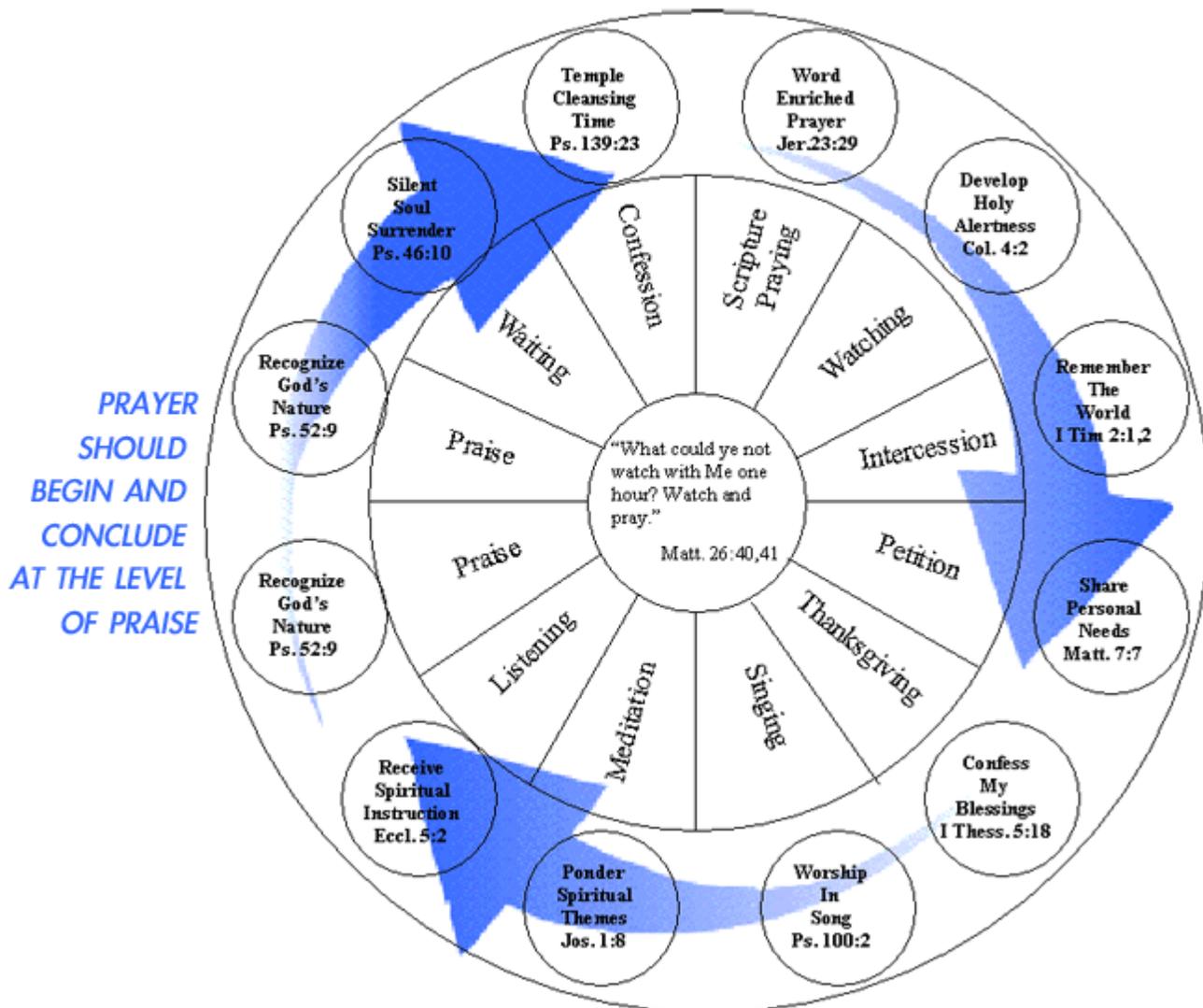
**2. Let this be a call to be much more focused upon and effective in the work of the KINGDOM OF GOD— modeling the good news of the GOSPEL with our lives and proclaiming the GOSPEL with boldness.**

**3. Let this be a time to heed the Biblical prayer call of 1 Timothy 2:13** "... I admonish *and* urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, **For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet *and* undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness *and* reverence and seriousness in every way. For such [praying] is good *and* right, and [it is] pleasing *and* acceptable to God our Savior,..." (Amplified)**

**4. Thus, we issue a 31 day call to SOUTHSIDERS to WORSHIP and ADORE the LORD our GOD!** It is a call to PRAY FOR one another; to pray for MISSIONARIES; to pray for those who still abide under the wrath of God; to pray for BOLDNESS in proclaiming the GOSPEL; and to pray for our nation and for all who are in authority!

***PRAYER: Watching with Jesus for ONE hour!***

## THE HOUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



When Jesus was agonizing in prayer in Gethsemane, He found the disciples sleeping and He asked them, **“Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?”** (Matthew 26:40) In his book, *THE HOUR THAT CHANGES THE WORLD*, Dick Eastman suggests that we divide an hour into 12 five-minute periods. The aim of this pattern is to break the hour up into manageable parts, giving both variety and comprehensive coverage to the different aspects of prayer.

**However, the intent is not to ‘watch the clock’ or to be legalistic—rather to simply offer these as helps in praying.**

**1. Praise and Worship is an act of adoration and consecration to God.** “Not unto us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be glory, because of your love and faithfulness.” (Ps 115:1) Praise His Name, His righteousness, love, holiness, omnipotence, greatness, faithfulness, omniscience, sovereignty, etc. This is a great time to remind ourselves how big our God is and of how great His power and how

amazing is His love and grace. Psalm 145- 150 certainly help us to declare His praise. Praise God for His heart and redemptive purpose!

**THE PRESENT HOUR is getting very dark! Nevertheless,** Jesus is building and will build His church and nothing nor no one can stop Him! **PRAISE CAN OPEN PRISON DOORS AND DEFEAT ARMIES!**

**(Please read→ Acts 16:19-33; 2 Chronicles 20)**

**2. Waiting on the LORD is an act of surrender to, and love and honor for God.** **Wait** at His door in Prayer. **Wait** at His feet in humility. (Isaiah 40:28-31 is a strong encouragement to wait upon the LORD!) **Wait** at His table with service. **Wait** at His window with expectancy. **Wait** in His Word and be transformed! (2 Cor. 3:17-18) Psalm 46:10 calls us to BE STILL.

**Let us be still and quiet and listen as God speaks from His holy Word.** MUSE UPON the one, the true and the living TRIUNE GOD— Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

**3. Confession is humbling one's self to take God's point of view about any and all sin! All sin is wrong, against God and it's got to go! (See: Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 32; Psalm 51; Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Daniel 9)** If we will confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us and cleanse us from all sin! (1 John 1:9)

**4. PRAYING SCRIPTURE** is to feed one's self spiritually and to be empowered to pray according to God's agenda and revelation. By means of Bible enriched prayer let us also pray **the Promises** of God, encouraging faith. The Word of God is to be believed and obeyed: 'LORD, what are the commands to obey, the warnings to heed, the promises to hope in, the revelation of you to rejoice in and to be moved to worship!?' (Jeremiah 1:5-12; 23:29; Isaiah 40:8-10; 44:24-26; 55:10-11)

**5. Watching is a time of** observation. (Col 4:2) Remain alert to spiritual opposition and strengthen yourself with by the Word of God, quickened by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 14, 15) Be alert for guidance from the LORD, for insight, discernment, wisdom, God's agenda, etc.— all birthed from meditation in God's Word.

What is going on in your life, family, church, community, state, nation or world to which God wants to connect the insight or wisdom He has given you and turn it into prayer and/or ministry toward others?

**6. Intercession** is to stand in the gap for other people, to prayerfully concentrate on the needs of others. (Genesis 18:16-33; 1 Kings 18:41-46) James 5:16-18 also gives us much cause for encouragement. 1 Timothy 2:1-2: *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, **intercessions**, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

**Workers** - Matthew 9:38 "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Workers within the church and ministries from the church to

the community— pray for those who are expressing their Christianity in the marketplace. Pray that they - that WE - will recognize work as a gift from God and OUR workplace as His mission field for US. **Check out Psalm 110:1-3.**

**Open Doors** - Colossians 4:3 “And pray for us, too, **that God may open a door** for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” Pray for the leaders of the nation and our towns and cities, so that there will be no hindrance to the preaching of the Gospel. Revelations 3:7-8 is well worth a visit!

**Fruit that will remain** - John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last.* (Philippians 1:6)

**Finances** - For the ministry of the church. Read Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-11)

**7. Petition is praying for personal needs— Give us this day our daily bread!** (Matthew 6:11) Here you are praying for your own life with the Lord, your ministry, your personal needs, your loved ones, and etc... all the while desiring that your requests are in tune with His will.

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10:** “Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, ‘I gave birth to him in pain.’ 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request.”

**Ask the Lord to increase your capacity for prayer and to enlarge your heart for intercession and ministry in your world.** Bring areas of personal concern before Him. Philippians 4:6 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

**8. Thanksgiving is the time** for us to express gratitude to God for His many blessings, care and protection... and to give thanks for WHO HE IS! (Luke 17:11-19) Thanksgiving helps us focus on God's faithfulness. Confess all His spiritual, material, physical and external (ie what He has done for others) blessings. Be very specific. **This is an area that should not only be part of a prayer time, but a way of life.** If we spend our days in thankfulness we will find the gateway to His Presence so much easier to enter. (Psalm 100; Psalm 103- 107)

**9. Singing is melodious praise and worship to the LORD!** This is a wonderful gift from God and an important key to continuously being filled with the Spirit! (Ephesians 5:18-20) Singing unto the LORD brings God into powerful action. (2 Chronicles 20, especially verse 22; Acts 16:16-34)

**LET US sing songs of:** -praise (Ps 135:3), power and mercy (Ps 59:16) and thanksgiving (Ps 147:7)!

**Let us sing of God's Name** (Ps 96:30-[His Names express His Nature]), God's Word (Ps 119:54), a new song (Ps 144:9), among the nations (Ps 57:9).

Don't worry about your singing ability! GOD DELIGHTS IN THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE! Moreover PRAISE TO GOD can be said or sung! **Obtain a Hymn book!**

**10. Meditation is to consider** or investigate, evaluate on a deeper level. Joshua 1:8: *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

Psalm 1:1-3: *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

**Focus on God Himself, on His Word, His works, past victories and blessings, and on things positive and good.** Philippians 4:8: *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy; think about these things.*

**CRITICAL NOTE:** Beware! Many in Christendom are drawing from Eastern meditation. They call for you to empty your mind and be passive. This is deadly and can quickly lead to the demonic. IN CLEAR DISTINCTION, true, Biblical Christian meditation is an active process of evaluating, investigating and pondering **upon the pure Word of God**, looking to the Holy Spirit to illuminate and lead and give application.

**11. Listening is a time of receiving instructions** from God. Wait for instructions and you might want to have a pen ready to write things down. John 5:19-20, 30 and Isaiah 50:4-5 "The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. **He awakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.** The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears . . ." This prophetic word about Jesus surely is the same path in which the LORD GOD desires His redeemed to walk today! When before the LORD in prayer, it is good to heed Ecclesiastes 5:2, and *let our words be few!*

**AGAIN, A WARNING:** Many today who are telling Christians to be silent and just listen for God to speak, are also calling for this 'silence/listening' to be done without open Bibles. They let their imaginations run wild and then proclaim, "God told me this, God told me that...!" MOREOVER, they hold their subjective understanding in such high esteem that they are offended if someone dares to place the plumbline of Scripture to it, judge it, and if need be expose it as false.

**In contrast: In prayer, let us BE QUIET! Let us LISTEN! HOW? By meditation upon the pure and holy and infallible, written Word of God.** The Holy Spirit will quicken and illuminate the WORD OF GOD, giving personalized applications and guidance, etc. MOREOVER, in those lesser matters of life for which there is no specific 'chapter and verse' in the Bible— The life that is filled with the pure Word of God, will also hear subjective leadings from the Holy Spirit... this is the way, walk in it!

**12. Praise is to magnify God, to express trust in Him.** We finish as we started by magnifying the Lord in confidence that He has heard our prayers, that the answer is already on the way and that His Power and wisdom are more than equal to every situation. Isaiah 65:24 "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." This is where we confess, ***"Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever! AMEN!"***

(Adapted from, "The Hour that Changes the World", by Dick Eastman)

Grace to one and all! James Bell

## **CALLS TO THE CHURCH PRAYER MEETING— Wednesdays at 7:00pm! (We meet in the Ladies Sunday School Room... come through the side, iron steps, door!)**

**Andrew Murray** - A congregation without a prayer meeting is essentially defective in its organization, and so must be limited in its efficiency.

**J. B. Johnston** - A church is never more like the New Testament church than when it is praying... As prayer meetings fail in a congregation, so will the ministrations of the pastor become unfruitful, the preaching of the word fail to convert sinners and promote holiness in the professors of religion.

**Richard Burr** - A dynamic praying church must be built *from the inside out*, employing all four levels of prayer: the secret closet, the family altar, small group praying and finally, the congregational setting.

**C. H. Spurgeon** - Prayer meetings were the arteries of the early church. Through them, life-sustaining power was derived. The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings. So is the prayer meeting a grace-ometer, and from it we may judge of the amount of divine working among a people.

If God be near a church, it must pray. And if He be not there, one of the first tokens of His absence will be a slothfulness in prayer! The New Testament prayer meeting reveals the master plan of Jesus.

The last thing Jesus did on earth was to build that prayer meeting, and it is the only thing He left behind on planet Earth when He ascended to heaven.

**J. B. Johnston** - The prayer meeting is a special means of developing and cultivating Christian graces, and of promoting individual and social edification...

The prayer meeting is the pulse of the church...

The prayer meeting is the rallying point where the power of faith in the church concentrates, and takes hold on the arm that moves the world.

Using Acts 1:4 as his basis, **Armin Gesswein** often called the central all-church prayer meeting “Christ’s last command; our first responsibility.” We must never get away from the fact that when Jesus built His Church He built a prayer meeting...

When Christ ascended into heaven all He left behind was a prayer meeting.

**The early Church didn’t have a prayer meeting; the early Church was the prayer meeting. In fact, in the early Church every Christian was a prayer-meeting Christian**

**J. Edwin Orr** makes no bones where he stands, ‘No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer.’

**J. B. Johnston** - Every converted sinner is a soul revived to prayer. Every saint restored from backsliding, is a soul returned to the life and power of prayer. Every congregation enjoying an outpouring of the Spirit, is a congregation revived and alive to the prayer meeting.

Do we have a **weekly** CONGREGATIONAL prayer meeting **or a weakly** CONGREGATIONAL prayer meeting?

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

**1. Tuesdays, 10:30am— Ladies Bible Study!**

**2. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM!**

**YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Adam and Bethany’s home.**

**3. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH VISITATION**

**4. EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study**

### **Sunday Schedule for October 21, 28**

**1. 9:30am- Sunday School**

**2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children’s Church**

**3. Noon Fellowship 'Covered Dish' Meal**

**4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service**

**{{LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE is 10/21/12 @ 1pm}}**

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## **Southside Christian School:**

Please VIEW the video! Then call us: 615-452-5951

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>