



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 12, March 24, 2020 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594
1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes — designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.***

**CALLING OUR CHURCH FAMILY TO 31 DAYS
OF PRAYER and FASTING— March 16 - April**

15 [Part 3]

[DAYS not yet covered— [March 28, 29, 30; April 3, 6, 10, 12, 13 14] Please commit to one or more of these days! Tell Caryn: Email: secretary@southsidegallatin.org Call: 615-452-5951

PRAYER and FASTING: **There are more than a few reasons—** here are primary ones!

1. TO ENCOURAGE INTIMACY with and in the worship of the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDS!

2. TO ENCOURAGE effectiveness in the work of the KINGDOM OF GOD— modeling the good news of the GOSPEL with our lives and proclaiming the GOSPEL with boldness.

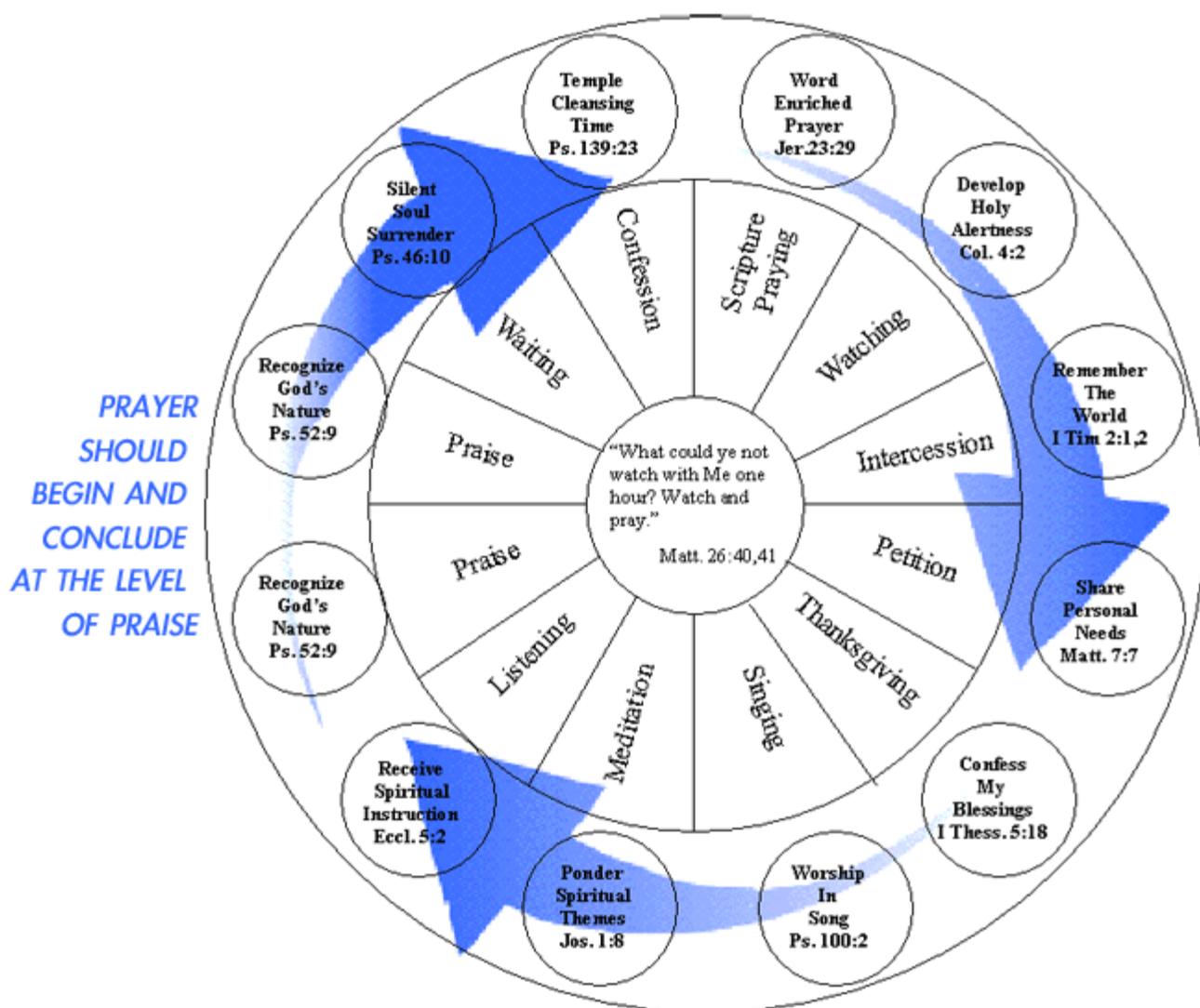
3. TO ENCOURAGE prayer for all in authority: 1 Timothy 2:13 "... I admonish *and* urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet *and* undisturbed 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 - GIVING UNTO THE LORD for the ministry of His 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.

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— we express gratitude to God for His many blessings, care, and protection; and give thanks for WHO HE IS! (Luke 17:11-19)

Thanksgiving helps us focus on God's faithfulness. **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, 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

THE FOLLOWING PAGES... ARE AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE AS TO THE CURRENT 'VIRUS' ... ETC.

CORONAVIRUS NEWS REPORT

AmericanWire@theusawire.com 3/24/20

UNITED STATES

50,206 Confirmed Cases

↑ **6,992** Last 24 Hours

606 Total Deaths

↑ **27** Last 24 Hours

WORLDWIDE:

409,014 Confirmed Cases

↑ **33,556** Last 24 Hours

18,246 Total Deaths

↑ **1,835** Last 24 Hours

President Trump, says he wants country 'opened up by Easter'

"We need to open this country up," said President Trump in a Fox News Q&A earlier today. The president is hopeful that a national coronavirus recovery will occur by Easter.

The president warned the country that more people will be lost to an economic recession or depression than to the flu.

Approximately 90% of people have tested negative for COVID-19, according to Dr. Jerome Adams.

The U.S. has done more tests in the last eight days than South Korea has done in the past eight weeks.

PERSPECTIVE:

After several days of testing in the US, the numbers are starting to look closer to what you would expect from a harsh flu season.

PERSPECTIVE:

** The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic killed 675,000 out of US population of 103,268,000 or about — **1 in 200**

** The 2020 Coronavirus has killed [As of now, 606] out of a population of 333,546,000 or [ABOUT] — **1 in 1,000,000,000**

As we have reported several times now — the Director of the World Health Organization created an international panic when he miscalculated the coronavirus mortality rate... to be much higher than it is.

[The controversial Ethiopian politician and Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, claimed in a press conference in early March

that the fatality rate for the coronavirus was MUCH HIGHER THAN that of the fatality rate of the common flu. This FALSE PREMISE has led to the greatest economic panic in world history!]

[COMMENT: Pray that this DOES NOT TAKE PLACE... BUT, When the economic FALL OUT from this is finished... who knows how many mega thousands, if not millions, will be pushed into dire poverty... will be unable to have even basics necessary for general good health... thus, causing a severe decline in health... and thus, creating a welcome mat for all manner of diseases and virus infections. The loss of freedom and death numbers could be staggering!]

Dated Stats which make a valid point: AS OF SATURDAY, [3/21/20], the US hit a new milestone in the coronavirus pandemic. The total number of deaths in the United States this year blamed on the coronavirus reached **348 on Saturday night**. This number — 348 — is finally higher than the confirmed flu deaths last week in the United States. There were **347 confirmed flu deaths** in the United States, as of Saturday.

NOTE: The estimated flu deaths this season in the United States via the CDC is 23,000.

THE FOLLOWING CHART... ALSO HELPS WITH 'PERSPECTIVE!'

	2019 - 2020		
	Seasonal Flu - US	Coronavirus - US	Coronavirus -Global
Number of Estimated Deaths (CDC)	23,000	348	13,067
No. of Confirmed Cases (thru testing)	231,654	26,863	308,231
No. of People Tested	1,130,489	N/A	N/A
No. of Estimated Cases	38,000,000	N/A	N/A
Death Rate (Estimated Deaths/Confirmed Cases)	10%	1.3%	4.2%
Death Rate per Estimated Cases	0.1%	N/A	N/A
Numbers via CDC and Worldometer Coronavirus			
<i>As of March 21, 2020</i>			
TGP			

FINAL WORD: IT IS NOT GOOD to be ignorant of world events; but neither is it good to be OBSESSED with FEAR and/or to blindly base one's life decisions upon those who do not understand that the CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL!

Let us be like the Tribe of Issachar, (1 Chronicles 12:32)

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that ***had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do!***”