

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 36, September 8, 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

**PREPARING FOR OCTOBER 2020— A MONTH of PRAYER and FASTING! October 1-31, 2020: This article focuses on the need for CORPORATE or CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER. Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12 informs us that, "Two are better than one" and "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken!" AS WE APPLY this principle to CONGREGATION-WIDE or CORPORATE PRAYER— is not the potential impact, obvious?**

**1. Before the Day of Pentecost**, the disciples **"all** continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..." Acts 1:14.

**2. After Pentecost**, 3,000 NEW CHRISTIANS continued steadfastly "in the Apostle's Doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

**3. When the church was afflicted** by fierce persecution, "they raised their voice to God with one accord..." Acts 4:24

**4. The first church in Europe** was born in a women's prayer meeting (Acts 16:13 - 15).

**5. When Paul and Silas** were arrested, they held a midnight prayer meeting in jail (Acts 16:22 - 26).

**JONATHAN EDWARDS** used the term, a "concert of prayer." In LEVITICUS 26, God promised many BLESSING to His people—

BLESSINGS which would flow out as a result of their love and obedience. WHEN WE ASSEMBLE as those who genuinely LOVE GOD, THE DOOR is opened to 'ASSEMBLY POWER'— "Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand. . ." (Leviticus 26:8).

**"A CONCERT OF PRAYER TO STIR REVIVAL"...** Pray **unitedly to God, that He would** manifest His presence, revive His work, advance His kingdom, encourage greater worship and service of God— which will likely be the means of awakening others, convicting them of the needs of their souls, exciting in them a great concern for their spiritual and eternal good, putting upon them a burden to cry out to God earnestly for spiritual mercies, and stirring them to join in seeking and serving of God. . . **It is . . . pleasing to God for many people . . . to unite in fervent and constant prayer,** for great outpourings of the Holy Spirit, which will advance Christ's church.

**"Prayerfulness is** the natural response of a heart that is fully caught up in all Christ is to us and for us, over us and within us, through us and before us and upon us. Christ defines our agenda in prayer. Christ opens up the door to Heaven to present our prayers... Christ is the ultimate answer to all our prayers."

**EDWARDS ALSO** ENCOURAGED PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHILDREN! "God, in His Word, has shown a remarkable regard to little children. Never was there such a glorious work amongst persons in their childhood... He has been pleased, and in a wonderful manner, to perfect praise out the mouths of babes and; and many of them have more of that knowledge and wisdom that please Him, and rendered their religious worship acceptable, than many of the great and learned men of the world."

**A.W. TOZER** (1897-1963) EXHORTS with these words: "Corporate prayer is a high Christian privilege to pray for one another within each local church body and then for other believers

throughout the world . . . . We may lack everything else, but we must have the cloud and fire of God's presence. We must have the enabling and power of the Holy Spirit. We must have the glow of the Shekinah glory of God with us. Then, even lacking all else, we still will have a true church! ***I have often heard people pray, "O Lord, send the Holy Spirit so that we may become a united people." That . . . is precisely backward.***

***The Holy Spirit comes BECAUSE we are a united people; He does not come to make us a united people. . ."*** [IN OTHER WORDS, the Holy Spirit is unleashed when we are not grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit; but are BEING FILLED with the Holy Spirit!]

Unity is necessary to the outpouring of the Spirit of God. **If you have 120 volts of electricity coming into your house but you have broken wiring, you may turn on the switch, but nothing works— no lights come on, the stove doesn't warm, the radio doesn't turn on. Why?** Because you have broken wiring. The power is ready to do its work . . . but where there is broken wiring, there is no power. Unity is necessary among the children of God if we are going to know the flow of power . . . to see God do His wonders." ***/ONE common EXPRESSION of disunity is when a congregation REFUSES to gather around JESUS for CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER!]***

LET US REMEMBER with **S.D. GORDON** (1859-1936) THAT "if there are two persons praying, there are three. If three meet to pray, there are four praying. There is always one more than you can see! JESUS PROMISES that when we gather in HIS NAME, He will ESPECIALLY be in our midst!

**MATTHEW HENRY (1662-1714) gives us a helpful word as to what he called— "JOINT-PRAYING IN CRISIS!"** Many were gathered together praying, in the dead of the night, praying for Peter, who was the next day to go to trial, that God would find out some way or other for his deliverance **[Acts 12:1-18].**  
**Observe:**

(1) They continued in prayer . . . ; they did not think it enough to have presented his case to God once, but they did it again and again. . .

(2) Now when the situation became critical, they were more fervent in prayer than before. . . He [GOD!] thus stirred up a spirit of prayer for Peter's deliverance, for He never said . . . Seek my face in vain...

(3) It has always been the practice of God's praying people to unite their forces in prayer (2 Chronicles 20:4; Esther 4:16) . . . This demonstrated both their discretion and their zeal. . .

It is valuable for Christians to ASSEMBLE in private for prayer, especially in times of distress. ***[In private... we are not to 'blow our horns... or call attention to what we are doing... just quietly GATHER!]***

**A.T. PIERSON** (1837-1911) ON "THE SYMPHONY OF PRAYER" Only God can . . . awaken the "unutterable groanings" after God and holiness; and only He can bring praying believers into sympathy and symphony in united prayer. That promise of power is dependent on agreement. . . It implies higher unity with and in the Spirit.

**Symphony**, which is the result of musical accord, is neither arbitrary nor accidental; it obeys the law of the chord. It is awakened by the Intelligent Hand which touches only such keys as are in harmony. . . .

The church is like some grand instrument on whose keys the divine Artist lays His hand, and so makes united prayer to sound, like chords of music, in God's ear. There has never been a revival but by such united supplicatory praying, and no revival has ever continued beyond the continuation of the same praying.

**E.M. BOUNDS** (1835-1913) ON "AN OCEAN OF POWER" In the spiritual realm, as elsewhere, in union there is strength; that the concentration and massing of faith, desire, and prayer increased the volume of spiritual force until it became overwhelming and irresistible in its power.

Units of prayer combined, like drops of water, make an ocean which defies resistance. So Paul, with his clear and full understanding of spiritual dynamics, determined to make his ministry as impressive, as eternal, as irresistible as the ocean, by gathering all the scattered units of prayer and drenching them on his ministry.

The explanation of Paul's prominence in labors and results, and impact on the Church and the world, may be found in this fact that he was able to center on himself and his ministry more of prayer than others.

**CHARLES SPURGEON** (1834-1893) ON "THE POWER OF BLENDED PRAYER!" The prayers of **a saint** are sweet, but the prayers of **saints** are sweeter. United prayers possess the power of harmony. . . If you put all these prayers together—the prayers of the tender and the brave, the prayers of the awestruck and the familiar, the prayers of the importunate and the self-sacrificing—they fill the golden bowl of incense full of sweet odors. . . Let us blend our prayers. . . And the golden censer of God's church, full of the prayers of the saints, shall then become a weapon to prevail with men. God will fill it full of coals and pour it out upon the earth. His divine power shall then be seen . . .

[Prayers of the saints, Revelation 5:8—

<https://www.gotquestions.org/prayers-of-the-saints.html>]

**Pray!** You have the key in the door of heaven— keep it there and turn it till the gate shall open. **Pray**, for prayer holds the chain that binds the old dragon. Prayer can hold fast and restrain Satan himself. Pray. God girds you with omnipotence if you know how to pray.

**ALEXANDER MACLAREN** (1826-1910) ON "RELEASING POWER IN MISSIONS!" "Much prayer for the cause of missions by those at the home base means power released on the mission field, and . . . weakness at home means weakness on the mission field."

**JOHN A. MACMILLAN** (1873-1956) ON "THE WIDER EFFECT OF CORPORATE PRAYER" United prayer by a body of spiritually alert believers gives a broader approach to any subject presented before the throne of grace. Every aspect is considered: the glory of the Lord, the effect upon the progress of the kingdom, the need of the world, the personal claim of the praying group.

Brethren, . . . the responsibility lies with you . . . to roll back the powers of the air, and make it possible to press forward with the Truth in these regions where the devil is blocking the way; to pray out . . . laborers in each part of the field and seek Holy Spirit power upon them and the work. . . . Who will join in this ministry?

**IGNATIUS** (108-140AD, a pastor, a disciple of the Apostle John, died a martyr) ON "CORPORATE POWER OVER SATAN" If the prayer of one or two possesses such power that Christ stands in the midst of them, how much more will the prayer of the pastor and of the whole Church, ascending up in harmony to God, prevail for the granting of their petitions in Christ. . . For when you come frequently together in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and his "fiery darts" urging to sin fall back without effect.

For your concord and harmonious faith prove his destruction, and the torment of his assistants. Nothing is better than that peace which is according to Christ, by which all war, both of aerial and terrestrial spirits, is brought to an end. "For we wrestle not against blood and flesh, but against principalities and

powers, and against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

**ANDREW MURRAY** (1828-1917) ON "RULING THE WORLD BY CORPORATE PRAYER!" In the unity of faith, love, and the Spirit, the power of the Name and the presence of Jesus acts more freely, and the answer comes more surely. . . What an extraordinary

privilege united prayer is! What a potential power it has! . . . What blessing might be gained **if the believing husband and wife** knew they were joined together in the Name of Jesus to experience His presence and power in united prayer (1 Peter 3);

**if friends** were aware of the mighty help two or three praying in concert could give each other;

**if in every prayer meeting** we came together in Jesus' Name, with faith in His presence, and expectation of the answer;

**if in our local church we united, and effective prayer** was regarded as one of the chief purposes for which we are banded together;

**if in our local Church** the coming of the kingdom and of the King Himself were really a matter of unceasing, united crying to God!

**Lord, teach us to pray . . . grant especially,** blessed Lord, that Your Church may believe that it is by the power of united prayer that she can bind and loose in heaven, cast out Satan, save souls, remove mountains, and hasten the coming of the kingdom.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**, in *Only A Prayer Meeting*: "We shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general UNTIL

THE PRAYER MEETING OCUPIES A HIGHER PLACE IN THE ESTEEM OF CHRISTIANS!”

**ERROLL HULSE**, in “The Vital Place of the Prayer Meeting” writes: “You can tell with a fair degree of accuracy what the church is like by the demeanor or substance of the weekly prayer meeting. **Is there** genuine evangelistic concern? If so, it will be expressed in the prayers. **Is there** a heartfelt longing for the conversion of unconverted family members? If so, that is sure to surface. **Is there** a world vision and a fervent desire for Revival and the Glory of our Redeemer among the nations of the world? Such a burden cannot be suppressed...”

Intercession in the prayer meeting will soon reveal a loving church that cares for those who are oppressed and weighed down with trials and burdens. Those bearing trials too painful or personal to be described in public will nevertheless find comfort in the prayer meeting, for there the Holy Spirit is especially at work.”

**PETER MASTERS**, in “The Power of the Prayer Meeting” writes: “In the prayer gathering preoccupation with ourselves as individual believers slips away, and we become a group of people longing for the blessing of others, and for the prospering of the cause. In the prayer gathering we are refined and honed... It cements unions and promotes respect... the church that prays together, stays together.”

**LEWIS THOMPSON**, in “The Prayer Meeting and Its Improvement” 1878. “If it is true that the kind of piety in a church rises no higher than it manifests itself in a prayer meeting, so that here, has one a barometer. All changes in spiritual life are faithfully recorded, then certainly too much attention cannot be given, by both the pastor and people, to the conducting of the prayer meeting.”

**EDWIN HATFIELD**, in “The Social Prayer Meeting” 1844. Those who conscientiously and habitually participate in prayer meetings “experience more sweet and pure delight in the very exercise...grow more rapidly and steadily in grace... become the most devotional, active and useful Christians... and become the life and soul, as it were, of the church.”

**JOEL BEEKE**, in “Attending Prayer Meetings” challenges: ***Prayer is the normal means that God uses to shower His Heavenly blessings upon the earth...***

***We customarily record our appointments on our calendar.***

***\*\*\* Will you mark our church prayer meetings on your calendar as engagements of the highest priority for you and your entire family?***

***\*\*\* Will you prepare for our prayer meetings and encourage others in the church family to come?***

***\*\*\* Let us treasure prayer meetings. Let us engage in it with all our heart remembering that Revivals usually begin with prayer meetings.”***

**Prayerlessness** is a root sin. If we are too busy to ASSEMBLE for CHURCH-WIDE pray then we are busier than God wants us to be.[The above article was Edited from Dr. Peter Hammond]

**Grace to one and all! James Bell**  
[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: New Study— *The Epistle to the HEBREWS, Chapter 1!***

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, September 15, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

## **SUNDAYS— September 13, 20, 27:**

**\*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

**\*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events:

**\*\*\* September 13, 5:30pm-** Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

**\*\*\* September 20, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME**

**GROUPS, in the evening.**

**\*\*\* September 27, 6:00pm-** Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... presently an important STUDY on PRAYER, using R.C. Sproul videos...

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***TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...***

***WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm—***

***\*\* Adult Prayer Service    \*\* Young FAMILIES Prayer Service***

**\*\*\* HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

**1. IF YOU ARE SICK... OR** if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency **or if** (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; **or if** you have • **Fever;** • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.... **please stay home!**

**2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such.**

**3. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'—** 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

**4. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. *IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.***

5. **IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE—** no unsupervised Children!

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**6. THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for September 13 ... SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)** [At the same location, you can access our YOUTUBE page... FOR previous services; Men's and Ladies Bible Studies!]

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**7. LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @ <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**