



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 38, September 22, 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

We are devoting SEPTEMBER AS PREPARATION DAYS for a month long OCTOBER COMMITMENT TO PRAYER AND FASTING! SIGN UP at end of this newsletter! PRAYER & FASTING: October 1-31, 2020: Here are a few reasons:

***** [1] Chief among them is that we need to be much more focused in INTIMACY with and in the worship of the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDS!**

***** [2] Moreover, we need to be much more focused upon and being 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 us also heed the Biblical prayer call of 1 Timothy 2:1-3 — "... 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, by means of prayer and fasting we are issuing a call to WORSHIP and ADORE the LORD our GOD!**

We are issuing 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!

9/22/20... PRAYER: LAYING HOLD OF GOD'S WILLINGNESS!

(Article is edited from Mike Riccardi, <http://thecripplegate.com/prayer-laying-hold-of-gods-willingness/>)

“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. (Matthew 6:7-8) JESUS teaches His disciples, (and us!) not to pray with mindless repetition, but with a restful confidence in the sovereignty and omniscience of God— simply repeating words without engaging our heart is not acceptable before God.

GOD ALWAYS CALLS FOR RIGHT HEART ATTITUDES:

PSALM 69:30-31 - I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving. **HOSEA 6:6** - For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

ISAIAH 29:13 - This people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote...

MATTHEW 6:9-13 - Notice that in verse 9, Jesus doesn't say, "Pray *this*," but "Pray *in this way*." He's not dictating a liturgy, or prescribing a mantra to be thoughtlessly recited. **He's offering a model prayer, a way to pray, a guide to praying.** As Jesus'

disciples, then, we don't "say prayers," as if only our mouths were involved. Rather, we pray with our heart, mind, and soul engaged.

But the prohibition of meaningless repetition is not at odds with the command to pray with perseverance. Jesus instructs us to pray persistently... as the widow in Luke 18:1-8. In fact, Jesus Himself uses repetition in His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, Matt. 26:39-44.

The difference is in the word *meaningless*. Worship is all about the heart. Is our heart engaged in our prayers? When we pray, do we do so out of a deep sense of urgency and hope in the God who knows what we need even before we ask Him? The point is: praying itself doesn't earn us a hearing. Prayer, first and foremost, is worship, and so chiefly concerns the heart.

We're Not Trying to Twist God's Arm

Another reason we are not to use meaningless repetition is that our Father knows what we need before we ask it. **A proper view of God's sovereignty must inform our prayers.**

Firstly, we need to acknowledge that we're not praying so we can twist God's arm. We don't pray to change God's mind so that He'll do something He really doesn't want to do. We don't go to our Father to haggle and bargain and then purchase blessings with our many words. No, we pray in order to receive as gifts the blessings Christ has purchased for us.

JOHN PIPER: "In other words, every answer to prayer that would be good for us, Christ purchased by his blood. We did not and cannot purchase them. So when we go to PRAY, we are not DOING IT to make a purchase, or to negotiate. RATHER, God has ordained **that what Christ obtained for us, we receive by asking.**"

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: I must get rid of this thought that God is standing between me and my desires and that which is best for me. **I must see God as my Father** who has purchased my ultimate good in Christ, and is waiting to bless me with His own fullness in Christ Jesus.”

MOREOVER, Jesus says that we do not need to use meaningless repetition in our prayers because *our Father* knows what we need before we ask it. He is our loving, caring, and *infinitely wise* Father who knows our needs better than we do. He will give us what is best for us.

And so our prayers must reflect the rest we have in the confidence of God’s sovereignty, wisdom, and goodness. Martin Luther said, that “prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”

THE DRIVING FORCE OF OUR PRAYER LIFE!

“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ...”
(Matthew 6:9) Everything we ask for in prayer and everything we do in our lives is to be asked for and done *so that* God would be glorified— so that the beauty of His manifold perfections would be magnified for all to see.

The glory of God should not only drive us to pray; it should also shape all that for which we pray! GOD Himself has stated that He does all He does with a chief regard for the glory of His own name.

[Isaiah 42:8](#) – I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another.

[Isaiah 43:7](#) – Everyone... whom I have created for My glory.

[Isaiah 43:25](#) - I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake.

[Isaiah 48:11](#) - For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; for how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

[Ezekiel 36:22-23](#) - It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went....I will vindicate the holiness of My great name.

[Ephesians 1:11-12](#) - ...according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

And He has given us the same command: to glorify Him — to make much of Him — in all that we do. Every way in which we conduct our lives must be controlled by the desire for God's name to be hallowed by all people, for His glory to be magnified in the sight of all creation.

[1 Corinthians 10:31](#) - Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. [1 Peter 4:11](#) - Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus Himself prayed this way: [John 12:28](#) - As He acknowledges that His soul has become troubled as He contemplates His work to be completed on the cross, the request JESUS makes to God for the comfort of His soul is, "Father, glorify Your name." [John 17:1](#) - As He began to pray concerning His

crucifixion, He opened with these words: “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You.”

R. C. Sproul: “He is teaching us to ask that God’s name would be regarded as sacred, that it would be treated with reverence, and that it would be seen as holy. We must see this if we are to pray according to the pattern Jesus set for us.”

John Piper: “We pray for ourselves and for other followers of Jesus and for the world that we would reverence and cherish the name of God above things. This is the first function of prayer — to pray that people would pursue the glory of God.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: “It means a burning desire that the whole world may bow down before God in adoration, in reverence, in praise, in worship, in honour and in thanksgiving. Is that our supreme desire? Is that the thing that is always uppermost in our minds whenever we pray to God? I would remind you again that it should be so whatever our circumstances.”

Is that our supreme desire? Is that the thing uppermost in our affections, in *whatever* we do? May God grant that it would be so!

This first petition of the Disciple’s Prayer teaches us that we must re-orient all our thinking and all our desires to be entirely in tune with God’s glory.

As a disciple of Christ, I want to follow Him. I want to think like He thought, and be concerned about what He was concerned about. And, as He makes evident both by His example and by giving priority to this first petition, Jesus was concerned about glorifying the Father.

Therefore, the desire for the name of God to be glorified in the sight of all people must *drive all* of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. This includes our prayer lives.

WHAT ABOUT 'PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT'?

Ephesians 6:18— “With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God’s people.”

Jude 20-21— “But you, dear friends, build your-selves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

There are two participants involved with prayer in the Spirit - the Holy Spirit and us: Our part is to pray “**always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**” and “**to be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.**” This does not mean that we have to be on our knees all day and night with eyes closed in prayer.

Prayer in the Spirit is an inner activity of the mind and spirit where we maintain a type of open dialogue with God through the Holy Spirit, always guided by the plumbline of God's Word.

In order to always be in prayer, we’ll need to be in control of our thoughts. When our thoughts are stuck on sinful fantasies, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to be in prayer. This is one of the reasons why we are to use the spiritual weapons God gives us to continually be “**Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and**

bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ!"
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

The definition of supplication is "asking for humbly or earnestly, as by praying" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). Prayer is an acknowledgement that we are not in control and need God to intervene. This attitude opens the door for communication with God, who can direct and apply our prayers in ways far beyond our understanding. Therefore, when we pray to God, we should do so earnestly in humility, inviting the Holy Spirit to work in the situation as God wills. It is really that simple.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE: Once we've prayed, the Spirit intercedes for us and pleads in our behalf according to God's will. **Paul described how the Spirit intercedes in Romans 8:26-27:**

"So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.

And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will." (Romans 8:26-27, Amplified)

Leaving prayer concerns in God's hands can be challenging for us if we're prone to being in control and thinking we know what God should do.

Too often prayer becomes us telling God what to do, i.e. praying *our* will instead of *his* will be done (Matthew 6:10). In situations where God's will is unclear, we should take care not to presume his will.

Praying in the Spirit requires that we speak intelligible words, simply lifting up the situation to God, and trusting that the Holy Spirit will intercede perfectly for us.

What prayer in the Spirit accomplishes: There are some important things that happen when we pray in the Spirit. Specifically, prayer in the Spirit: Perfects our prayer (Romans 8:26) Takes our case directly before God (Romans 8:27) Increases effectiveness of prayer for others (intercessory prayer) (Romans 8:27) Aligns our prayer with God's will (Romans 8:26-27)

Grace to one and all! James Bell
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 29, 11:00am: Women of the Bible! (Exodus 2:1-10 — The mother of Moses, Jochebed!)**

SUNDAY— September 27:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. ***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Event:

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

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... NOW... MEETING IN the 'Big Learning Center'... ENTER BACK OF BUILDING, through DOUBLE DOORS, under Drive-Thu Awning // ** 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.**

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

3. 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.

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

5. THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for **September 27 ... GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:**

6. 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>

A MONTH of PRAYER and FASTING!

October 1-31, 2020: BECAUSE OF OUR CALL TO BE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS IN A DARK, DARK WORLD—

OCTOBER



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Saturday	31

NOTE: **Please** contact Church Secretary of which Date(s) you select for PRAYER and FASTING.

We want all the DAYS filled... but it does not matter if more than one PERSON is signed up on a day...

If you want our secretary, Caryn, to REMIND you of your chosen day make sure she has your email address... The 'Breeze' Church management system... will generate reminders!

Note: ANYONE receiving this Newsletter may participate!

Note: We will **not** PUBLISH the names of those who sign up.