

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 41, October 13, 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!"***

OCTOBER 1-31, 2020— A MONTH of PRAYER and FASTING! PRAYER—WATCHING WITH JESUS... FOR ONE HOUR!

These were farming people, with crops to plant, or tend, or harvest. Their days were always long and their work was never done. **HOWEVER, EVERY WEEK on Prayer Meeting Night— THEY WERE ALL THERE!** Stunned, Dr. David Gibbs turned to the pastor and asked, "Please explain this to me?"

"Well, Bro. Gibbs, we are all family and we are responsible for one another and we are commanded to pray for one another; and we also realize that we need God's wisdom and power if we are to make a difference in our community in reaching others for Christ—

So, we have just as many for Prayer meeting as we do for other Church-wide services... And, at our Prayer Meeting, the main agenda is PRAYER. We actually spend most of the time praying for each other and for those in the world to whom we seek to reach and minister!"

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER MEETING REALITY: The issue is (1) Not lack of time, (2) Nor how tired we are, (3) Nor a thousand other excuses— The issue that each of us has to face up to is this: ***What is the level of my LOVE, VISION, PRIORITY, and DEPENDANCE UPON GOD!*** JESUS was agonizing in prayer in Gethsemane; the

disciples were sleeping. JESUS asked, **“Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?”** (Matthew 26:40) In the book, *THE HOUR THAT CHANGES THE WORLD*, the Author gives some very helpful PRAYER HELPS. **The intent is not** to ‘watch the clock’ or to be legalistic— but to offer helps in praying! **LET US START WITH PRAISE:**

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. **THE MODEL PRAYER**, which Jesus exhorts us to pray, (Matthew 6:9-13), starts with the HALLOWING of God’s name— this is glorious praise unto God! **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 and love. **LET US Wait** at His door in Prayer; **Wait** at His feet in humility; **Wait** at His table with service; **Wait** at His window with expectancy; and **Wait** in His Word and be transformed! (2 Cor. 3:17-18) **Isaiah 40:28-31** is a strong encouragement to wait upon the LORD!

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) **Let us STOP confessing the sins of**

others and instead confess OUR OWN sin and be healed!

(James 5:16) Let us STOP excusing our own sin by blaming circumstances or others! God forgives sin, not excuses!

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 in which to rejoice and be moved to worship!? (Jeremiah 1:5-12; 23:29; Isaiah 40:8-10; 44:24-26; 55:10-11) **The Bible is full of prayers which**, as we read and meditate upon them, the Holy Spirit will guide us in personalizing them.

5. WATCHING is a time of observation. (Col 4:2) Let us remain alert to spiritual opposition and strengthen ourselves with by the Word of God, quickened by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 14, 15) **Let us be alert for** guidance from the LORD, for insight, discernment, wisdom, God's agenda, etc. **ASK:** What is going on in my life, family, church, community, state, nation, or world to which God wants to connect the insight or wisdom He has given and turn it into prayer for 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 they will recognize work as a gift from God and their workplace as His mission field for them. 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, personal needs, loved ones, etc. — all the while desiring that your requests are in tune with His will. 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 blessings— that is, what He has done for others. 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); **Let us** sing of God's Word (Ps 119:54) and 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! 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, (NASB) *“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”*

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. Genuine, Biblical Christian meditation is an active process of evaluating, investigating, and looking into **the pure Word of God**, looking to the Holy Spirit to illuminate, 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 who are telling Christians to be silent and just listen for God to speak, are 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 places the plumb-line of Scripture to it, judges it, and if need be exposes it as false.

In contrast: In prayer, let us BE QUIET! Let us LISTEN 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 (from time to time) 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!”***

SPECIAL NEWS NOTE:

BETWEEN NOW AND THE NATIONAL ELECTION and the weeks following the election— these days ARE and will likely be a very critical time in America. HOW DARK will it have to get BEFORE I, before we, take prayer MORE seriously?

DURING THESE WEEKS — LET US EACH and together as a Body of Believers set aside sacred TIME for prayer!

LET US ESPECIALLY PRAY FOR,

(1) Christians in persecution!

(2) Missions/Missionaries— here in Gallatin and around the world!

(3) Leaders of Nations, in accordance with 1 Timothy 2:1-4. NOTE: WHATEVER we pray about the ELECTION and AMERICA needs to be 'bathed' in the context of 1 Timothy 2:1-4!

(4) Prayer for the work of God through Southside!

(Other matters, situations, and/or people will doubtless be prayed for during these days. The above is set forth as an encouragement as to a church-wide focus.)

Great Grace to All! www.southsidegallatin.org James Bell

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: New Studies— *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!* (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, October 27, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAYS— OCTOBER 18, 25

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:**

Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

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

Additional Sunday Events:

October 18, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening!

October 25, 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— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning

**** Adult Prayer Service Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer**

***** 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.

ADDED NOTE: In addition to carefulness, and good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG

IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITIMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

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.***

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING— No unsupervised Children!

FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service of October 18... GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org [You can also connect to our YouTube page for past messages & Bible Studies!]

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>