



40 Day Prayer Guide

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

The following 40 Day Prayer Guide is meant to encourage and challenge all of us to a more robust personal daily prayer life.

Many churches are and have used this devotional tool, much of the material for this guide is derived from the [40 Days of Prayer: Devotional Guide for Church Revitalization](#).

Our hope is that this devotional guide will be used of God to help us fulfill our mission/vision/values for our church, for our community, and for a renewed passion for prayer, that we would:

Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. To cultivate fervent, frequent, heartfelt prayer that flows out of an ever-increasing love of and dependence on Jesus, and by supporting all ministries at our church.

You will see a gradual progression in this guide from prayer that focuses on our own spiritual journey with the LORD, towards prayer that looks for the continued fulfillment of the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment!

As you take up the time to read the short passages and pray the suggested prayers set out in this guide, we sincerely hope and pray that “the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”.

Romans 15:13

WEEK 1**Day 1 - Avoid the Tragedy of Unbelief:**

Read Matthew 13:53-58 “And He did not do many works there because of their unbelief.”

Unbelief always has negative consequences on our faith and can shut the door on the transformational power of the Gospel. In contrast to unbelief are these passages of Scripture where Jesus worked miracles in response to the faith present in the lives of people. (Read Matthew 9:2; 9:22; 15:28; Mark 10:52; Luke 8:48)

When Jesus looks at our lives what does He see? An attitude of grace, love, faith, courage, or unbelief? Do you believe Jesus can do a work of renewal and revitalization in you and in our church? Do you believe He will?

If your unbelief is a roadblock to Jesus working in our church, in our community then please, humble yourself before the Lord and confess the sin of unbelief.

Prayer: Ask God to strengthen your faith in Him. (Mark 9:24)

Day 2 - Remember God's Power

Read Jeremiah 32:17-44

“Ah, Lord God! It is You who have made the heavens and earth by Your great power and with Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You!”

Creation was just the beginning of God's mighty display of power. Jeremiah reminds us that God led His people - the seed of Abraham - out of Egypt with signs and wonders (verse 21).

As we read the Scripture, we are reminded that this same God sent Jesus to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, die on a cross for our sins - be resurrected - raised to life on the third day and is soon to return! Only God could do that!

Have you forgotten or taken for granted God's ability to work miracles? Today recall the many great things that God has done as recorded in Scripture.

Now, remember the great things He has done in your life. Remember the great things He has done in our church and set our hearts to what God will do, for a time such as this!

Prayer: Ask God to do a work of renewal and unity in our church that only He can do!

Day 3- Confess Pride/Embrace Humility

Read Luke 18:9-14

“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Pride can be so subtle at times and yet so damaging. It is not always easy to detect in our own lives. Jesus understood this, so He gave us a picture of what pride and humility looks like with the two characters in this parable.

The prayer of this Pharisee was concerned with justifying himself stating, “I fast twice a week, I give a tenth of everything I get.” In contrast, humility's main concern is different, it asks - “what does God think about me?”

Pray that God will reveal any areas of unhealthy pride in your life and show you His way to true humility.

Day 4 - Purify Your Heart

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

Jesus teaches that the pure in heart are blessed.. When was the last time you saw God, in creation, in things He has done in-and-through your life and circumstances?

Because we will miss the wonder of God’s presence until we seek it with a pure heart, with right motives. As a result, sometimes our spiritually pure heart can look more like days of-old snow, kind of cloudy or murky.

As you read this verse today, is your heart, your desire pure? The church needs people with a sincere heart, with right desires to see God working in our church, in our community, all for His glory!

God, show me today areas in my heart that are not sincere, giving me the strength to turn those parts over to you. Give me the passion to keep my heart from worshiping my own preferences, which can become idols.

Day 5 - Search Me, O God

Read Psalm 139:23-24 - "Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts."

Health care experts tell us that annual physical exams are wise and that early detection is key to physical health..

Spiritual health requires periodic exams as well. Therefore, we must make a decision to carve out and set a daily time to be with the One who can reveal the most intimate things about us, He who knows us better than we even know ourselves.

During the moments of solitude, we need to ask the Lord to search our hearts and know our thoughts and see if there's any grievous way in our attitudes and desires.

Is Jesus still your First Love? Are we guilty of simply going through the motions? Do we love the people in our church?

Are we flirting with temptation, taking your queues from those *'notifications'*, those *'pings'*, looking at those instagram images that are not beneficial to you? Are we being disciplined by the internet, by social media, by the sifting cultural tides of the world?

How long has it been since your last spiritual examination? Consider setting a time, securing a place, practicing a daily time of solitude with God, reading His word and praying!

With an open Bible and blank piece(s) of paper, ask God to search your heart and attitude.

Day 6 - He Must Become Greater

Read John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."

John The Baptist's heart was in the right place. He desired to see people focus on Jesus, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. He wanted the watching world to remember Jesus' name, not his own name.

Jesus increases when He receives the glory and honour that are due Him, when His grace and His truth are embraced, loved and given, and when He is followed with heartfelt devotion and surrender.

As you reflect on your life, are you following John the Baptist's inspirational example? Is the spotlight shining on you or on the One who saves, transforms and who is sanctifying you?

Prayer: If Jesus is increasing, praise the Father. If you're increasing, repent and experience a fresh start, a new beginning.

Day 7 - Take a Soil Test

Read Matthew 13:1-9

“Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Jesus addressed a large gathering of people, telling a parable. In it the farmer scattered seed, it fell along the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil.

What is the present condition of your heart?

In Jesus’ parable, He talks about four kinds of soil:

1. **A calloused heart.** This person merely goes through the motions.
2. **A shallow heart.** This person is often immature in the faith, a mile wide, but only an inch deep.
3. **A distracted heart.** This person battles with fear, anxiety, the worries of life and the deceitfulness of riches.
4. **A productive heart.** This person lives their life to fulfill God’s mission.

In order to plant a garden, the ground (soil) must first be tilled or broken up. If you desire to yield a spiritual harvest, then brokenness, weakness, and humble submission to God is what He uses.

Are you willing to be broken for God’s glory? What is currently breaking your heart and spirit? What kind of soil are you currently in?

Prayer: Ask the Lord today to show you the real condition of your heart. If you have a calloused, shallow, or distracted heart, allow the Lord to change you.

WEEK 2**Day 8 Ask, Seek, and Knock**

Read Matthew 7:7-12 - "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you."

The Bible is clear that God answers the fervent prayers of His people according to His will, and we know it is His will for His church to be unified, and healthy.

We should never give up on prayer. In fact, we should pray regularly and intensely, at all times! The verbs "ask, seek, and knock" are expressed in a form that denotes continuous action. Jesus is literally saying, "Ask, and keep on asking. Seek, and keep on seeking. Knock, and keep on knocking."

Do you regularly pray with intensity and authenticity for our church, our church leaders?

So, whatever you do, please do not quit praying!.

Prayer: Ask, seek, and knock! Begin your journey of ongoing, fervent prayer for your church today. God will answer in His time.

Day 9 - Value His Name

“And Samuel said to the people, “Don’t be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that can’t profit or deliver; for they are empty. For the LORD will not forsaken His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.” 1 Samuel 12:20-22

These verses in 1 Samuel remind us that even during times when we have drifted away and rebelled, sinned against the Lord, we must not turn from HIM, but rather turn back to HIM.

He will not forsake you. Not that we have the value in-and-of-ourselves; rather because His name and glory is what is truly valuable.

Do you see the value of the name of the LORD? Does your life reflect how much value you see in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Pray today that the value of God’s name would be seen in your life so that a world may see HIM. Pray that our church would reflect the glory of the name of the LORD Jesus Christ.

Day 10 - Bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Read Galatians 5:22-26 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such there is no law.”

As disciples of Jesus, we are to daily yield to the control of the Holy Spirit. Verse 25 encourages us to “live by the Spirit” and “follow the Spirit,” in faithful maturity.

When the Holy Spirit is in control, our lives will be characterized by growing in our faith. God’s plan is to produce all these qualities in us as we yield to Him. When the Holy Spirit is not in control of our lives, we can yield to angry outbursts, become unloving, critical, joyless, restless, impatient, unkind.

If the person who knows you best, used the qualities in verses 22 and 23 as a checklist, what words would they choose to describe you? Would they describe you as a loving person? A person characterized by joy and contentment? Would they refer to you as a patient person? A maturing disciple of Jesus as evidenced by the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Yield today to the work of the Holy Spirit in you. Ask God to produce in you the ongoing fruit of His Holy Spirit.

Day 11 - Forfeit My Agenda

Read Luke 22:39-46 - “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup away from Me — nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

Jesus was fully God and fully man. In this passage we see the humanity of Jesus as He agonizes with the will of the Father in light of His imminent suffering, death, burial and victorious resurrection.

Jesus realized that in a few short hours He would carry the weight of the world’s sin. The Scripture states that, “For our sake then, He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” As Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed with such intensity that His “sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” (verse 44)

On the one hand He wanted the Father to remove the cup of suffering. On the other hand, He realized that the same suffering and death were necessary for the salvation of precious souls and the fulfillment of the Father’s plan for Him and for all of creation. Therefore, He ultimately prayed, “Not my will but Yours be done.”

Above all Jesus wanted the will of the Father to be carried out in His life.

Pray today that you would be willing to lay down your own plans, preferences, productions, personalities and the past - your own agenda - in order that the plan of God might be carried out in our church, our community and in the world.

Day 12 - Be Controlled by the Holy Spirit

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, set their minds on the things of the Spirit.” Romans 8:5

The text in Romans 8:5 reminds us that by our very nature we are controlled by the flesh, by sinful desires. This passage also tells us that those controlled by the Holy Spirit respond in a biblical, humble, godly way.

In a normal day as things happen around us, how we respond shows which we are controlled by, our sinful nature, fleshly nature, or by the Holy Spirit.

How would your life be different if you chose to be controlled by the Holy Spirit? What about our church, how would our church be different?

Pray God will show you areas of your life you need to allow Him to control. Also, pray for the leaders in our church to be guided by Him.

Day 13 - Forgive One Another

Read Ephesians 4:25-32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

The Scripture passage for today sites several possible responses that often accompany the hurts we encounter such as anger (verse 26), bitterness, wrath, malice (verse 31).

When we identify these things in our lives we are challenged to “remove” or “put away” these things. In place of these responses, we are called to choose the response of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is the way God has chosen to relate to us, it is the righteousness of God. Forgiveness is also the way God encourages us to relate to each other.

Forgiveness means we treat the person in the future as if they had not hurt us, as we release them of the debt owed by the hurt caused, but it’s not easy.. Forgiveness involves refusing to relate to the person out of revenge, anger and bitterness.

Have you or are you harbouring anger, bitterness, wrath or malice toward someone, in church, your neighbourhood, or in your family?

Take time today to confess your sinful response to that person. Choose with the help and grace of God to forgive that person. Ask God to identify the presence of unforgiveness in your life. Confess the sin of unforgiveness. Ask God to produce in your life a humility and graciousness that honours Him.

Day 14 - Raise Up New Leaders

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2- “And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

One of the common needs voiced by pastors and church members is the need for more godly, qualified men and women as leaders. That we need people to lead in the worship and children’s ministry, to work with youth, to do outreach, to give financially for the work of the church and on and on. But where will these leaders come from?

The Apostle Paul gives Timothy the answer concerning the need for more leaders: you raise them up. How? By other mature Christian leaders who are able to mentor, teach and train faithful men and women to become leaders who then will then teach and train others.

Are you willing to personally train an another person in our church to become a leader or would you be willing to be trained yourself to eventually lead in some way in our church?

Please pray today that God will guide our congregation in developing new leaders from within our church family.

WEEK 3**Day 15 - Teach Me to Love**

Read I Thessalonians 4:9-12 - “Now concerning brotherly love: you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.”

Many problems in many churches can be overcome by love. Love of God, love of God’s word and love of God’s people, this causes most conflicts to be settled. This love prompts a church to serve their community. This love moves us to respect and be understanding of each other.

But what if we just don’t have that much love? 1 Thessalonians 4:9 gives hope to those of us who from time-to-time may come up a little short. It reveals that God can teach us to love. Because love is not so much an emotion to be experienced but an intentional action to be taken. The greatest act of love in history was Jesus on the cross.

Would you ask God today to increase your love for a person, for our church, or for someone you just don’t feel much love for?

Consider praying a prayer like this:

Dear God, I do not feel much love for _____. I’m asking, and counting on you to teach me to love_____ the way you love him/ her. Thank you for hearing my prayer, prayed in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Day 16 - Be a Peacemaker

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”- Matthew 5: 9

When conflict permeates a church we see trust broken and lives affected often for long periods of time. When conflict happens inside the church, the only winner is Satan. Most church conflict has little to do with biblical issues and more to do with individual choices.

Jesus teaches us that grace and peacemakers are needed. A peacemaker finds ways to quash the conflict to help the church work in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace.

The actions of a few can cause the church to lose its effectiveness in the community - or be reconciled to each other and be even more effective than before! Is there conflict in your life, in our church?

Pray that God would help all people in our church to overflow with joy and peace through His Holy Spirit and that God would help you identify ways to become a peacemaker, in our church and in our community.

Day 17 - Be a Servant Read

Read Mark 10:42-45 “And whoever would be first among you must be a slave to all.” – Mark 10:44

Jesus has called us to be “ministers” or “servants.” Servants are needed. Servants that will give their time, talents and treasure to impact people with their heads, hearts, hands and habits.

The value of servanthood is critical as we seek church health, unity, revitalization and renewal. What ways do you serve others in our church?

**Pray asking God to show you ways you can serve the Body of Christ through our church.
Ask God to give you the best understanding of where to serve.**

Day 18 - Begin with Brokenness

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

“As soon as I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

Nehemiah serves as an example of a leader who was heart-broken over a city and its people. Enemies destroyed the wall around Jerusalem, leaving the city in a vulnerable position. The people were in great trouble and disgrace. Nehemiah sought God's heart, he was available for God to use.

Nehemiah painted a clear picture of what revitalization looks like in our day.

(1) Nehemiah asked questions. He wanted to know about the city and its people. What questions do you need to ask? Is our church in need of unity, renewal? Are the people committed to sharing Jesus and developing believers in the faith?

(2) Nehemiah accepted reality. He heard the news that the wall was broken down, and the people were in trouble. What reality do you need to accept?

(3) Nehemiah acted now. He cried, prayed, fasted, and surrendered. What do you need to do now that will lead to renewed passion in yourself, your family, our church, our city? Do you need to cry, pray, fast, surrender?

Prayer: Lord, show me areas where there may be brokenness in my life, in my family's life or in my church? Help me and my church take steps to allow you to repair and heal any brokenness in our lives and in our city.

Day 19 - Be Salt

Read Matthew 5:13-14

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It’s no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”

Our lives when lived for Jesus, can encourage others to glorify God (Matthew 5:16). To influence others for Christ is the definition of leadership, it is to be “salt.” But to influence others in negative ways is to be “salt that has lost its taste.”

As the salt of the earth, we are called to influence for Jesus and not be influenced by the changing winds of culture, or by our surroundings.

Is your daily life and witness more like a thermometer (simply measures temperature) or a thermostat (influences and sets the temperature)?

Pray that God will give you strength and wisdom to be a good, godly influence for Him.

Day 20 - Rely on God's Power

Read 1 Corinthians 4:16-20 - "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power."

What is the main focus of the church? This question brings different answers. Some may say prayer, some preaching; some worship; some community; some social justice; one or two might even say that they really don't know.

1. Are you spending time in His Word - daily?
2. Are you spending time daily talking with Him and obeying Him?

As for you, **make a commitment to be in His Word and pray daily**. Encourage others in your church to do the same then see how our church responds.

Ask God to also bring people to our church who have a heart for prayer. When we do this we will see God bring our church to a place of great humility, to continued health and to beautiful unity.

Day 21 - Strengthen Your Faith in the God Who Revives

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 - "Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live."

This vision challenged Ezekiel's faith. God asked him a remarkable question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" He replied, "Lord God, only You know." Ezekiel's response revealed his thought, "If these dry bones live again, it will require a miracle from You, oh God."

In the vision, God did what only He can do. As Ezekiel preached, the bones came together, were wrapped by muscle, sinew, and skin, and those dry bones were resuscitated, brought back to life.

The dry bones lived! Likewise, Israel was revived and restored. There is a lesson we need to learn. Do you believe by faith that what God did in Ezekiel's vision, He can do for us? For our church?

Prayer: Ask God to increase your faith as you continue to pray through this time of transition for healthy revitalization of your relationship with Jesus Christ and continued revitalization of our church.

WEEK 4

Day 22 - Discern God's Plan

Read Matthew 6:9-15 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

In this passage Jesus teaches us how to pray. Each portion of His teaching gives us an important aspect of prayer.

Our church is His church, a part of God's kingdom. His desire is that His kingdom penetrates neighbourhoods, communities, cities, and ultimately the world with the gospel of unmerited, unlimited grace.

When we pray, "Your kingdom come," we are praying for God to work in and through our church to extend His kingdom.

When we pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" we are asking God to reveal to us what He envisions for us. Through prayer we discern "next steps."

When moving forward in your personal journey with the Lord and as a church, the voice we need to hear above all others is the voice of God - through the word of God - through prayer.

Pray today asking God:

- a) **How do you want our church to carry out the Great Commission in our context?**

 - b) **To reveal to you how best you can support our church in the spirit of the Great Commandment?**
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Day 23 - Choose Your Side

Read Joshua 5:13-15 “And He said, No, but I am the commander of the army of the Lord and now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

When Joshua, preparing for the heat of battle, saw a human figure with sword drawn, he naturally went to the man and asked if he was friend-or-foe, for them or against them. The man, who Joshua soon discovered was Jesus, an earthly appearance of The Son of God. Joshua appropriately bowed down and worshiped him.

We will know that we are with God when our desires for His church matches His desires as seen in Scripture and when we are united under God-ordained leadership.

So based on the above listed criteria, are you for God and His vision for the church?

Pray today that God will help you align yourself with His vision for our church. Pray that His desires for our congregation, in the community where He has placed you, would be reflected through your words, actions, and attitudes.

Day 24 - Pursue the Keys to Healing

Read II Chronicles 7:12-14 “(If) My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

Although meant for the nation of Israel this also applies to us today. After seven years of construction, the Temple was built and dedicated. God’s presence was manifested in an unusual way. Fire fell from heaven to consume the sacrifice and God’s glory filled the Temple.

Later, God appeared to Solomon at night and told him that not every day would be like the day of dedication. There would be days when, to draw His errant people back to Himself, God would send drought and pestilence.

At such a time, God told Solomon that His people were to pursue four keys to healing:

humility, prayer, seeking of God’s face, and repentance.

Are you pursuing humility, prayer, seeking God’s face, and repentance?

Prayer: Ask God to help you and others in our church to humbly walk with Him, prayerfully depend upon Him, diligently seek His face, and honestly repent of sin that hinders fellowship with Him and with others.

Day 25- Love Jesus above All

Read Revelation 2:1-7- “But I have this against you: that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

The church at Ephesus outwardly appeared to be a wonderful congregation. Jesus Himself pointed out their hard work, faithful endurance, worthy walk, and doctrinal integrity.

The problem was that these works were performed out of a religious obligation and duty, rather than out of love and devotion for Jesus. Though they did not know it, the Ephesian Christians needed revival. They were running the risk of losing their love for the Lord.

Many believers are wearing themselves thin with busyness while seeing few results. They need a revival of the heart. They need to heed the words of Christ, “Remember then how far you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first” (Rev. 2:5a).

Is your love for Jesus the motivation for your serving Him? Tell the Lord how much you love Him. If needed, repent for allowing your love for Him to grow cold.

Day 26- Seek God First

Read Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Misplaced priorities generally lead to hurt and confusion in our lives, marriages, families, and churches. Jesus gave His followers a simple and conditional promise. If believers would make the Father’s kingdom a priority, then they would lack for nothing in life.

Seeking God first says that we’re dependent on Him, that we’re desperate for Him, that we love Him and that we’re truly dedicated to Him.

As you consider your life, marriage, family, and church, are you seeking God first? What decisions are you facing at this moment? Take Jesus’ challenge and seek the Father’s kingdom first.

Ask God to help you see your life, marriage, family, and ministry from His perspective.

Day 27 - Consider What Others Think

Read Romans 15:1-3 “Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up”.

A church is a family - we believe, belong, and become - all for His glory! It's a family made up of sinners who have been redeemed and reconciled to God through repentance and faith in his Son, Jesus Christ.

Each person in the church has an opinion about what he or she would like to see happening or not happening in our church. However, trouble often arises when those opinions clash.

Trouble decreases when the members seek to join together around a biblical mission, vision, values and strategy rather than each one pursuing his or her own desires.

Consider praying today that God will give you opportunities to listen to the desires and wishes of someone in our church from an age category or demographic other than your own.

Pray also that God will enable you to hear what is really important to them through these conversations.

Day 28 - Pursue Church Unity

Read Psalm 133:1-3 “How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!”

When a congregation is unified around knowing and serving God in the fulfillment of His purpose and vision for His church it is a beautiful thing.

Not only is God pleased with church unity, but also the people of God are freed up and enabled to experience more of the power of the Holy Spirit in their service for the Lord.

In what ways are you seeking to promote unity in our church? And is there anyone in our church family with whom you need to seek biblical reconciliation through heartfelt repentance?

Would you pray today that God will help you be a person of peace and unity in our congregation?

WEEK 5

Day 29 - Love your leaders, but please don't idolize them

Read 1 Corinthians 3:3-4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?"

The Corinthian Christians had division in the church because of different leadership personalities that God had used in their congregational life. The members picked which side they were on to the exclusion of the people who preferred the other leaders, which can still be a source of disunity in a church.

The Apostle Paul pointed out their error and challenged them to put away favouritism. We would do well today to honour past legacy of leaders God has used in the church while at the same time submitting to the Christ-like leadership God has set before us today.

What is one thing you can do this week to honour your church pastor/elders/leaders?

Consider praying for your pastor/elders and leaders that God will fill them with the Holy Spirit, restoring the joy of their salvation, affirming them in their calling, and refocusing them on the mission at hand.

Day 30 - Become a Church Cheerleader!

“And let us consider how to stir up one another in order to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

We cheer each other on when we affirm the way God is using one of our brothers and sisters in the work of ministry. We cheer the team when we participate joyfully in worship and greeting the guests with a genuine greeting.

We spur the team onto ministry effectiveness when we shout a hardy approval at the positive actions brought forth in our church meetings.

The positive attitude of one person can make a real significant difference as that individual demonstrates his or her support of the team in the hallways and gatherings of the congregation.

What is coming up, or happening now, in the life of our church for which you can offer your prayers, your support and your service?

Pray today that God will show you ways you can support our church and leaders with encouraging words as you move forward towards the Great Commission, in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

Day 31 - Discover and Do Your Part

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12 teaches that God gives a spiritual ability to every member of His church. The Holy Spirit empowers us, fills us daily to serve the body in some important way.

While congregational buy-in and unity is crucial, it is also true that one person can make a huge difference as he or she serves God whole-heartedly in the church to which he or she belongs.

One person who will witness, pray, give, serve, love and live for Jesus can inspire and impact others as well as being used by, and blessed by God in his or her faithfulness.

Instead of waiting for others to join in, decide today to be one person who will make a difference. Will you surrender yourself - bold and afresh - to Jesus in hopes of being used to renew and unify our congregation?

Consider praying today a prayer of re-surrender. Maybe you could offer yourself to God the way you did when you first came to Him. Maybe you could ask God for personal direction in how to live your Christian service to the fullest in the place where He has put you to serve and grow.

Day 32 - Build Up The Church

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-12

“So, with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”

In these verses Paul is speaking to Christians in Corinth. There is some desire to have certain spiritual gifts. Paul reminds the people that spiritual gifts are used to build up the church. But spiritual gifts must be undergirded by the Fruit of the Spirit that we read about in Galatians 5:22-23.

HAVE YOU DETERMINED YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(s)?

The other problem related to spiritual gifts in the church is the lack of people using their gift(s). If you know your spiritual gifts, then how are you using them in the church? If God gives us these gifts, He expects us to use them!

A church seeking to be the salt and the light is one that is using the spiritual gifts of the members to build up the body of the church and reach our community for Christ.

Pray today for God to show you your spiritual gifts, undergirded by the fruit of the Spirit and how He wants you to use them to build up His church.

Day 33 - Love One Another

Read John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

In the Upper Room, Jesus gave some final instructions to His apostles whom He would soon leave. He began by challenging His disciples to love one another as He had loved them.

Love, grace, truth, and unity in the church are critical to overall church health. Jesus stated that all people would know we are His disciples by our love for one another.

Is Jesus the One who can change lives? Are the lives of His followers different from those of the world? Do we truly love one another in difficult times?

Prayer: Ask God to help you love your brothers and sisters in Christ as He has loved you.

Day 34 - Schedule a Church Check-up

Read Acts 11:19-30 “The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord”.

Is your life, marriage, family, career, and church healthy? What are people saying about our church?

Here are some signs that distinguishes a healthy church:

- Commitment.
- Sharing our love of Jesus,
- evangelism.
- A “team” approach to ministry.
- Focus on the gospel.
- Focus on discipleship.
- Sacrificial generosity.
- Leadership trust, etc...

Prayer: Ask God to help you see how you can contribute to making your family and our church spiritually healthy.

Day 35- See The Power of Agreement

Read Acts 6:1-7

“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of priests became obedient to the faith.”

In Acts 6:1-7 there was a different mindset toward congregational decisions and outcomes. The church needed help with its ministry to the widows of the congregation. A solution was proposed by the leadership and the proposal found favour with the congregation (6:5).

The result was a unified church that continued to reach out with the gospel and make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

How can you aid in congregational agreement regarding upcoming decisions in our church?

Please pray that God will give wisdom to our elders, church leaders regarding moving forward and that their plans will find favour in the congregation.

WEEK 6

Day 36 - Look for God Among You

Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

“The secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

How great if this could be said about every church in our land. In a healthy church it is easy to see that God and His word are the centre of that church.

As you think about our church, who are some of the people that have or are making a difference in your life? What are some of the ministries of our church that deepen your relationship to the Lord?

Pray for God to show you how He is moving at our church and in our community. Ask God to help you reflect His presence to a lost world during this season and beyond.

Day 37 - Obey

Read Matthew 28:16-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.’”

In the act of going, Jesus hasn't called His people to merely record decisions. He has commanded that His people make disciples. The Great Commission is not optional or suggestive in nature. Jesus expects His followers to obey Him.

The Great Commission is the mission mandate for every church. A disciple is a lover, listener, learner and follower of Jesus. Jesus promises to always be with us.

You and I have been called and given an assignment that can change lives, marriages, families, churches, and our community. Let's not disobey our Saviour's marching orders!

Reflect on how you've responded to the Great Commission. Have you treated Jesus' command as optional, unimportant or even with contempt?

May you allow the Lord to use you to impact our community for His glory!

Day 38 - Raise the Temperature

Read Revelation 3:14-22 “So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”

What led the Laodicean church to be lukewarm? God’s people thought they were self-sufficient. Jesus wasn’t really needed on a day-to- day basis. In fact, He was standing outside of the church, knocking on the door.

Sometimes, not in words, but at least in actions, many churches emphasize programs rather than Jesus. The church’s Redeemer is left standing outside, to be welcomed back in.

There’s hope for a lukewarm church. Jesus gives His people an opportunity to repent and change directions.

**Pray that our Lord speaks to you about how to become a church that is on fire for Jesus!
Ask Him to show us any areas that may be “lukewarm” so we can change them.**

Day 39 - Strengthen What Remains

Read Revelation 3:1-6 “Wake up and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of My God.”

Christ said, “Strengthen the things which remain.” It sounds as if there were some things in the church that were good and pleasing to God, but which needed attention before they lost their emphasis and vitality.

Most churches have one or more areas of strengths, but also areas of weakness. Some congregations are great in missions, going on mission trips and giving money to missions.

Others are good at welcoming outsiders in and making them feel genuinely welcomed. Some are great worshipping congregations where folks are invited into the presence of God through singing and other means.

Are you able to identify one or more areas of strength for our church and what about areas that you may help to improve ?

Would you pray today that God would reveal to you and others in our church those areas where our congregation is strong. Ask God to help you build on that area of strength for His glory and to help in areas of weakness as well.

Day 40 - Evaluate Your Church

Read Revelation 3:1-6 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of Him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.’”

The adults who attend our church have invested in the life and ministry of our congregation. The young families have and the children and youth have as well. The first-time guests who visit here have an opinion about our church too.

How might the congregation’s perception of our effectiveness differ from the perspective of our first-time guests?

Consider praying today that God will help our congregation understand how He views us and what He wishes to see happen for our church to move into new life and ministry and be an influence for Jesus in our community.
