



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 34, August 20, 2024

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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A Study of Prayer (Part 2)

Steven Ford

There are many places in the Bible to open and study the topic of prayer. Each passage reveals a specific aspect of prayer that informs and encourages the reader. The book of James offers practical wisdom and instruction for those seeking to learn how to exercise their faith in the Lord. Nearing the close of his letter, James tells of the Priorities of Faith (5:1-6), the Patience of Faith (7-12) and the Prayer of Faith (13-18). In writing about the prayer of faith, three main principles can be identified, Purpose, Power, and Practice.

The Purpose of Prayer

It certainly does not take long for any person to realize that this life can be filled with hardships and trials. So, how should those hardships be met? According to James, those are the times to call upon the Lord in prayer. Since prayer allows believers to talk to their loving Father in Heaven (Matthew 6:4-6), it should be used to seek help in times of need. James gives a few examples for when prayer is needed and appropriate.

First is in times of affliction or trouble. "Is there any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is there any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13). Various kinds of trouble can vex the soul. No matter the source or degree, one should seek the Lord in prayer. Over and again, God's people have used prayer in their afflictions. From the Old Testament and into the New Testament, individuals and even groups have cried out to God in prayer.

In Numbers 21, the Children of Israel had sinned against the Lord. In judgement, God send fiery serpents among them. After many of them had been bitten, they begged for Moses to pray on their behalf. Moses then prayed for them and God in His mercy made provision for the people to be healed. Whether internal or external affliction, one can pray to God and ask for those things that are needed. As was noted in the previous article on prayer, the one praying can know that God hears and has the power to provide help (1 John 5:13ff).

Second, it is fitting to pray when struggling through sickness. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14-15). 2 Kings 20:1-3 records the account of Hezekiah's illness. It is said that

he was “sick unto death.” When sickness brings a weary body to the brink of death, prayer is the only option. With a heavy heart and tears, Hezekiah prayed and asked for help. God not only heard his prayer of faith but answered by restoring his health and extending his days.

James gives further instruction for the sick Christian to call for the elders of the church to visit and pray. Notice that the elders were not said to possess any miraculous powers of healing. On the contrary, their “prayer of faith” would be the act that brought about the healing from God. Prayers in times of sickness can not only be rendered by the one that is sick, but the local elders can come and pray with and for the one that is sick. What a blessing indeed to have loving Shepherds that are ready to pray for us in time of need. Whether at home with the flu or in the hospital with a more serious ailment, one can call upon the elders to pray with and for them.

Third, James indicates that when one finds himself struggling with sin, it is fitting to pray. How many struggling souls would be in a better position if they had only stopped to pray? James further posits that coming together and praying on behalf of others brings about great blessings. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). This verse calls upon individuals to first be honest in acknowledging sin. Christians can be comforted in being able to confide in other Christians regarding their sins. The confession should be followed by prayer for the one that has sinned. Another factor is that the one hearing the confession of sin and praying should be living a righteous life. That is not to say a “sinless and perfect” life, but one that is in accordance to the will of God (1 John 3:7). When faithful Christians pray for penitent Christians, the results can be great! This, in part, is how the Body of Christ is continually strengthened (Ephesians 4:16).

The Power of Prayer

Prayer to God is not mere wishful thinking. One is talking to the Almighty and Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. There is nothing too hard for God (Jeremiah 32:27). To demonstrate God’s power, James calls back to an account with Elijah. He prophesied that there would be a drought for three and a half years (1 Kings 17:1). At the end of the period, rain once again fell from the heavens. This drought had far more significance than a simple ecological occurrence. This was a direct result of prayer. “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit” (James 5:17-18).

Over and over again the Bible provides examples of prayers being rendered and God responding. Whether individuals or groups, God heard and God responded. When a believer goes to the Lord in prayer, he can have confidence and comfort in knowing that the prayer has purpose and power.

The Practice of Prayer

The last verses of this section remind us of the truth presented in verse 16. When Christians take time to talk with, pray for, and convert those that have wandered from the faith, a great thing happens. Those wandering souls are restored to fellowship with their Lord and have their souls saved from death. “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). Luke reminds his readers of the Lord’s concern over one soul that has strayed away from the safety and salvation that he offers (Luke 15:3-7). In that same account we are reminded that there is reason for rejoicing when just one soul is brought back to the Lord. Let every believer, with every bit of urgency, seek for every soul that has strayed and pray for those that are weak (James 5:16).

PRAYER LIST

Current: Rachel Zapata is in LRH until at least Friday. She is on the 4th floor, room 228. She would love cards and visits. **George Davis** is having eye surgery on his left eye on Wednesday August 21st.

Continual: Fran Gabaldon (still in Moffitt); **Jim Turner** (cancer); Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); **Stacey Wilson** (health); **Debbie Bush** (struggles); **Carlene Long** (health & strength); **Ron Ford** (health); **Annett Phillip** (health); **Janie Wise** (health); **Margaret Coone** (health); **Melissa Craft** (health); **Kathy Nester** (health).

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Nellie Anderson, Cheryl Barker

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

GIVE AWAY DAY

We will be having an event for the community on **Sat. Sept 7, 2024** from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will be giving away clothes and household items to those in need. If you would like to donate items or would like to help please contact the office or see Rene'.

SFA is partnering with Dixie Land Elementary

We will be supporting them and show love to our local community. Through targeted efforts, we have worked with the school principal to help in specific areas of need. We look forward to this good work and the opportunities it may present over this next year. We hope you will get involved through your time, talents, and treasures! If you have questions or are ready to help, see Jessica Anderson!

WAYS TO HELP DIXIELAND ELEMENTARY

AUGUST

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pencils and backpacks are the greatest need at this time. If you feel inclined to donate supplies, please bring them to Jessica Anderson by August 25th so we can get them in the hands of students.

SEPTEMBER

ENCOURAGEMENT CARDS: Let's show support for the teachers at Dixieland by writing thank notes to teachers. Help us flood their mailboxes!

OCTOBER

Dixieland has created incentive programs to reward students in the areas of academics, behavior and attendance. Treasure box items needed as well as volunteers to hand out rewards to students.

The Great American Teach-In takes place the week of November 18th. Dixieland would appreciate any guest speakers from the church to participate in this worthwhile event.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: Volunteers needed to clean up campus, freshen flower beds, and plant a few plants.

Prayers Requested

Ronny Lynn responded to the invitation on Sunday asking for forgiveness of sin.

Janis Waldon is asking for prayer for her granddaughter Aliyah, she has a tumor on her hip and now has to undergo 9 months of chemotherapy. treatment then surgery.



Scheduled to Serve in August

Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
Wednesday, August 21, 2024	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcutt
Sunday, August 25, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Managing Expectations" 1Kings 19	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
God's Teamwork Works (1 Cor. 3:6-9)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Olivia/Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	David Williams
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Jarred Spivey
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	
Sound Booth (both)	
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Paulin's
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer	Josh Potvin
Wednesday, 28, 2024	
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Josh Estridge
How We Are Giving	
Aug. 4	\$10,461.00
Aug. 11	\$8,502.59
Aug. 18	\$4,752.56
Contribution Average	\$6,810.48
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

"Sin Burn" is prevented by "Son Screen"

I don't know about you, but growing up in Florida has brought me many sunburns in my life. Granted, I was probably warned over and over that I needed to apply sunscreen before going out, but of course I didn't heed the warnings. "I'll just be out for a few minutes" or "It's cloudy, I'll be okay" and before you know it OUCH, I feel the burn. Just a few minutes of applying sunscreen would have saved me from the pain and possible further damage later on in life.

So it is with sin! We are warned about sin, the scripture tells us to avoid it (James 4:17), and to "resist the devil and he will flee" (James 4:17). We often think that we will never be the one to 'get burned by sin', but we try to see just how close we can get to sin without participating, or we "just tell a little white lie", and before we know it we are participating in sin and even approving of those who practice such. We may think we can just watch it on TV or read it in our book and that it won't influence us. However, we are told in scripture to "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Col 3:2-10)

By doing these things we will cover ourselves with the "Son screen" that can keep us from sin. I heard a great preacher say one time "If you don't want to slip, stay away from slippery places". I think that is great advice, as Christians we need to strive to keep ourselves from sin. It is a daily battle and only by meditating on God's word day and night can we do so. Psalm 101:3 tells us "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." If we apply these verses to our lives and keep ourselves covered by the "Son-screen" we won't have to worry about getting burned in this life and in the life to come!

LADIES CLASSES:

Wednesday Morning Class -beginning September 4 at 10:00 am on Wednesdays, taught by Marion Beals.

Tuesday Evening Class meets at 7:00 PM. Book: Recipe for Peace by Janie Craun

Monthly FSOP Ladies Class - meets once a month in the FSOP classroom. The next class will be Tuesday Sept. 10 at 7:00 pm. Susan Stearsman teaches this class. All ladies are invited to this class as well.

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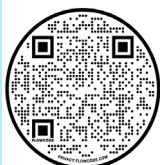
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us
exalt his name together."

Psalms 34:3



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.