



GREEN VALLEY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PRAY AS ONE
4 WEEKS OF PRAYER
FOR RENEWAL & STRATEGIC VISION

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PRAY AS ONE

#Pray as one is a 4-week period in which we as a church are committing to pray & fast together as we seek the Lord's will for our church. For 4 weeks, we ask that every member set aside time to pray each day. Daily prayer reminders will be posted on social media. A full 29-day prayer guide as well as a corresponding daily devotional is contained in this booklet.

It is our firm conviction that there is power in prayer! We know that as we pray as one church, we will see God move in a mighty way in our church. We believe we will see lives changed, our church body unified and energized, and our pastors led toward a fresh and renewed vision for the church. Join us as we #PrayAsOne. It will be glorious what God will do through our prayers!

WEEK 1 - DAY 1 (FEB 1)

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

ISAIAH 6:1-8

The seraphim proclaim the holiness of God with an antiphonal chant of “Holy, Holy, Holy.” In doing this, they express holiness as the central and most essential characteristic of the Lord. But the seraphim do not stop with God’s holiness; they also exclaim His glory. While God’s holiness expresses His transcendence over His creation, His glory expresses His nearness by the display of His power.

Such an exalted view of God brings to Isaiah—and to us—a clear view of sin and a realistic view of self. Before this, Isaiah may have been satisfied with his self-righteousness, but that changes quickly when He encounters the Lord in His unspeakable glory. The light of the glory of holy God immediately made Isaiah aware of his own unholiness, as well as the sinfulness of all those around him.

As did Isaiah when confronted with Holiness, we must ask ourselves if we can be satisfied with unholy living. In comparing ourselves to others or our own self-styled view of right living, we deceive ourselves with a false standard. So, when we encounter holy God our only response can be “Woe is me!”

Recognizing and confessing our unholiness (sin) in the light of God’s holiness prepares us for the cleansing that only He can bring. We confess with our mouth that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

That cleansing then brings us to a place of genuine worship and preparation for service. When He says “Whom shall I send?” we readily respond with “Send me!” Pray for the Lord to captivate your heart with His holiness today!

WEEK 1 - DAY 2 (FEB 2)

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 1:15-19

Jesus Christ is “God of very God!” He is not a lesser than the Father; He is in His very essence all God. Paul expresses a number of ways that the “fullness” or supremacy of Christ is made known. He is the firstborn over all creation. Firstborn is not a statement of being created or of birth, it is a recognition of position or rank. Jesus, as God, existed before the creation and is exalted in rank above it. Being firstborn also states the right of inheritance (Hebrews 1:2).

He is the Creator of all things. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:3). He is before all things. When the universe began, He already existed. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God (John 1:1-2).

In Him all things consist. He is the energy of the universe. He maintains the balance necessary for life’s existence. He is upholding all things by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3). He is the first-born from the dead. His Resurrection is highest in rank; His resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection (1 Cor. 15).

He is the Preeminent One. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

Does He reign supreme in your life?

WEEK 1 - DAY 3 (FEB 3)

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

Have you thought lately about the faithfulness of God? Too often we are prone to focus on our own faithfulness and our own faith. Our living a victorious Christian life indicates that we are trusting a faithful God who cannot fail.

The Psalmist (Psalm 89:1-10) speaks repeatedly of the faithfulness of God. He presents us with an expected response to God's faithfulness.

First, we sing of His faithfulness. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations (v1). Are you praising God today for His faithfulness? When you find yourself unfaithful to the Lord, consider His faithfulness. After all, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Second, we share God's faithfulness with others. With my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations (v1).

Third, we submit to His faithfulness. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those who are around Him (v7).

Can you trust Him today? Yes, you can. Is His Word going to fail? No, not one word of all His promises has failed. Is His grace going to run out? No, He has vast riches of His grace. God is faithful in everything!

When was the last time you sang of the mercies of God? You don't have to have a singer's voice, just a singer's heart! Who was the last person you told of God's faithfulness?

WEEK 1 - DAY 4 (FEB 4)

THE LOVE OF GOD

DEUTERONOMY 7:7-8

“The love of God is not God’s making much of us, but God’s saving us from self-centered sin so that we can enjoy making much of Him forever.”

--John Piper, Taste and See

THE LOVE OF GOD

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell,
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell; The
guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win: His
erring child He reconciled and pardoned from His sin.

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and
kingdoms fall, When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and
hills and mountains call, God’s love so sure shall still endure, all
measureless and strong: Redeeming grace to Adam’s race – the
saints’ and angels’ song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment
made, Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by
trade, To write the love of God above would drain the oceans dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole tho stretched from sky to
sky.

Text and Music: Frederick M. Lehman
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But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we
were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) **Pray for the love
of God to captivate your heart today!**

WEEK 1 - DAY 5 (FEB 5)

A HUMBLE HEART

PSALM 51

Many people have the wrong idea about humility. They think being humble means groveling in front of others or thinking they're no good and others are better. But God says when we are humble, we are free from pride and arrogance. We know that in our flesh we are inadequate, yet we also know who we are in Christ.

Humility is recognizing that we need God's help, knowing we can't truly succeed in our own strength. For the Christian, humility understands the need for honesty in recognizing and confessing our sin before God. It acknowledges that the only way up is to get low. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:10).

For David, the Psalmist, expressing humility must have been especially hard. He was God's appointed and anointed king. He was God's man! He was a man of great renown: a man of position and power. Yet David was restless, dealing with the conviction of his sins. It was in the midst of that restlessness that he learned the absolute necessity of humility. His only hope was to express his utter inability to do anything about his sinful condition. All he had left was a call to God for the relief that only He could bring; he called out for mercy. The evidence of his humility was the confession of his sins! He recognized that the only relief from his sins was the healing power of God's mercy. The key to restoring his joy was the merciful forgiving hand of God! He understood that the only way he could once again enjoy salvation's joy was to humble himself before God by being honest about his sin.

Are you looking for the return of the refreshing flow of the joy of salvation? Are you ready to lay yourself low—in humility—before Him right now? Then confess the sins you do know, and ask God to reveal the hidden sin(s) of your life. Call upon His mercy.

WEEK 1 - DAY 6 (FEB 6)

SEARCH MY HEART

PSALM 139:23-24

God knows. He knows it all. He knows our every thought and action. He knows our motives, our fears, and our deepest desires. We can try all we want, but there is nothing we can hide from Him. Yet, we often persist in doing just that. We hide our sin through denial and rationalization. We re-label sin based on the social or cultural norms, taking what God calls evil and calling it instead good (or at least “not so bad”). We compare our sin to the sin of others and smugly declare ourselves okay.

That’s why the Psalmist asked God, who knew his heart even better than he did, to reveal his sin, his imperfections, and his fears. He knew God would be completely honest, forcing him to be just as honest with himself. God would reveal the most hidden sin from the deepest recesses of his heart. It was then that He would be ready to be led in God’s way.

So, as the Psalmist did, we are to make a habit of asking God to search our own hearts; and to present us with the reality of our secret lives. We do well to be reminded of just what sin is.

Sin is anything we do that falls short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). Sin is also defined as “faithless independence” (Romans 14:23). Whatever does not derive from our attitude of total dependence upon God, whatever does not release God’s activity through our life, is sin.

Every step we take, attitude we adopt, decision we make—everything we do and all we hope to be—is either in dependence upon the God who created us, or our own independent and faithless sense of self. Faithful dependence is an attitude exhibited by a moment-by-moment reckoning on who we really are.

As did the Psalmist, ask God to, Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me...

WEEK 1 - DAY 7 (FEB 7)

CONFESSION

JOHN 1:8-10

Christians confess. It's that simple. A life that is absent a pattern of confession of sin is evidence of the absence of salvation (V.10). Confession means to say the same thing about sin as God does. It accepts His standard as that by which all else is measured. Confession does not deny, hide, or rationalize sin. When confessing sin we acknowledge sin as "cosmic treason." While often sin is involved in our relationship with others, it foremost is an act of rebellion against a holy God.

True confession incorporates repentance. Genuine repentance is more than mere sorrow for something I have done. It goes much deeper than that. It acknowledges that I have grieved the heart of God, and makes the conscience decision to turn from the sinful action. How do I know whether my repentance is real? Ask, "am I simply regretful that I was caught in sin?" That's short of repentance. Ask, "does my confession simply just make me feel better about myself, and maybe get me out of trouble?" That also is short of true repentance. Or ask, "have I made the choice to change my mind about the action, move away from it and toward God?" That's real repentance! (see 1 Thessalonians 1:9)

Repentance admits that without the enabling power of the indwelling Spirit, I am incapable of full or genuine confession. In my flesh (self-life) I do not have the ability to not sin. However, abiding in the Spirit, I not only know the authority of sin in my life has been defeated (Romans 6), I now have the power not to sin (Romans 8).

Are you a confessor? Is there a sin you have confessed but from which you have not truly repented? Recognize that without repentance sin will maintain a stranglehold in your life. Enjoy the faithful forgiveness and refreshing joy of the Lord by asking the Spirit to reveal your heart and grant repentance.

WEEK 2 - DAY 8 (FEB 8)

THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

Instead of condemnation—forgiveness! Instead of being enemies of God, we have been reconciled to Him! Instead of being captives to the power of darkness, we have been redeemed and forgiven!

If He is willing to forgive us when it was our sin that caused His death, how can we withhold forgiveness? What right do the forgiven have to refuse to forgive those who have caused us harm or hurt?

Does the sin of another hold you hostage, in a prison of sorrow, despair, and anger? Sinning people should not have the power to steal your joy. When we forgive there is the release of an unspeakable joy in the purposes of God being worked out in others' lives. If our joy is lost—through harboring bitterness and a lack of forgiveness—then Christ's work in our life is belittled. Our lack of compassion betrays His abundant compassion toward us. Our testimony as a follower of Christ is damaged or even destroyed when we do not practice the compassion of forgiveness.

While we cannot remove the guilt of anyone's sin—God alone does that—we are called upon to freely forgive those who have wronged us, just as God freely forgave us. Forgiveness prompted by love is the greatest demonstration of our being a child of God.

Often our inability to forgive is the result of our lack of realization of how much we have been forgiven. Read again the verses above. Now give praise and exaltation to Him for your forgiveness! Next, follow the command to forgive others: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32).

WEEK 2 - DAY 9 (FEB 9)

FORGIVENESS: THE ANTIDOTE FOR BITTERNESS

HEBREWS 12:3, 14-15

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, a former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing center at Ravensbruck.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. “How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein. To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? ‘Lord Jesus,’ I prayed, ‘forgive me and help me to forgive him.’ I tried to smile; I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. ‘Jesus, I prayed, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.’

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.

—The Hiding Place (Corrie Ten Boom)

Who do you need to forgive? Realize that you can’t forgive in your own strength. Only God can give the desire and ability to forgive other’s sins.

WEEK 2 - DAY 10 (FEB 10)

A HEART OF WORSHIP

ROMANS 12:1

We are created to worship. But what is worship? Worship is more than going through the motions of singing, giving, participating in the fellowship of believers, and listening to the Word as it's proclaimed. All of those things certainly have their place of significance. But you can do all those things and still not worship.

True worship is the wholehearted dedication to God of heart, mind, will, words, and deeds—in fact all that you are, have, and do. It is a total way of life.

That's exactly what Romans 12:1 is getting at—the heart of worship. Let's break it apart and see what makes for true worship.

Worship involves believers. Only those who know God through saving faith in Jesus Christ can genuinely worship. That's one of the things Jesus was getting at when He said that true worshippers worship in Spirit and Truth. Worshipping in Spirit involves the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers.

Worship recognizes God for who He is (read Romans 11:33-36) and what He has done (by the mercies of God). Worship ponders His salvation, His holiness, His grace, etc. It is ever ready to express gratitude for His beneficence towards us.

Worship presents a living sacrifice to God. We give our physical bodies to be laid upon the altar of God for Him to do with as He pleases.

Worship is our service! So, everything that we do is done as an act of worship. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father (Colossians 3:16-17).

What are you presenting to God today? Is your worship acceptable to Him? What are the barriers to worship that need to be removed?

WEEK 2 - DAY 11 (FEB 11)

A SERVANT'S HEART

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5

No attitude of a Christian is more contrary to the life of Christ than the attitude of pride. Nothing destroys a relationship faster than does pride. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud (Proverbs 16:18-19).

Pride shows up in a lot of ways. A critical spirit, an unbending stubbornness, an unbalanced competitive drive, superficiality, lack of contentment, lack of sympathy, and a lack of compassion are just some of the signs of a prideful heart.

In today's passage, Paul gives us the antidote for pride. It is humility. Humility doesn't destroy relationships, it builds them. A humble spirit lets go of self and looks for the best in others. The humble life is the Christ-life He demonstrated as He took on humanity and suffered the death of the cross (vv7,8). We are to have the same mind as Christ (v5)!

How do you develop humility? First of all, recognize the destructive power of pride and its grip on your life. Then appropriate the Christ-life you were given in salvation (Galatians 2:20). Consider next what Paul says in Romans 12:16, associate with the humble. So associate more with Jesus! As you begin to spend more and more time with Him, you will learn to be more and more like Him. Finally, as you associate more with Jesus, you will find greater opportunity to develop like-minded relationships with other followers of Christ. Value one another; listen to one another; edify one another.

Ask Jesus to cultivate in you a genuine childlike humility. Ask Him to deflate your ego, to release your grip on fierce competitiveness, and to soften your harsh words and attitude.

WEEK 2 - DAY 12 (FEB 12)

RELEASE YOUR RIGHTS

ROMANS 10:9-10

Over the past few decades there has been a stirring debate within Christianity over an issue called “Lordship Salvation.” There are some who argue that to be saved, all a person has to do is “receive Jesus in your heart,” or “confess Jesus as Your Savior.” They go on to say, “Now there will come a point in your Christian life when you may be called to “surrender to His Lordship.” That’s often stated as “make Him Lord.” The big problem with that is it goes against what the Scripture clearly lays out as the path of genuine salvation. As we see in today’s passage, salvation is not just believing some things about Jesus, it is believing everything about Jesus.

At the moment of salvation He is immediately Lord of your life. What does that mean? It is laying down your life, including all of your rights, your desires, and your demands to His control. No one has said it better than the Apostle Paul: More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...(Philippians 3:8-10).

Lordship means no more boasting in the things of this world. It’s not boasting in our educational achievements, our prestige and popularity, our family name, our bank account, or our accomplishments. Lordship living means that we acknowledge that what man considers as success usually only serves to deceive. We recognize that all this world has to offer is considered as rubbish when compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Lordship living knows that what is really important is that I “be found in Him.”

Can you say with Paul that you have laid down your rights, and all that is important is to be found in Christ. If not, ask God to work that desire into your heart. Ask God to so deeply invade your thoughts and desires that all other desires fall away.

WEEK 2 - DAY 13 (FEB 13)

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

LUKE 9:23

Jesus calls each person who wants to be a disciple to take up the cross and participate in His afflictions (Philippians 3:10). Our sharing in Jesus' afflictions shows our commitment to live as He lived, which earns for us the persecution He also endured from the world. A servant is not above his master, and we cannot take part in the benefits of Christ unless we walk the road of obedience He lays before us.

The cross was a means of execution; thus, Jesus calls us to die. True discipleship puts our way of life at risk. Our values, goals, lives, and activities can and must paint the picture of a people who enduringly serve God's kingdom, not the present world order.

The person who wants to be Jesus' disciple can only truly be said to follow Him when he has made and implemented a radical decision to "deny" himself. This means that as Christians we will not set our desires and our will against the right Christ has to our lives. We now recognize that we live for the sake of Christ, not for our own sake. It is pouring out our lives for others. This is not a one-time event. It must occur daily.

But never forget, in denying self, we also find great gain. We discover the reason for our existence. We anticipate eternal reward. We give testimony of the power of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:11). And we receive a better understanding of the glory of eternity (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

WEEK 2 - DAY 14 - PART 1

PRAY FOR STRONG MARRIAGES

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

It is the responsibility of the entire church to work for strong marriages among its members. Prayer is the constant option every believer has in ministering to couples involved in the marriage covenant. How might we pray?

Pray that every husband and wife would acknowledge that marriage is a permanent covenant made with each other and with God.

Pray that every couple would acknowledge their wedding vow of fidelity (loyalty). That fidelity is more than sexual faithfulness. It includes:

- **a vow for husbands to “honor” their wives** (1 Peter 3:7), **and wives to “respect”** (Ephesians 5:33) their husbands. Honor and respect have a lot in common; it is to show appreciation and to ascribe great value to each other.
- **a vow to persevere.** That means that when times get tough, one doesn't abandon the other. There is to be a deep-rooted conviction that it's worth whatever the cost to see the problem through and the marriage remain intact. When the love of one is waning, Solomon calls upon the love of the other to persevere: Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it (Song of Solomon 8:7). In other words, the fire of true love is unquenchable. It's the responsibility of each partner to push back the waters that would drown such love.
- **a vow to God.** The most loyal and devoted husband and wife find their first loyalty and devotion to God and His word. Pray that every husband and wife in our church family would make a fresh commitment to God, His Word, and to the spouse of their covenant.

WEEK 2 - DAY 14 - PART 2

PRAY FOR STRONG MARRIAGES

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

Pray that every couple within the church would strive to have their marriage paint a beautiful portrait of the relationship of Christ with His bride, the church. Marriages centered on God demonstrate to the world the love of Christ. It accentuates the life-changing gospel message of the church.

Pray for those suffering in broken marriages. Acknowledge that God can overcome the obstacles to restoring a broken covenant. Ask Him to make you sensitive to opportunities to minister God's love to husbands and wives who are on the path to marriage dissolution.

WEEK 3 - DAY 15 (FEB 15)

PRAY FOR GODLY NURTURING HOMES

EPHESIANS 6:4

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate (Psalms 127:3-5).

Children are both our current and future wealth—a heritage and inheritance from the Lord. Like anything that God has given to us, we are called, both parents and the church, to be good stewards of His gifts. What then are we to do with this gift, this treasure, this wealth, this inheritance of children?

We accept our wealth and the responsibility that comes with it. They are God's gift, and are now our treasure. A treasure is anything we hold of value; the things we hold close and protect. We protect our wealth, and we ought to protect our children.

We invest our wealth. We train our children, teaching them to live righteously. Their lives become our primary investment, and we pray for the dividends from our investment.

We employ our wealth. Notice the Psalmist says that children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. Our children are future soldiers in the kingdom of God. Each home is a boot camp for training children. It is there we train them to live righteously: He who sows righteousness will have a sure reward (Proverbs 11:18). We train them to stand boldly for the truth: Walk as children of the light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) Ephesians 5:8-9). We teach them the whole counsel of God: and you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Children are God's gift and blessing, and a great responsibility. Ask for God's wisdom as you invest in and train your children. Prepare them for Kingdom warfare and Kingdom living. Rejoice in the inheritance He has given you.

WEEK 3 - DAY 16 (FEB 16)

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY MINISTRY

PSALM 78:1-4

The primary responsibility of the nurture of children lies with the parents. Yet it is clear from the Scripture that the church, the community of believers, also takes a key role in the life of its children. We have ministries for children of all ages: preschool, children, youth, and college and career. Within each of those ministries, the teachers and workers invest many hours dealing directly with children of all ages: teaching Bible truths, showing the way of salvation, modeling the Christian life, answering questions, and developing relationships. The purpose is to mirror the parents' work in the home in providing a safe and loving environment where children will learn about God. Collectively we have a surplus of stories of God's wondrous works in every generation. Those stories become spiritual markers—moments to look back to and be reminded of the presence and leading of God in our lives (Joshua 4:8). Those stories are the building blocks of faith and the reminders of the hope that we have in Christ. Pray that our family ministry would be a place of many stories!

Family Ministry is more than telling stories to children. It is to be the equipping center for parents (and grandparents, other caregivers, etc.). Within this ministry, parents continue to learn the stories (we are never too old for that), but now move to the teacher role (Hebrews 6:1). Our responsibility is to equip each parent with the Biblical and life tools that they need to rightly nurture children. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Pray that our family ministry would be faithful to take every opportunity to equip parents for the heavy responsibility of raising the next generation of story tellers.

WEEK 3 - DAY 17 (FEB 17)

PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

The Apostle Paul understood that his utmost priority was to reach people with the gospel of Christ. He knew that many things could serve as a hindrance for him to accomplish the mission he was given to complete. In today's text, we find Paul's heart in seeking to reach a lost world. He knew there were things that were permissible for him to do. His old pharisaical lifestyle had been put away as he followed Jesus. Yet, he also knew his primary responsibility was to serve as salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Therefore, though things may have been permissible, the greater question was, "Will it help me to proclaim Jesus to those around me?"

Pray that Paul's heart for the lost will you become your heart today? Pray that God will enable you to bridge the barriers between you and your lost friends? Pray for our association, that Paul's heart of becoming all things to all people may become our heartbeat.

Pray for the specific ministries of GVBA:

- **The Answer Center** - Pray for this ministry to reflect Jesus' love for the least of these. Pray for the Answer Center to meet physical and spiritual needs. Pray for volunteers, resources, and divine encounters through this ministry.
- **Ellis Park Ministry** - Pray for the gospel to transcend cultures and barriers. Pray for the Hispanic racetrack workers to encounter Christ.
- **CROSS** - Pray for each student to embrace the truth claims of the gospel. Pray for the Lord to spark new life on the campus at HCC
- **Disaster Relief** - Pray for their safety of volunteers. Pray for those who are hurting in the wake of these natural disasters.
- **World Changers** - Pray for the projects the Lord will give and the families they will touch. Pray for the volunteers the Lord will raise up this summer.

WEEK 3 - DAY 18 (FEB 18)

PRAY FOR SHARED STRATEGIC VISION PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Ask God to align the hearts of all churches in the Green Valley Baptist Association with His vision for the Great Commission. Pray for a unified understanding of the importance of equipping leadership, encouraging pastors, and empowering partnerships for missions. Ask the Lord to reveal His plans and purposes, helping us set aside personal preferences for the greater kingdom mission.

Pray for the equipping of church leadership across the association. Ask God to raise up leaders who are spiritually mature, well-trained, and passionate about making disciples. Pray for pastors to be encouraged and supported as they lead their congregations. Ask God to provide resources, training opportunities, and mentors for leaders at every level.

Pray for the Green Valley Baptist Association to form strong partnerships for local, national, and international missions. Ask God to empower churches to work together, pooling their resources and talents to reach communities with little or no access to the gospel. Pray for unity in purpose and vision as churches come together to share the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for the unity He is building within the Green Valley Baptist Association. **Pray for continued alignment with the Holy Spirit as churches work together to equip leaders, encourage pastors, and empower partnerships.** Ask for lasting fruit from these efforts, bringing glory to God and expanding His kingdom. Commit to perseverance, knowing that He will bring a harvest in due time. Pray for boldness and faith as we move forward together in His mission.

"Lord, we thank You for the privilege of serving Your kingdom together as an association of churches. Unite us around the vision to equip leaders, encourage pastors, and empower partnerships for missions, both near and far. Strengthen us to follow where You lead and give us bold faith to proclaim Your name to those who have not heard. Let all that we do bring glory to You and expand Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WEEK 3 - DAY 19 (FEB 19)

PRAY FOR REVITALIZED CHURCHES

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Begin the day by meditating on how God brought Ezekiel to the valley of dry bones. Reflect on how God asked, "Son of man, can these bones live?" Pray for God to give you eyes to see the spiritual needs of plateaued and dying churches in our association. Ask for humility, wisdom, and a heart of compassion as we confront these realities. Pray for God to awaken leaders and members to recognize the need for renewal in their churches.

Spend time in prayer, declaring God's promises over the churches in the Green Valley Baptist Association. Pray for pastors, leaders, and congregations to be faithful in proclaiming God's Word with boldness and clarity. Ask that the Word of God would bring hope, conviction, and healing, just as Ezekiel prophesied to the bones. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move mightily, giving new energy and direction to those seeking revitalization.

Pray for God to raise up strong leaders, empower discipleship efforts, and inspire creativity in outreach and ministry. Ask for unity within these congregations as they seek to grow together in Christ. Pray for the "vast army" of revitalized churches to rise up, prepared to impact their communities and glorify God through faithful service and evangelism.

Reflect on the assurance that He is able to bring life to what seems beyond hope. Commit the Green Valley Baptist Association into His hands, believing that He is working even now to bring renewal and growth. Offer thanksgiving for His faithfulness and pray for perseverance in the journey ahead.

"Lord, we trust that You are able to make dry bones live again. Move powerfully in our midst, bringing Your life and breath to every church in need. Let Your Spirit lead us as we seek to be faithful stewards of Your work. We give You all the glory for the transformation You will bring. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WEEK 3 - DAY 20 (FEB 20)

PRAY FOR NEW CHURCH PLANTS

ISAIAH 6:8

Spend time praying for God to call and equip leaders to plant churches in the Tri-county area. Ask the Lord to stir the hearts of men and women who will say, "Here I am, send me." Pray specifically for younger leaders who can connect with the next generation and for leaders who can engage growing ethnic communities with cultural understanding and sensitivity.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for God to **raise up leaders** from within the Green Valley Baptist Association.
- Ask God to give **clarity** and **courage** to those He is calling to step into church planting.
- Pray for **partnerships** and **mentorship** opportunities for new church planters.
- Pray for **provision** and **resources** to support church planting efforts.
- Pray for the **Spirit of God** to give strength and courage to potential church planters.
- Ask God to **build a network of support** for these leaders, including prayer warriors, financial resources, and partnering churches.
- Pray for **unity** and **collaboration** among Green Valley Baptist Association churches to support this mission.

"Father, we thank You for the Tri-county area and the people You have placed here. We pray that You would raise up leaders who will plant churches to reach younger generations and growing ethnic communities. Stir our hearts to action and give us bold faith to follow where You lead. May Your Spirit go before us, preparing the soil for the seeds of the gospel, and may You be glorified in all we do. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen."

WEEK 3 - DAY 21 (FEB 21)

PRAY FOR CHURCH REPLANTING

ISAIAH 61:4

Begin the day by asking God to give the Green Valley Baptist Association a clear understanding of the churches that are struggling and in need of replanting. Pray for humility and openness from congregations who are nearing closure, that they would seek God's will and recognize the opportunity for renewal. Ask for wisdom and discernment for association leaders as they assess which churches might benefit from replanting efforts.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for spiritual awakening and renewed vision in struggling churches.
- Ask God to soften hearts and open minds to the possibility of replanting.
- Pray for leaders within the association to have wisdom and courage to approach these situations with grace and love.
- Pray for healthy churches to recognize their role in supporting replanting efforts.
- Ask God to provide the financial and human resources needed for replanting.
- Pray for unity among churches, avoiding competition and fostering kingdom-minded cooperation.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in replanted churches.
- Ask for God to guide the leadership teams and congregations involved in the replanting process.

"Lord, You are the God who restores and redeems. We lift up the churches in our association that are struggling and nearing closure, asking for Your guidance and provision in the work of replanting. Raise up healthy churches to partner in this mission, and let Your Spirit breathe new life into these congregations. May these replanted churches shine brightly for Your glory, drawing people to the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ. We trust You to do far more than we can ask or imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WEEK 4 - DAY 22 (FEB 22)

WHAT IS EVANGELISM

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Evangelism isn't converting people; it's telling them that they need to be converted and telling them how they can be.

The gospel is the joyful message from God that leads us into salvation. The gospel message answers four big questions: Who is God? Why are we in such a mess? What did Jesus Christ do? And how can we get back to God?

- God is our Creator (Col 1:16-17). He is loving (John 3:16), holy (Isa 6:1-3), and just (Rom 1:18). One day He will execute perfect justice against all sin.
- People are made in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27). We are beautiful and amazing creatures with dignity, worth, and value. But through our willful, sinful rebellion against God (Rom 3:9-12), we have turned from being His children to His enemies (Col 1:20-21). Still, all people have the capacity to be in a restored, loving relationship with the living God.
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, whose sinless life gave Him the ability to become the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty due for man's sin. Through His death on the cross, He ransomed sinful people (Rom 5:6-8). His death paid for the sins of those who come to Him in faith (Col 1:13-14). Christ's resurrection from the dead is the ultimate vindication of the truth of these claims (Rom 1:4; 5:10).
- The response God requires from us is to acknowledge our sin, repent, and believe in Christ (Rom 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; John 1:12; John 8:12). So we turn from sin, especially the sin of unbelief, and turn to God in faith, with the understanding that we will follow Him the rest of our days.

--"Evangelism," by J. Mack Stiles

As you can see, the content of evangelism is Christ, not our journey to faith. Witnessing is more than reciting our spiritual autobiography. Specific truths about a specific person are the subject of our proclamation. A message has been committed to us—a word of reconciliation to the world (2 Cor 5:19).

WEEK 4 - DAY 23 (FEB 23)

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR EVANGELISM

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Unfortunately, many believers think that the task of evangelism is more of a program to be followed than a life to be lived. They won't do the work unless they have been "trained," and often even then find excuses not to go. There is nothing wrong with biblically-based evangelism programs and training. But those are simply tools to assist believers in sharing the gospel as a normal everyday part of life.

Evangelism is a matter of everyday expression.

Go therefore (Matt 28:19) literally says, as you are going. During the course of everyday life, we are to be aware of the opportunities we have to share the gospel. That includes the expression of life in our conduct as "salt and light," as well as the essential verbal communication of the gospel.

Evangelism is a matter of any moment preparedness.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15).

Evangelism is not a matter of a convenient time.

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching (2 Tim 4:2). We share the gospel when times are good and when times are bad. Often it's in the most difficult circumstances of life that a believer has the greatest opportunity to share the joy of knowing Christ (1 Pet 4:12-19).

Evangelism is a matter of now!

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:1-2).

WEEK 4 - DAY 24 (FEB 24)

WHERE IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR EVANGELISM?

MATTHEW 28:18-20

If we wait for just the right time and just the right place, usually meaning the most comfortable of circumstances, we will miss out on many opportunities to share the gospel. As we saw yesterday, the “right time” is now. So, the logical follow-up would be that the right place is wherever you are!

Evangelism is a worldwide matter (Acts 1:8).

We can and should engage others with the gospel in the routine of daily life in our local community—our Jerusalem; yet we should always be prepared to take the gospel to all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Evangelism is a crisis point matter (Jude 22-23; Acts 16:25-30).

There are times when people are at the point of desperation, lacking purpose, seeking answers, and without hope. That’s when they might be the most open to hearing the words of life a believer can offer. Implied in that is the reality that the believer has to know the person and their plight. That’s when the time spent in building relationships with non-believers may open wide the doors of opportunity to share.

Evangelism is a home matter (Acts 16:30-34).

... Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4).

Evangelism is a work matter (Deut 6:6-9).

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free (Ephesians 6:5-8).

Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts to receive the Gospel.

WEEK 4 - DAY 25 - PART 1

PRAY FOR AN EVANGELISTIC HARVEST **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

A church full of evangelists (every believer obedient to the task of sharing the gospel) will impact homes, workplaces, schools, the local community, and the world. Believers living as “salt and light” will have influence and make a mark wherever they go. Though some will reject the believer’s lifestyle and the message they share, many will be drawn to it. As we are faithful to live godly lives and consistently share the message of reconciliation, God will change hearts and bring people into His kingdom and into His church.

Consider John 4:7-42. The woman at the well had a life-transforming encounter with the Messiah (vv 7-26). She took the message of her life-change to her community (vv 28-29, 39). Because of her testimony, others were open to an encounter with Christ (v 30, 39-42). One sinful, but transformed, woman’s testimony led to one community where many more believed (v42)!

Look at what happened on the first day of the church’s existence in response to Peter’s proclamation of the gospel: So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41). Over the following days, through the testimony of those who had just been added to the church (Acts 2: 41-47a) we find that: the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47).

The church at Thessalonica saw the rapid expansion of the heavenly kingdom not just in their church, but in churches throughout the region as they were faithful to share the gospel (1 Thess 1:8-9).

WEEK 4 - DAY 25 - PART 2

PRAY FOR AN EVANGELISTIC HARVEST **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

The testimony of the early church didn't just influence the culture, it transformed it! Though often resisted, even violently (martyrdom being a common fate of Christians), believers did not waver in their testimony and commitment to spread the gospel of Christ.

Today, the population of the world increases at a faster rate than the population of the church. Our opportunities to share the gospel have not decreased, but multiplied. The culture resists, often violently. Are we ready to give our lives for the spread of the gospel as did many in the early days of the church? Or have we given up, thinking the cause is lost?

I am reminded of the question, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer is "one bite at a time." The task before us is not to be overwhelmed by the vastness of the harvest field we see, but to be consumed with the opportunity to share in just one small area of that field—the place where He has put us today. It is to take it one person at a time. One person today, another tomorrow. It may not change the world, but it might change a life!

WEEK 4 - DAY 26 - PART 1

A COVENANT OF RESPECT

ROMANS 12:9-16

As church members, we have joined together for a common cause—to express and expand the Kingdom of God for the glory of God. God takes a diverse group of individuals with their own unique backgrounds, personalities, goals, preferences, and desires, and molds them into an effective force that pursues His direction for the church. Unfortunately, it's easy for the one or more of the members of the church to disrupt the direction of the whole. How might we best overcome the individual idiosyncrasies that become a barrier to the church's mission? We can learn to RESPECT one another. Are you willing to commit to the covenant statements below?

R - REMEMBER

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Hebrews 13:7

We join in this covenant remembering that God has placed each elder/pastor in a position of leadership and will recognize and appropriately respond to his directives.

E - ESTEEM

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem** others better than himself. Philippians 2:3

We join in this covenant having a giving and sacrificial spirit, ministering together without selfish motive or ambition. We will set aside personal preferences for the sake of the whole body (Romans 12:10).

S - SUBMIT

Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:21

We join in this covenant willing to submit to one another, not letting personal preferences cause division among the members. We will be willing to yield, recognizing that the fruit of harmony is the seed of righteousness (James 3:17-18).

WEEK 4 - DAY 26 - PART 2

A COVENANT OF RESPECT

ROMANS 12:9-16

P - PRAY

And pray for one another. James 5:16

We join in this covenant committing to faithfully pray for one another. Prayer will be our first line of defense against the tactics of the enemy, who seeks to divide and devour the church.

E - EDIFY

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:9

We join in this covenant seeking to encourage and to edify our fellow laborers as they serve Christ and this church.

C - CONCERN

All of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another. 1 Peter 3:8

We join in this covenant committing to show genuine concern for every member of the body. That concern will show in our living out the many New testament "one anothers" that fulfill the Lord's command given in John 15:12, "Love One another."

T - TRUTH

Therefore, putting away lying, "let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another, speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)

We join in this covenant committing not to be involved in backbiting or gossip but rather to "speak the truth in love" directly to the person who has offended us. We will not speak in half truths, or in a manipulative or deceitful manner about, or to, others.

Will you join in the Covenant of RESPECT?

WEEK 4 - DAY 27 - PART 1

PRAY FOR YOUR PASTORS

HEBREWS 13:17

In yesterday's devotion we saw a covenant of RESPECT that should guide church members in their relationships. Today, let's consider a covenant agreement of GRACE. As you consider this covenant, pray for each pastor. Pray for his protection, for his family, for his reputation, and for his physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

G - Genuine Accountability — As pastors, we enter into covenant agreement with the Lord and the church to hold ourselves, individually and corporately, accountable to God, to one another, to our families, and to the church. We will live in a manner becoming the calling we have to shepherd the church of God.

R - Right Relationships — As pastors, we enter into covenant agreement with the Lord and the church to maintain integrity in all of our relationships, as Paul said in 1 Thess 2:5-10, not using flattering words nor a cloak for covetousness...not seeking glory from men...behaving ourselves devoutly and justly and blamelessly among those who believe.

A - Servant Heart — As pastors, we enter into covenant agreement with the Lord and the church to live out the example Christ gave when He took the towel and washed the disciples' feet (John 14:14-17), and as further seen in Peter's instructions to Shepherd the flock of God among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3

WEEK 4 - DAY 27 - PART 2

PRAY FOR YOUR PASTORS

HEBREWS 13:17

C - Constant Safeguards — As pastors, we enter into covenant agreement with the Lord and the church to be vigilant (1 Peter 5:8), and to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10) in order to escape the onslaughts of Satan. Recognizing the weapon of the Sword (Eph 6:17), we will continue to grow in the Word, not neglecting the need for continuing personal spiritual growth. In the midst of the warfare, we will not neglect the second weapon God has given—prayer (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

E - Embrace God Intimately — As pastors, we enter into covenant agreement with the Lord and the church to live in growing intimacy with Christ, drawing near to God as He draws near to us (James 4:8). We will follow Paul's instruction given in 1 Timothy 4:12-15: Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the elders. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

As you pray for the pastors of the church, consider these words: And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

WEEK 4 - DAY 28 (FEB 28)

DISCERNING DIRECTION

ACTS 2:41-47

As we seek to more clearly discern God's direction for our association, let us join in praying for the following four things.

Vibrant Leadership. Pray that the pastors and other church leaders will show a passion for God, His mission, and the transforming power of the gospel in people's lives, both the saved and the lost. Pray that each leader will demonstrate a worthy life that is a model of Christ-likeness.

Relational Intentionality. The church has been designed by Christ as a collection of people participating in one another's lives. May our churches become one where every believer finds ways to deliberately connect with others, where accountability and encouragement are a normal course of life, and where long-term relationships are held in high regard.

Faithful Stewardship. Jesus laid it out for us in Luke 12:48, For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. May we be known as a generous people who recognize God as the owner of everything. He has entrusted us with much, and we will be held accountable as to the management of that trust. He has made available every resource needed to accomplish whatever tasks He guides us to.

Prayerful Dependence. May the natural disposition of our churches be expressed in constant communication with God, recognizing our utter dependence on Him for our life and our hope. May every member, and leader, understand that connection with God in prayer is more motivated by our mission rather than our selfish needs. May we be known as a people of prayer.

You will notice in the above that the vision is not stated. We don't know what it is right now! But we do know this, that the statements above are a vital component of not just our discerning the vision, but will be necessary for the churches to fulfill any vision that God will give us.

WEEK 4 - DAY 29 (MAR 1)

CHURCH UNITY

PSALM 133:1-3

Unity. Behold how good it is! When originally written the statement above was addressed to the people of Israel, God's chosen. Things haven't changed. It is as true to day as it was centuries ago. We should expect brothers and sisters (God's chosen) to dwell together in unity. We share the same nature; we share the same parentage; we share the same table; we share the same citizenship.

Unity is not uniformity. We each have our distinctive personalities, personal goals, backgrounds, life circumstances, etc. Unity comes from within and is a spiritual grace, while uniformity is the result of pressure from the outside. We are individuals, and God isn't looking for uniformity of individuals. He is looking for unity of purpose, centered on our common life in Christ.

The psalmist gives us two descriptions of unity. "It is like the precious oil upon the head..." Aaron wore a breastplate over his chest that had 12 stones—one for each of the tribes of Israel. The oil bathed all those stones, and they all became one in that anointing oil. That's a picture of the Holy Spirit, who baptizes us into the Body of Christ and gives us spiritual unity (Eph 4:3). Note that unity is not something we create; it is something that God gives us.

Spiritual unity is also fruitful like dew. With the fruit of unity comes God's blessing! Is it any wonder that so many people, even churches, seem to be absent the blessings of God? Maybe that's simply the result of a missing unity of heart.

We are to strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit. Our unity requires diligence (Eph 4:3). Let's work on it and work on it now! We need full dedication. It starts in the heart, with a spirit of humility, and a fervent desire to put the needs of the other first (Rom 12:9-16).

WEEK 4 - DAY 29

CHURCH UNITY

PSALM 133:1-3

The world is full of discord, animosity, bitterness, and resentment. If in the midst of the world there is an oasis of unity and harmony, people will wonder what we have. Then we have opportunity to say, “This is what Christ can do.” The world needs to see that the church is not just another social club, but an institution of God, supernaturally born, supernaturally sustained, with a supernatural destiny.

Pray for the fragrant oil and the fruitful dew of spiritual unity in the church today. As we discern and then follow His vision and direction for our Church, we know that spiritual unity is a vital component that will dictate the level of our “success.” Decide right now: are you going to be a divider or a uniter?

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