

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



October 7, 2018

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

Evangelist:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Five Ways to Improve Your Prayer Life

In a world where we can communicate in so many different ways with so many different people many Christians struggle to communicate with God. God has blessed His children with the spiritual blessing of prayer, but are we taking full advantage of it (Eph. 1:3)? While the Bible is now available in many different formats and versions for Christians to read and study, there is no modern update available for prayer. Prayer must be done the way it always has, with words from our lips to God's ears. Paul encouraged Christians to pray continually, but in our busy world with constant emails and notifications, it may seem like incessant prayer is impossible (1 Thess. 5:17).

I want to pray more, and I know many Christians who would like to strengthen their prayer lives. The truth is, many Christians do not know how to pray. Think about it—a sinner obeys the gospel, and then is told he or she can talk to God about anything. The problem, however, is that new Christians are seldom shown how this is done. Most people get their ideas about prayer and how it should be done from the public worship assembly on Sunday, and that can be a good or bad thing. To confess that you do not know how to pray is not a bad thing. It has been said that the first step to overcoming a problem is admitting that you have one. Jesus' disciples needed help with prayer, and the Holy Spirit is said to help us when we struggle to put our requests into words (Lk. 11:1; Rm. 8:26-27). I want to offer five simple ways to help improve your prayer life if you struggle with prayer. If you do not struggle with prayer, these five things may help to further strengthen your prayer life as well.

Pray the Scriptures

While it is not original with me, I think praying the Bible is a good place to start. Sometimes our prayer lives are in a rut because we simply say the same things in the same ways. However, if we took a passage of Scripture and prayed it back to God, it would help. The early church prayed the Scriptures (Acts 4:24-26). There are a few advantages in praying Scripture. The first is that we are praying God's Word to Him and therefore are safe to say that we are within the will of God (1 Jn. 5:14). Second, it helps us to further internalize God's Word into our hearts as it becomes personal to us. How is this to be done? I would recommend that you start with the psalms or one of the shorter books from Paul. One could read one of the psalms and take the words of David or whoever wrote the psalm and pray it back in his or her own words to God. This can be done line by line until the psalm is completed. It will add diversity and depth to our prayer lives as we think about things that we would not normally mention in prayer. While our circumstances may not be a direct parallel to the psalmist or Paul, there is nothing new under the sun and our problems are addressed in some shape or form in Scripture (Eccl. 1:9). Praying Scripture in our own words provides a guide on what to say but also teaches us that our prayer lives should have an authenticity to them as we engage with our heavenly Father.

(Continued on page 2)



...in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. **1 Timothy 2:9-12**

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Start the Day with Prayer

It's a shame that everyone is not a morning person; half of life is lived in the morning. As it relates to prayer, it is a good idea to start the day off with conversation with God. The person who begins the day on his knees has already defeated the problems that will come up throughout the day. It is not wrong to pray at night or in the afternoon, but if prayer is already a struggle for you, postponing it can hardly be a good thing. Jesus woke up early to get away from everyone to pray (Mk. 1:35). The psalmist told God that he would hear His voice in the morning (Psalm 5:3). While David prayed three times a day, [the] first of those was in the morning (Psalm 55:17). What if you prayed as soon as you were conscious? Do not even get out of bed or let your feet hit the floor, before thanking God for another day and praying to Him about the things you will face later. Start off with prayer and then fill the gaps of the day with prayer as well.

Count Your Blessings

Maybe one of the reasons we struggle with prayer is because we struggle with praise. If we would take time to think on all that God has done for us, the natural response would be to bubble forth with thanksgiving (Psalm 103:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:18). How long and how well can you brag on God? Do you ever brag on God? Our prayer lives would be improved if we made it a point to think on all of the good things that God has done for us (Psalm 116:12). While prayer is a time for request and petition, it must also be an occasion for blessing and appreciation toward the one who bends His ear to earth to listen. Make a physical or mental list of all the things that God has blessed you with throughout the day and then pray that list of thanks to God.

See the Strength in Simplicity

Simplicity is not synonymous with shallowness. I said that sometimes we learn to pray from what we hear in the public assembly and we may get the impression that we have to be professional orators to talk with God. God does not want to be impressed with our extensive vocabularies and our Twitter-worthy catch phrases. God wants

us to humbly approach Him and communicate with Him in our own words. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, the model He left them contains about 50 to 60 words, depending on your translation (Mt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11:1-4). The model prayer is easy to read and simple to memorize, but it is a deep, thoughtful prayer to model as it covers all of life's bases. Pray to God reverently, but do not turn into someone you are not in prayer. You will become exhausted in prayer if you have to put on a costume and a different voice each time you approach God. Your prayers may be shorter on some occasions and longer on others, but simply learn to talk with God in prayer in simple language. This will keep you from giving up on it.

Deepen Your Confidence and Dependence on God

The only people that pray are those convinced that they really need God's help. Paul was a spiritual giant in his generation, but he requested prayer more than anyone else in the New Testament (Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:2-3; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1-2). Paul knew if he were going to accomplish anything worthwhile, he needed the help of God. Are we convinced of our total dependence on God? We must reject the world's advertisement that says if you are smart enough, strong enough, and gifted enough you can get it done. We need to remember that power belongs to God and that we cannot prosper without His help (Psalm 62:11). Not only do we need to see our need for God but also His nearness and willingness to help (James 4:8). God can do more than we think He can do (Job 42:2; Eph. 3:20). What could we accomplish and overcome if we really believed we had divine resources at our disposal? God wants to help us, but we have to cast our cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7).

Prayer is hard work. In prayer we are not telling God all the things He should give us, but we are communicating our cares and concerns to Him while knowing He will answer with what is best. Prayer is an avenue through which we praise and thank God for all of His blessings toward us. If we are doing it right, we will find ourselves struggling in prayer and that's ok. We have one of the greatest blessings in the world in prayer; may we use it to the glory of God.

Hiram Kemp (plainsimplefaith.com)

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Oct. 7 Malachi
Oct. 8 Matthew 1—4
Oct. 9 Matthew 5—7
Oct. 10 Matthew 8—10
Oct. 11 Matthew 11—12
Oct. 12 Matthew 13—15
Oct. 13 Matthew 16—18
Oct. 14 Matthew 19—20

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **35 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** following our worship this morning.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting this week at Lawn** w/ Dave Rogers.
- ◆ **Ladies' Day this Saturday at 9th & Main** in San Angelo w/ Tonne Williamson. Topic—*“Generation to Generation”*.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ November 3—Ladies' Day w/ Evelyn Bonner
- ◆ March 24-27—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Oct. 14-17—Lubbock Lectureship: *“Jesus Christ and Him Crucified”* (Johnny speaks Monday @ 3:00pm)
- ◆ Oct. 20-21—Back to the Bible Lectures @ Hamilton.
- ◆ Oct. 21-24—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Lee Wright

When a Blessing Does Not Look Like a Blessing

“Don't be deceived,” James warns, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father ... who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:16-17).

Some are indeed deceived. They mistake the temporary gratification of sin for a blessing *“from above.”*

After all, the pleasures of adultery are undeniable. Revenge can bring quick and cheap gratification. Crushing someone else by gossip or hurtful words can bring a kind of pleasure.

But these gifts are not from above. They are not *“good and perfect gifts.”* They are tainted and tarnished and temporary.

Then there are those blessings that don't appear to be blessings at first. James has already pointed out how trials can bring blessings such as *“faith,”* and *“perseverance,”* and spiritual *“maturity”* (James 1:3,4). The gift of loneliness lies in the fact that it makes us seek the fellowship of God. The gift of failure makes us understanding of others who fail. The gift of sorrow makes us better able to sympathize with those in sorrow.

Not every gift looks alike. Don't be deceived. Trust the father, who is not capricious, who does not lash out because he's *“having a bad day.”* He doesn't, and you can count on it, even the trials are a sign of his love.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14).

October Anniversaries: Ryan & Caitlin Settles (7), Rafe & Becky Smith (16), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Sept. 23 2018	Sept. 30 2018
Bible Class	44	43
AM Worship	50	54
PM Worship	42	38
Wednesday PM	39	42
Contribution	\$1,868	\$1,747

	This Week: 10/7/18	Next Week: 10/14/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>October 2018 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / Greer</p> <p>November 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mike & Patti Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Jack Turner Hank Wheeler, James Fuller	John Barnum*, Ryan Settles Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Ryan Rudloff	Don Smith		
Communion	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 10 Joe Dennis	October 17 Rafe Smith	October 24 Don Smith	October 31 5 th Wednesday Video

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of October 7, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 14:16**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History—Genesis 33:12**

<p>The Role of Women in the Church</p> <p>There is a growing pressure in the Lord's church for women to assume leadership roles in the church as well as the public worship services. This issue cannot be settled by what is politically correct, or on the basis of what we like or dislike, or what is being advocated or practiced by others, but rather it must be settled by what the Scriptures have to say.</p> <p>I. The Matter of Submission.</p> <p>A. Some have suggested that unless a woman can have exactly the same role in the church as the man, she is a second rate Christian.</p> <p>B. The proper order of submission is clearly stated by Paul in 1 Cor. 11:3.</p> <p>II. What Can Women Do in The Church?</p> <p>A. According to the Word of God, a woman can do many things: Titus 2:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:15; Acts 18:26; 1 Tim. 5:10, 14; 1 Pet. 3:1; 1 Tim. 2:9-10.</p> <p>B. Much of the work done in the local congregation would simply not be done if it were not for the women.</p> <p>C. Women are worthy of great honor for all that they do!</p> <p>III. What Are Women Prohibited from Doing in The Church? (1 Tim. 2:7-15)</p> <p>A. Paul is speaking with authority ... authority of God.</p> <p>B. What does God's Word teach concerning men or women leading public prayers? (vs. 8-9)</p> <p>C. Are women permitted to teach men?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In verses 11-12, Paul reminds Timothy of the need for Christian women to learn in silence with a submissive attitude. What about women learning in silence? Can Women be given the authority to do that which the Bible prohibits? Some argue that the restrictions given by Paul were just <i>cultural</i> in nature and applied only to women of that time and place. <p>IV. Rules for Women in The Assembly of The Church. (1 Cor. 14:34-35)</p> <p>A. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he gave clear and specific instruction concerning the role of women in the public assembly.</p> <p>B. Abuses in the worship services.</p> <p>C. What about women asking their husbands at home?</p> <p>D. Paul states one more reason for the women to remain silent in the worship assembly: "For it is shameful for women to speak in church".</p>	<p>Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind (1) – Ephesians 4:17-24</p> <p>III. The Practice of the Glorious Church (4:1 – 6:20).</p> <p>D. Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind (4:17-32).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Turn from darkness to light (17-19). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord</i> refers back to the worthy walk (4:1); shows Paul spoke and wrote for God. <i>That you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk.</i> <i>In the futility of their [the Gentiles'] mind.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul was showing an obvious difference between the former lives of his readers and their new lives in Christ. He was exhorting these Christians to live according to the new way they had found in Christ. <i>Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God (18)</i> is a commentary on "the futility of their mind". The Gentiles exclusion from the life of God was <i>because of the ignorance that is in them.</i> Turn from the old man to the new man (20-24). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul began to contrast their present lives with their former lives: <i>But you have not so learned Christ.</i> Paul explained his exhortation: <i>If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus.</i> Three actions are mentioned in verses 22-24. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The first action is <i>put off ... the old man.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The old man <i>grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.</i> The second action is <i>to be renewed in the spirit of your mind.</i> The third action named by Paul was to <i>put on the new man.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Christian is to take upon himself the family likeness. Therefore, the new man is <i>created according to God.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Righteousness</i> is a quality granted to Christians. <i>Holiness</i> also suggests God-likeness, and the Ephesians were to be holy even as God is holy (see 1 Pet. 1:16). Being righteous and holy is <i>in truth</i>; the truth of God's revelation teaches both qualities and opposes the unholy and unrighteous lifestyle of the Gentiles (4:17-19).
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