

Mount Calvary Baptist Church



Family Devotion Month January 2023 *“Let Us Pray”*



“First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them. Pray for kings. Pray for everyone who is in authority. Pray that we can live peaceful and quiet lives. And pray that we will be godly and holy. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior. He wants all people to be saved. He wants them to come to know the truth.”

1 Timothy 2: 1-4 NIRV

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2023 Family Devotional

“Let Us Pray”

“Introduction”

Happy New Year! By the grace of God, we have made it to this first month of 2023! God has sustained us through many challenges, losses, and victories in 2022. Our God is praiseworthy, He continues to maintain us and proves His love for us. The excitement of a new year brings new hope, new possibilities, and a new intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To experience this new relationship with Christ, we go to Him in prayer!

Just as water is essential to our bodies, so is prayer essential to the Christian life. Prayer is the most intimate form of communication that directly connects us to God on a personal and intimate level. Prayer is an act of obedience; God calls us to pray. Prayer strengthens our faith and trust in God. Prayer allows us to intercede on behalf of another person. Prayer is not just about us asking God for things; it's also about us listening to what He has to say. We can learn so much about His will for our lives when we take the time to be still and listen to Him. When we hear from God, it gives us the courage to step out in faith and obey His commands.

God promises us in His Word that He hears every word that we pray to Him (*I John 5:14*). He is waiting, ready, and willing to listen to our worries, concerns, and needs. Prayer does require faith and discipline, but when we earnestly seek God through prayer, He will do great things through us to further His kingdom.

The Christian Education Ministry and Intercessory Prayer Ministry has partnered together to generate a church wide family devotional month. We know that prayer changes things and as we look around at the condition of our society and our churches, we stand in need of prayer for Unity, Love and a Revival.

On Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. we will meet in the sanctuary corporately, repenting, unified, humble, praying, **seeking the face of God** (*II Chronicles 7:14*) for HIS church, our Pastor, ministries, our leaders, our congregation, our families, friends, and the advancement of the kingdom.

As you embark on this journey to reignite your prayer life, we pray that God will open your heart so that prayer becomes an essential part of your everyday life. Your reward - you will intensify your spiritual life and develop a closer and sweeter fellowship with our Lord and Savior. We pray that each one of you have an incredible year and that you grow in your relationship with God, experience more of His great love and in your love of those around you.

Reverend Brenda Jenkins and Reverend Shirley Stewart-Tibbs

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“Steps to help you develop a more consistent, disciplined prayer life”

Accept your need to pray

Consider how much Jesus depended on prayer. Jesus prayed not only to set an example but also to teach us that even the Son of God needed to be connected through prayer to God. It was obvious that unless He had spent time with the Father, He could not be effective in ministry.

Admit your need to learn

Even the apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray (*Luke 11*). Prayer is not a formula or a code, but one heart talking to another, expressing our sincere desire to know the heart of God. One of the best ways to learn is just to do it. T. W. Hunt's *In God's Presence* is one of the best books to help you get into the practice of praying.

Align yourself with God

Jesus never prayed, "If this is Your will, Father." He knew God's will because He prayed and listened to Him. God lets us know His will when we spend time with Him, whether through prayer, Bible study, worship, or conversation with others who also seek God's will. Prayer is listening as well as speaking, feeling as well as pleading.

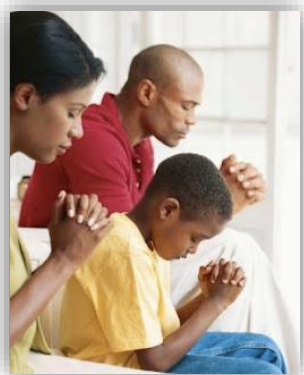
Adapt to focus on God

The difference between you and God's greatest prayer warriors is your time and focus. God has given all of us the same amount of time and the same instruction: Seek Him and invest ourselves in prayer for others. Whether we do this or not depends on our willingness and desire.

Accept God's help

The Bible tells us that our prayers are not efforts to inform God of needs or concerns. He already knows them. Our prayers help us acknowledge our trust in and dependence on Him to handle our prayers, seek His encouragement and strength, and trust Him with the results. God is more interested in our trusting Him completely than He is in whether we fully understand everything.

Resource: LIFEWAY



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“Daily Scripture Reading”

Date	Scripture	Prayer Point	Notes
1	1 Peter 5:1	Feed the flock with sound biblical doctrine	
2	James 1:17	Enjoy a full and abundant life in Christ	
3	Romans 12:6	Recognize, activate, and faithfully utilize your God-given gifts	
4	Lk 12:47-48	Be prepared, so that when the master comes you are ready to welcome Him	
5	Philippians 3:17	Follow godly examples	
6	James 3:1	The importance of spiritual accountability in my Christian life	
7	John 3:16	Model the sacrificial love Christ displayed at Calvary	
8	Ecc 10:17	Hold yourself accountable	
9	Isaiah 66:2	Favor for those who are humble and contrite in spirit	
10	Matt 20:26	Leaders are servants first	
11	Luke 6:38	Do not judge nor condemn; forgive others as Christ forgave us	
12	Isa 41:10	Be fearless	
13	James 1:5	Seek out Spiritual Counsel	
14	1 Peter 4:10-11	Speak and serve others as if unto God	
15	1 Cor. 12:4	Honor each other’s gifts as they are all imparted by the Holy Spirit	

Date	Scripture	Prayer Point	Notes
16	2 Timothy 1:6	Maintain fire, excitement, and passion about the Holy Spirit living in us	
17	John 8:31-38	Abide in God's word, know the truth and be set free	
18	John 17:11	Promote the unity of believers, patterned after the Father and Son	*Corporate Prayer
19	Prov 29:14	Fairness is a leader's moral obligation	
20	Phil 2:3	See strength in others	
21	Luke 22:26	Remain trainable	
22	Matthew 5:37	Make sure you have a word of honor	
23	1 Tim 4:12	No matter how old or how young you are- STAND	
24	Luke 6:31	If you don't want it done to you—Don't Do It!!!	
25	Hebrews 2:4	Ask God to show signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit	
26	1 Thess 5:14	Patience really is a virtue	
27	Prov 21:23	Watch what comes out of your mouth	
28	Rom 11:29	Stand knowing God's gifts and His call are irrevocable	
29	Psalms 133:1	Common goal is unity	
30	1 Corinthians 12:12	There must be both Unity and Diversity in the Body	
31	Isaiah 40:31	Be steadfast and immovable	

***In-person corporate prayer on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Prayer Quotes for Daily Inspiration and Encouragement

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - **Max Lucado**

"True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice." - **Billy Graham**

"A person who is on their knees can see farther." – Reverend Frank R. Kelly, Sr.

"There are parts of our calling, works of the Holy Spirit, and defeats of the darkness that will come no other way than through furious, fervent, faith-filled, unceasing prayer." - **Beth Moore**

"Prayer is not only asking, but an attitude of mind which produces the atmosphere in which asking is perfectly natural." - **Oswald Chambers**

"The reality is my prayers don't change God. But I am convinced prayer changes me. Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of religious habit into authentic connection with God Himself." - **Lysa TerKeurst**

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - **Martin Luther**

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." - **Charles Spurgeon**

"Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day." - **Joyce Meyer**

"As we practice implementing this incredible power tool He's placed in our hands, He divinely positions us - even a little life like ours - in His grand purpose for the ages. Through the connective tissue of prayer, He cracks open the door that makes us at least a small part of how these massive plans of His are translated into the lives of people we know. Including ours."
- **Priscilla Shirer**

"Prayer makes a godly man, and puts within him the mind of Christ, the mind of humility, of self-surrender, of service, of pity, and of prayer. If we really pray, we will become more like God, or else we will quit praying." - **E.M. Bounds**

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Invitation to Discipleship

We Offer Christ To You



These words themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation.

Prayer: *“Dear God, I realize I am a sinner deserving of death. I can never be forgiven or reach heaven by my own good deeds. But you have provided salvation for me. I place my faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died for my sins, rose from the dead, and offers me the gift of eternal life. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to live for you. Thank you for accepting me and giving me eternal life.”*

Have you made a decision to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior?

- If yes, Congratulations!
- If not yet, then you are encouraged to contact us at <http://www.mountcalvarybaptist.com> so that we may guide you in your life changing decision.