

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson
Servers - Greg Lowery
Josh Berryhill
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Vertie Mae York

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Truth & Emotion



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Pray without Ceasing

By Rodney Nulph

The Bible is replete with the command to pray. God has filled His Book with promises that are connected directly with prayer. Prayer is such a unique privilege and wonderful blessing for the child of God. Yet, we often struggle with prayer. Surprisingly, the disciples of Jesus struggled with prayer as well (Luke 11:1). I sometimes struggle with prayer; do you ever struggle? What makes this spiritual discipline such a challenge for many Christians? Consider the following.

Inadequacy. We sometimes struggle with prayer because we feel as though we are inadequate to pray. Sometimes prayer is thought of as a practice for the spiritually elite; in other words, if I feel weak, how could I ever approach God? Yet, it is during those bouts of weakness and uncertainty that we really need time with our Father (1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6). While we are quite inadequate in and of ourselves, with the power of our High Priest, we can “come boldly to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:15-16). Do not let your feelings of inadequacy prevent you from praying without ceasing!

Ignorance. We sometimes struggle with prayer because we simply do not know how to pray. Just think for a moment; how do people usually learn to pray? Most often we learn from hearing others pray. While that is not necessarily a bad way to learn, we can seldom go deeper into prayer than those from whom we have learned. Sometimes as children, we are taught quaint prayers like “Now I lay me down to sleep,” etc. As we grow into adulthood, although the words may change, the level of knowledge and depth does not change. To learn to pray, we must be taught! The disciples asked Jesus to teach them (Luke 11:1), with the implication that John the Immerser also taught his disciples. To better learn to pray, study the Model Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13, and the Lord’s Prayer found in John 17. Walk with Jesus to Gethsemane as He poured out His heart to the Father in Matthew 26:39-44. See His posture, hear His pain, and note His phrases. There is simply no better teacher than Jesus. I can learn so much about prayer from Him!

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Josh Berryhill: dealing with back trouble, please pray that with proper medical treatment that he will improve

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Jamie Long: has an upcoming hernia surgery, please be praying for a successful surgery

Lisa Cotton: has a detached retina and will have surgery Tuesday, please be praying that there will be no complications

Susie Sims (Whitehouse): has a benign tumor on the auditory nerve in her right ear, she will taking radiation treatments to stop the tumor from growing, please pray that the treatments will be successful

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy) in March. Doctors have suggested that they go to Italy for gene replacement treatment that hasn't been approved in the U.S. Treatments will take 4 months; please pray that these treatments will be successful

Upcoming Events

August 9th Missionary Report (Jerry Bates) 5:00 pm

Inconsistency. We sometimes struggle with prayer because we do not have regular times to pray. We often face each day with a schedule for food, work, the gym, recreation and everything else, but we fail to set regular times aside to pray. Daniel was a prayer warrior, and he had regular times to pray (Daniel 6:10). Jesus, our example, prayed regularly. Consider just a few times: Jesus prayed at His baptism (Luke 3:21). He prayed regularly away from the crowds (Luke 5:16), after healing people in the evening (Mark 1:35), before walking on water (Matthew 14:23) and before choosing the twelve (Luke 6:12). As Christians, we are often good at praying before our meals, but what other times have you set aside for personal prayer to the Father? We can never expect to be consistent prayer warriors if we do not set numerous times throughout the day to pray.

Insecurity. Sometimes we struggle with prayer because we simply do not trust that God can operate and answer prayer. Have you ever been there? You pray, but in the back of your mind you doubt! For prayer to be effective, it must be accompanied by faith (James 1:6-8). Bible faith is based on evidence (Hebrews 11:1), and the evidence (God’s Word) teaches clearly that God operates and acts upon the prayers of the faithful (1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 5:15). Much like an earthly father loves to bless his earthly children, our Heavenly Father in a greater way desires to bless us, His spiritual children (Matthew 7:11-12). Praying without ceasing involves a faith that does not cease!

Prayer is a spiritual discipline that requires work and time. We do not become prayer warriors overnight! Dear Reader, do not allow your inadequacy, ignorance, inconsistency or insecurity to stand in the way of a healthy prayer life. Prayer changes things! Prayer opens God’s providential hand and power upon earth today. God is God and will always be, so “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Be at Peace

By Robert Johnson

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding” (Romans 14:19). As we begin the holiday season, the concept of peace will occupy a prominent position in public thought. Peace of mind is one of the most needed, and one of the most sought after, attributes of our society. Even the most cursory glance at the newspaper or television news reveals the lack of peace in people’s lives. This lack of peace in our world comes from a lack of genuine spirituality.

Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth, “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33). Disorder and confusion are the opposite of peace. They are traits that fill many people’s lives, but their origin is not of God. “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every vile practice” (James 3:16). Sin creates confusion and destroys peace in our own lives, in our relationship with others and especially in our relationship with God.

What is the way to find peace? The answer is Jesus. “For he himself is our peace...” (Ephesians 2:14). When we obey the Gospel and are cleansed of our sins by the blood of Christ, we can have peace. We have peace with God as our sins are forgiven. We have peace in ourselves, knowing the guilt of sin is removed. We can have peace with others, as we respond to them in love, not from sinful, selfish motives and attitudes.

So, peace is something God provides in Christ, but something as well that we must seek. The writer of the Book of Hebrews understood the need for his readers to positively respond in living the Gospel, if peace were to be a reality. Of course, those who reject God’s will, who still live in sin, cannot know God’s peace in Christ. This is why Jesus could say, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). We can be at peace with Christ, which helps us deal with those who remain in sin, which creates disorder and strife.

What can we do to encourage peace in others? Let them see Christ in you. What kind of example do they see? Do you live in godliness, or do they see sin fill your heart and actions? What kind of language do you use? Do you speak kind words, or words that create strife? “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1). To a large extent, how I respond to others determines whether I can find peace with others.

If I have peace through Christ, I should try to be at peace with those around me. There will be some who, by allowing sin to influence them, will refuse to know peace. However, Christ living in me should make a difference in how I respond to others, in whether or not I have, and share, peace.

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