Cornerstone Church



- One-Year Bible Reading Plan
- **Praying For Unbelievers Campaign**
- **Personal Devotion and Discipleship Plans**

January 4 - 24, 2021

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You can download, view, or print the 5-Day Bible Reading Program and the Prayers For Nonbelievers Booklets from our website at cbcarlington.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 4 -24, 2021 Prayer, Fasting, Personal Devotion & Bible Reading

We are setting apart twenty-one days at the beginning of January 2021 to seek the Lord for ourselves, our families, church, cities, and government. Our expectation is that God will speak to us and move powerfully in our lives during and after this specific time of prayer, fasting and personal devotion. We envision this fasting, Bible reading, and prayer movement, much like a seed being planted into the ground of our lives that God will water and cause to grow as the year of 2021 unfolds. We encourage you to prepare your heart for how God will use this in your life.

You may have questions about fasting so please read through the rest of this booklet for more information. You will also read about all of the exciting opportunities of prayer, reading and devotional studies that the church staff is asking everyone to participate in as a church body during our 21 days of prayer and fasting, personal devotion, and One Year 5-Day Bible reading.

If you did not get a 3-month CBC devotional booklet to use for December, January and February, you can download an online version of the devotional at www.mydevoapp.com. Create an account and connect with our church organization to begin reading the online devotion. The access code is: QBC. You will be directed to the Google play or the App Store to download the app. Please read the daily devotional to help you stay focused on spiritual things throughout the fasting period. There are a few paper copies available at the church.



Prayer and fasting go hand in hand. With that in mind, we have orchestrated a variety of prayer opportunities for you to participate in during our prayer and fasting period. It is very important for you to have a personal prayer life as you are fasting and reading with our corporate movement. Write down your personal prayer requests and watch God answer your prayers! We would also like for you to pray over our daily corporate prayer list in the back of this booklet. Each day we will have a specific area of prayer that we're asking everyone to focus on while praying over their personal requests each day.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan – To kick off the New Year, we're reading through the entire Bible in 2021. There is a separate booklet with the 5-Day Reading Plan you can download or print on our website. The reading plan begins Monday, January 4. Please read along with the church as we discover or re-discover the amazing growth and energy that you'll receive from

daily spending time in God's Word. Looking for answers to life's questions? Get In The

Word of God. Looking for answers to prayers and decisions you have to make?

Get In The Word of God. Looking to grow spiritually and develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ? Get In The Word of God!!!

Prayer Drive Thru Event at the church from 9:00am to 11:00am. We will need volunteers to pray with people who drive through our prayer lines, hold signs along Matlock Road encouraging people to drive through for prayer, drink station volunteers to distribute coffee and hot chocolate and those equipped to share the gospel with anyone requesting salvation. Sign up by texting "drive" to 817.468.0083.

Your prayers are powerful and effective when rooted in a righteous life. James 5:16

Join us for our **24-hour Virtual Prayer Chain** Friday, January 8th at 6pm through Saturday, January 9th at 6pm. Sign up for a 1-hour (or more) time slot(s) and join us online via Zoom as we call upon God to show us His power as we acknowledge HIM as King, Lord, and Redeemer. **Sign up online at cbcarlington.org.**

We want to pray for your unsaved family and friends as a part of our **2021 Praying**

know when our lives may drastically change forever. Romans 14:8 reads, "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." Those of us who have given our lives to Jesus Christ have hope that we will see our deceased loved ones in heaven someday. However, many of us have family and friends who do not know Jesus as Savior or confessed Jesus as Lord. Some of us even have family and friends who are in a backslidden state and they have lost their desire to live for Christ. Proverbs 14:14 - The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied with his. Jeremiah 3:22 - "Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we come to You; For You are the Lord our God." We want to pray specifically by name for those unbelieving family and friends.

Email the names of your nonbelieving and backslidden loved ones and friends to us so that we can compile a list of names for the church to pray over. You don't have to send last names, but we would love call out the first names of those who need Jesus as Savior. We also want YOU to pray for others as well. As the emails come in, we will compile the list and present it to the church body for prayer by the third week of January. **Email the names of your family and friends to connect@cbcarlington.org**.

There is a list of prayers you can pray for the lost in a separate booklet on our website. Feel free to download or print a copy of the list and pray for those on the list daily.

CHURCH CORPORATE 21-DAY FAST JANUARY 4 - 24

"...But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." Matthew 9:15b NKJV

WHAT IS A FAST?

Fasting is when someone or a group of people abstain from food (fully or partially) for a specific period of time in order to seek God through prayer. Many people in the Bible practiced fasting as a spiritual discipline or in response to something specific. In the Old Testament, Israel was required by God to fast collectively at least once a year on the Day of Atonement as well as other occasions. In the New Testament we have records of the early church fasting and praying together for specific reasons and reliable church history tells us that the early church practiced fasting twice a week, usually on Wednesday and Friday.

WHY DO WE FAST?

Knowing what a fast is doesn't necessarily mean we understand its purpose. We can find many good Scriptural reasons for fasting and below you will find a short list of some of these reasons. It's important to remember that we not only fast and pray for ourselves, but also for those around us.

- 1. To humble ourselves to God (repentance) Psalm 35:13, 1 Samuel 7:6, Ezra 9
- 2. To come closer to God James 4:8
- 3. To understand God's Word (revelation) Ephesians 1:17-22
- 4. To know God's will or direction Acts 13:1-2
- 5. To seek healing/deliverance Isaiah 58, Matthew 17:21
- 6. To seek God's intervention 2 Samuel 12:16-23, 2 Chronicles 20:3
- 7. To intercede for others Daniel 9:3

DIFFERENT TYPES OF FASTS

There are many different ways to do a fast. The most important part of fasting is the time we spend with God in prayer. If we deny ourselves food and do not pray then we will accomplish nothing. The following types of fasts are simply references to what we can do as we seek the Lord in prayer.

1. Full Fast

A full fast is where you go completely without food for a specific amount of time. There are at least four references in the Bible where people fasted food and water; however we are only referencing food as a full fast for obvious reasons. If you choose to do a full fast then we recommend you consult with others prior to doing so, especially if you take any kinds of medication.

2. Partial Fast

A partial fast is to simply go without a meal or two during the day of your fast. For example, you could fast from dinner or lunch and spend an extended amount of time in prayer in place of that meal. There are no rules to this kind of fasting but you should decide beforehand what you will do and stick to it as with all fasts.

3. Daniel Fast

This kind of fast comes from Daniel chapter 10, where Daniel had a terrifying vision that caused him to abstain from all pleasant food and drink. If you choose to do this kind of fast then essentially you will be abstaining from all "meats, sweets, and treats." Most people stick to fruits, vegetables and nuts or similar kinds of protein. There are many resources online that could provide healthy options with this fast.

4. Media Fast/Soul Fast (Daniel 6:18)

Sometimes we are unable to participate in abstaining from food for various health reasons, however, this does not mean we cannot fast and pray. There are times we need to refocus certain areas of our lives that are out of balance. For example, you might choose to stop using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast and then carefully bring that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast. We strongly encourage you to replace forms of entertainment (TV, movies, internet surfing, social media) with prayer and intentional time with family. God often uses this kind of fast to quiet the noise in our life and increase our ability to hear His voice.

PRACTICAL POINTS OF FASTING

- 1. **Plan your fast what kind of fast? How long? Write your plan out!** We are corporately fasting as a church family (all together) for 14 days from January 2 15, 2018.
- Be specific with your fasting know why you're fasting and what you're praying for.
 Write down your personal prayer requests as well as pray over the corporate church prayer list.
- 3. Plan your prayer time for each day when will you pray? Plan it out. Mark your location and time that you will pray each day at your home, on your job, and at the church. Being intentional helps you accomplish your goal.
- 4. **Journal your fast God will speak to you, but it may mean more at another time**. Write about your fast experience, what you heard from God, how you felt each day and what you heard Him say. If you don't journal it on paper, put it in your phone!

- 5. **Drink lots of water we get most of our water from food, so double up on your water.** The great thing about increasing your water intake during the fast, is the amazing health benefit you'll get from the fast. God is amazing in how He asks us to fast and turns that sacrifice into a benefit for us at the end!
- 6. **Invite Accountability it's good to share what you're doing with a trusted friend.** The exciting thing about our church wide prayer and fasting period, is knowing that we are all doing it together. There is accountability and comradery within our church as we fast and pray together.

Sample Menu Ideas For Fasting

Sample Menu 1:

Fasting on Fruits, Vegetables, Juices, and Water

Breakfast

Fruit smoothie with whey protein

Mid-morning Snack

Fresh fruit or fresh vegetables

Lunch

• Raw vegetable salad with light, organic dressing and vegetable broth soup

Mid-afternoon Snack

Fresh fruit or fresh vegetables

Dinner

• Fresh salad with light, organic dressing and steamed or grilled vegetables

Sample Menu 2:

Fasting Liquids Only

Breakfast

• Fruit smoothie with whey protein

Mid-morning Snack

• Herbal tea or vegetable broth soup

Lunch

• Raw, juiced vegetables

Mid-afternoon Snack

• Fresh fruit juice or fruit smoothie with whey protein

Dinner

Vegetable juice or vegetable broth soup

Sample Menu 3:

Modified Daniel Fast

Breakfast

• 1-2 servings whole grains with fresh fruit juice

Mid-morning Snack

Fresh fruit or fresh chopped vegetables

Lunch

- 1-2 servings whole grains, fresh salad with legumes and light, organic dressing
- Mid-afternoon Snack
 - Fresh fruit juice or fruit smoothie with whey protein

Dinner

• 1-2 servings of whole grains; fresh salad with legumes and light, organic dressing

PRAYER

As you prepare for the 21 days of fasting and prayer it can be tempting to start thinking of a laundry list of prayers you'd love to see answered. We really want to encourage you to keep this simple. Think about the top two or three things most pressing on your heart and zone in on those with God. Write them down in the space provided below, and be open to hearing what God wants to show you in those areas. The breakthroughs, miracles, and answers to your prayers will be by-products of drawing closer to Jesus.

When praying, make your primary goal to know Jesus more and experience Him. Pray prayers of total surrender, and aim to glorify God with your life. Focus first on what's right about Him, such as His goodness and His greatness, and see everything else through that filter.

Most simply, make time to pray daily. Don't overcomplicate this! Just talk to God. Have that place and time where you can seek Him every day. If you don't plan to pray, you won't. If you find it a challenge to disconnect from the busyness of your day, engaging in worship music is a great way to prepare your heart for prayer.

During this fast, I am praying and believing God for:	

Personal Devotion

Just like prayer and fasting, reading your Bible is about connecting to God in a more powerful way. It is not about duty but about relationship. When we engage God through reading His Word, we engage the very presence of God. His Word is living and active! As we read our Bible, we are drawing closer to God and positioning ourselves to hear from Him in particular ways.

Once again, as with prayer, choose the time and the place where you are going to read your Bible and devotional every day, and come prepared to hear what He wants to tell you.

Here are three quick things we'd like to share with you about how to get the most out of your devotional time with God.

1. READ CONSISTENTLY

It is better to read a little every day than to ty and knock out two hours of Bible reading or devotions in one sitting. It is so important to digest the Word in absorbable chunks. Don't bite off more than you can chew, and certainly don't compare your "performance" with that of others. If you miss a few days, pick up at the next reading, but stay with it and don't give up. The key is to keep this simple and make it sustainable.

2. READ PRAYERFULLY

Talk to God as you're reading. Don't rush through. If you come across something you don't understand, pause for a moment and ask God about it. Reading prayerfully is making space and time to talk to God and giving Him time and space to talk to you. Taking time to meditate on God's Word is just as important as reading it.

3. READ EXPECTANTLY

You are about to partake of the bread of life, so foster an attitude of expectancy. Believe that God is going to speak to you through His Word. With meditation on the ideas and thoughts recorded in your journal, be prepared to do something with what He shows you. A great, simple way to journal your devotionals is to use the SOAP method.

4. SOAP METHOD

Scripture Observation Application Prayer

The **SOAP** method is used like this:

S is for Scripture. Read prayerfully. Take notice of which Scripture(s) catches your attention and mark it in your Bible. When you're done, reread the verse(s) you marked and look for one that particularly speaks to you. Write it in your journal.

O if for Observation. Focusing on that Scripture, tune in and listen to what God is saying to you though His Word. What is it about this Scripture that specifically stands out? What does God want to reveal to you or teach you? Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide and show you what God is saying.

A is for Application. Think of how this verse(s) applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Use your journal to write how this Scripture applies to you today.

P is for Prayer. Wrap up your SOAP time in prayer. Talk to God about what you've just read. This can be as simple as thanking Him for revealing a truth from the Scripture, or it may be asking Him for greater insight or wisdom as to how it applies to your life. Remember, prayer is all about relationship. It's a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say.

That's it ... SOAP!!! It's as simple or deep as you want it to be. If you want to go deeper in your study here are additional tips.

- Reread the daily passage in a different Bible translation or paraphrase
- Utilize online resources, such as those available from crosswalk.com, youversion.com or Biblestudytools.com
- Utilize a commentary, such as those by Matthew Henry or online at BibleGateway.com
- Cross-reference your daily reading using the footnotes in your study Bible
- Research words in their original language using a Strong's Concordance or online at Biblehub.com

Checklist - Are You Ready To Pray?

Are All Sins Confessed? Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2
If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. I John $1{:}10$
Are All Relationships With Others Made Right? For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15
Are You Seeking His Will In All Things? Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. I John 5:14-15
Are You Seeking To Glorify God Above All Things? And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14
Are You Depending On the Holy Spirit's Guidance? Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27
Are You Trusting God In Spite of What Seems To Be? Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6
Will You Praise God No Matter What? And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18



2021 Cornerstone Corporate Prayer List

Proug that...

- 1. God will be glorified in our corporate worship experience and that His Spirit would empower our worship to exalt Him, edify His people, and expand His Kingdom; even while we worship in our homes due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2. The Holy Spirit breathes upon the preparation and proclamation of the preached Word throughout 2021 at Cornerstone.
- 3. The men and women's ministries will not only help develop disciples within our congregation, but also throughout the community. Pray for strength and unity.
- 4. Our children, youth and young adult ministries will effectively meet the spiritual and social needs of our members and their friends. Pray for exponential growth of all the ministries as well as qualified and passionate workers for each ministry.
- 5. Cornerstone will re-establish the trajectory of worship, prayer, Bible reading and orderly conduct, in each home will continue throughout all of 2021.
- 6. Each family in Cornerstone will be disciplined and focused to practice sound scriptural money management principles, get out of debt, and honor God's Kingdom with our giving.
- 7. A mighty Spiritual outpouring among God's people at Cornerstone that will break heavy chains, set captives free, and that we experience the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost in our daily walk (Romans 14:17). Also pray that God's power will be manifested in the lives of all Believers.
- 8. God will grant us favor and enable Cornerstone to make substantial progress toward paying off our remaining mortgage indebtedness and build new structures on our land.
- 9. Pastor McKissic's family, staff members' family and all Cornerstone members' families will grow in grace, be protected from the evil one, and that each family member would experience the peace of God that surpasses all understanding and knowledge, and that it might be well with us all.

- 10. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem according to Psalm 122:6-8: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."
- 11. Pray that the lost will be saved and that the backslidden will return to Jesus. Pray for the lost family of Cornerstone members as well as those we encounter on a daily basis. Be sure to pray for the names of nonbelievers on our corporate list.
- 12. Pray that our church-wide evangelism strategy will excite and invigorate the members to share their faith with others and spread the Gospel daily throughout our community. CBC to grow spirituality and numerically during the pandemic
- 13. Pray for our church leaders: Pastor, Elders, Staff, Deacons and Ministry Leaders. Pray for wisdom and knowledge to lead according to God's perfect will. Pray for dedication and involvement within the ministry from the top to the bottom.
- 14. Pray for those in authority and our civil servants: Government (National, State and Local), Policemen, Sheriffs, Firemen, and First Responders. For safety, quality leadership, love of humanity, and God's direction for our Nation.
- 15. Pray for the church in America and around the world as well as the missionaries serving God across the globe. Pray for unity in the universal church as you pray for a harvest of souls in the Kingdom of God.
- 16. Pray for a spirit of unity, togetherness, and love to spread across and throughout the church of Cornerstone that will spread throughout our community and Nation.

We would be remised to not pray about the current pandemic facing our world.

COVID-19 PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for the Lord to intervene to stop the spread of the coronavirus and COVID-19. Pray in Jesus' name that the virus would recede from this day

forward, and that the numbers of those infected would decline rapidly. Pray, trusting the Lord to intervene today with his loving care.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." –1 John 5:14

2. <u>Pray for those who are sick</u>, that they will have access to the care and treatment they need. Pray for peace and perseverance amidst suffering. Pray for those in isolation who are cut off from their normal routines and support systems, that they would seek their strength in Jesus. Pray encouragement for the thousands in quarantine, waiting to find out if they have the virus.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." — Psalm 46:1

3. Pray for <u>health workers</u> who are caring for those with COVID-19. Pray for their protection from the virus, for stamina during long and intense work hours, and for safe protocols to be observed in health care institutions in order to keep them protected. Pray for health workers to seek the Lord during this crisis.

"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress." — Psalm 107:28

4. Pray for <u>grieving families</u> who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus. Even as their hearts are breaking, pray they would know the nearness and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Pray that they would feel compassion from the Lord and from friends and neighbors coming around them. Pray against despair; pray for new mercies every morning.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:6-7

5. Pray for <u>pastors</u> serving their churches and communities affected and infected by COVID-19. We pray that the Holy Spirit would give these shepherd-leaders the right words for the right time and the right actions for each situation. Pray they would speak the gospel in heart, word, and deed to each person they minister to.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ... The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." – James 5:14, 16

6. Pray for the <u>body of Christ worldwide</u>, that the church would rise up to pray and to support the sick and their caregivers in practical and sacrificial ways. Pray for the church to be a light on a hill in hospitals, communities, and cities where God has placed them. Pray for an outpouring of love, compassion, and service, in Jesus' name.

"But God has composed the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its members should have mutual concern for one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it." — 1 Corinthians 12:24-27

7. Pray for government officials and decision-makers who are leading countries and organizations through the crisis. We acknowledge that the

Lord has allowed each one to be in a place of influence during this time.

Pray they would mobilize resources quickly and effectively to where they are most needed. Pray for all those working behind the scenes and for the good administration and execution of response efforts worldwide.

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." – Jeremiah 29:7

8. Pray for those waking up each day to fallout caused by COVID-19, that they would reach out to the Lord. Pray for people to earnestly seek the Lord. We know the desire to seek the Lord comes from the Lord, and we know He will meet them. Pray for those whose businesses and livelihoods are ruined by the halt in many sectors of the economy. Pray for those who may lose jobs and salaries. For each one, we pray new beginnings with the Lord walking by their side.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." – Jeremiah 29:11, 12

9. Pray for the mindset and love of humanity for one another during the pandemic and following it. Pray that everyone will set aside their personal desires and wishes for the good of humanity and love for their neighbor. Pray that our individual sacrifices are seen as a small inconvenience for the greater good of humanity.

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." – 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

- 10. Pray for all those who live and die without the knowledge of Jesus to hear about Him through this crisis and respond to His love. We pray salvation for every man, woman and child in the world today. Through eyes of faith, we see them becoming our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask in Jesus' name for the gift of salvation for many to come out of this crisis. "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise, as some understand slowness but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9
- 11. Pray for restoration of businesses lost during the pandemic.

"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame." — Joel 2:25-27

Pray God's Word Over Your Concerns

A SAMPLE SCRIPTURE-BASED PR	MYEH
Father,	
I commit my day to you.	
I trust also in You	
and You shall bring it to pass.	Psa.
Father, You will instruct me	A
and teach me in the way I should go.	
You will guide me with Your eye.	Psa.
You will give me the desires of my heart.	
because I have delighted myself in You.	Psa.
Father, I will be kept in perfect beace today,	
for I have chosen	A
to let my mind be "stayed" on You."	Isa.
Make it a reality	
in my life	
as I trust in You.	
Father, I will walk in good health and strength	
as my day demands.	Deut. 3
I take authority over Satan.	
He will not steal	
or rob	
or destroy me any more.	Lk. 15:1
Satan will not harass me.	
for I am the righteousness of God	
through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.	II Cor.
Father, I thank You for sending angels	NOTE OF
to prepare the way for me.	Ex. 2
I thank you for favor for each hour's appointment.	
I thank you that I can choose LIFE and LOVE	Josh.
and not death and sin.	Josn.
I thank You for the armor I have on	Eph. 6:
to protect me,	I Joh
and I thank You that I am covered by the blood.	, 1011
father,	
I thank You that	
walk in newness of life	Ron
this day.	

Let Prayer Be Your First Choice, Not Your Last.

It is honoring to God when our immediate and first response to any situation is to consult Him. If we are going to "acknowledge Him in all our ways," and "... seek first the Kingdom of God," one of the best ways is to make Him our first consultant and advisor. Then He will direct our paths, making them straight and plain as He has promised. (Proverbs 3:6)

FIRST



SECOND

Let Your Gaze Be On God. Your Glance On Your Request.



If we allow our gaze to be on our request, it will dominate our prayers: we will tell God what we see and what needs to be done. However, if our gaze is on God, we will ask Him to interpret the situation from His viewpoint (tell us what He sees), and to tell us what He wants done. "Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path, because of my foes." (Psalm 27:11)

Pray More From Conviction Than From Crisis.

THIRD

Prayer is not a last resort for one to use in time of crisis. Prayer, if properly engaged in, will keep us out of the crises we will get in if we do not pray. Conviction praying is prayer for a situation on the basis of the known will of God, before the situation occurs.

Crisis praying is prayer based on a situation that is not going as it ought to go, according to the will of God.



FOURTH

Praying In The Spirit And By The Spirit.



While many people would disagree as to what this means, all must acknowledge it is an absolute necessity for successful prayer. (Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26, 27; I Corinthians 14:14, 15; Jude 20). Whatever else it means, it means that true praying is done under the guidance, wisdom, and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, for He alone enables us to pray in the will of God

Let Your Prayer Be Filled With Praise.

There is nothing for which we cannot praise God.

Every opportunity, trouble, or burden can be presented in praise: the praise that comes when we know He knows and cares; the praise that comes when we remember that He allows some things and causes others for our welfare; the praise that comes when we remember He is pressing us into Himself so we can discover Him.

FIFTH



SIXTH

Pray Retail. Not Wholesale.



Wholesale praying goes something like this: "I love You, Lord. Thank You for all things. Forgive all my sins. Bless everybody, and give me all I need."

Retail praying means being specific at all times and for all things: "I thank You, Lord, for John, for shoes, for feet, for Your mercy, Your grace."

Praying specifically brings specific answers. Has your child ever come to you and said: "Please bless me with a

blessing"? Probably not. He/she would say: "Dad and Mom. please 19 take me to the beach."



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