

Day of Prayer



Skyline
Church
of Christ

September 7,
2002

Day of Prayer

September 7, 2002

Thanks for being part of the Day of Prayer! As we head into the home stretch of our year where we have focused on being **Shaped By God**, we need to spend this time with God and ask for His continued shaping in our hearts and lives. Just in case you have never been to a Day of Prayer before, let me give you a few hints on how the Day of Prayer and the Day of Prayer workbook work.

1. Please maintain quiet in the foyer – if there is any talking at all it should be quiet whispering.
2. Please maintain absolute silence in the auditorium.
3. When you take your seat in the auditorium, please begin working your way through the Day of Prayer workbook. The workbook consists of seven sections – Praise, Shaped by God, Confession, Spiritual Growth, Unity, and Intercession.
4. Please do not rush the process. Try not to look at your watch. Remember the Psalmist's words, "Be still and know" and Jesus' words, "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?...Watch and pray."
5. As you read through the Day of Prayer workbook, you will notice passages, devotional thoughts, prayer suggestions, or prayer requests on every page. Please prayerfully read this material – praying as you read and taking time as often as you like to just stop and pour out your heart to God.
6. You may think of many things to pray about which are not written in the Day of Prayer workbook. You may want to grab some friends in the foyer and go off together to a classroom where you can pray aloud together as a group.
7. Please return the Day of Prayer workbook to the table in the lobby when you have finished.
8. One of the most challenging things is to get people to be quiet, so again I ask you to be quiet – whispers only in the foyer, absolute quiet in the auditorium.

Thanks again for coming to the Day of Prayer! May your heart be encouraged and may God be glorified!

-- Bob Clark

Praise



Praise!

Psalm 3:1-8, NLT

A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.

*O Lord, I have so many enemies;
so many are against me.
So many are saying,
"God will never rescue him!"*

Interlude

*But you, O Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts my head high.
I cried out to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy mountain.*

Interlude

*I lay down and slept.
I woke up in safety,
for the Lord was watching over me.
I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies
who surround me on every side.*

*Arise, O Lord!
Rescue me, my God!
Slap all my enemies in the face!
Shatter the teeth of the wicked!*

*Victory comes from you, O Lord.
May your blessings rest on your people.*

Interlude

Reflections – God is a shield around me — let that thought sink in! When I am surrounded by enemies, God will be right there with me. He will see me through the most difficult of times. I can call on Him and He will hear my cries. Take time to praise God for being a shield around you, your glory, and the lifter of your head.

The Holy Spirit

There is a mystery to the Holy Spirit. Jesus said as much when He said to Nicodemus, *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit"* **John 3:8**. Where our understanding ends, praise begins.

Take time to praise God for His Holy Spirit who. . .

Convicts

John 16:8-11

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Illuminates and Teaches

John 16:12-15

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Guides

Romans 8:14

. . .because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Assures

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Intercedes**Romans 8:26**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Directs**Acts 20:22**

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

Warns**Acts 20:23**

I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

Lives Within Us**1 Corinthians 3:16**

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Romans 8:9

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

2 Timothy 1:14

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1 John 3:24

Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

1 Thessalonians 4:8

Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Ephesians 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



Shaped
by God



Shaped By God

Jeremiah 18:1-6 NLT

The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, "Go down to the shop where clay pots and jars are made. I will speak to you while you are there." So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so the potter squashed the jar into a lump of clay and started again. Then the Lord gave me this message: "O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."

Take time to reflect on how God shaped the lives of Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. . .and how He is shaping you! God has enough interest in you to want to shape you. God has the power to shape your life. God has the power to recreate you — to give you a fresh start!

Abraham

God shaped Abraham by calling him out of his comfort zone

Genesis 12:1

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

God shaped Abraham by working him through his fears

Genesis 12:10

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

Genesis 20:1-2

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Genesis 22:1-2

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I

will tell you about."

God shaped Abraham through his family relationships

Genesis 13:5-6

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

Genesis 14:14

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Genesis 18:32-33

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

God shaped Abraham by fulfilling His promise in His own time

Genesis 12:2

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 13:16

I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 16:1-4

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maid-servant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she

was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Genesis 18:10-12

Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Genesis 21:1-3

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

Joseph

God shaped Joseph through jealousy, family conflict, and betrayal

Genesis 37:11

His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Genesis 37:28

So when the Midianites merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Genesis 37:36

Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 39:19-21

When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Genesis 50:19-20

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Moses

God shaped Moses through hardship and luxury

Exodus 2:1-3

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

Exodus 2:10

When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

God shaped Moses by giving him a mission and a helper

Exodus 3:10

So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Exodus 4:14-15

Then the LORD'S anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

God shaped Moses by doing mighty things

Exodus 7:1

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet."

Exodus 14:21-22

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Exodus 15:1-3

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name."

God shaped Moses through his critics

Exodus 16:6-8

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

God shaped Moses through the advice of others

Exodus 18:17

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good."

Exodus 18:24

Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

God shaped Moses through years in the wilderness

Exodus 16:35

The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

ME!

Take time to reflect on how God has shaped you –

Through calling you out of your comfort zone

Through working you through your fears

Through family relationships

Through fulfilling His promises in His time

Through jealousy, family conflict, and betrayal

Through hardship or luxury

Through giving you a mission to accomplish

Through giving you people to work alongside

Through seeing God do mighty things

Through critics and enemies

Through times in the wilderness

Through the advice of others

Praise God for His faithfulness!

Praise Him for the mysterious ways He works!

Give thanks for His interest in you!

Ask God to continue shaping you!

If you are bold enough – invite God to do whatever it takes to make you into the image of Jesus (WARNING – this is a dangerous prayer!).

It is easier to see how God is working in your life as you look over your shoulder at the years gone by. Try to begin living in the present with the knowledge that God is molding you each and every moment! Look for His hand in your life each day!

Shaped By God

Victory One Step at a Time

*And the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you little by little;
you will be unable to destroy them at once,
lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.
Deuteronomy 7:22*

When God led His people into the Promised Land, He did so step by step. If He had allowed them to annihilate their enemies at once, the land would have been too difficult to manage. So He allowed some of the enemies to remain for a time in order to maintain the land and suppress the wildlife. In doing so, God taught His people to trust Him step by step. He gave them only as much responsibility as they could handle at one time.

As God leads you in your Christian growth, He will allow changes that match your character and relationship to Him. God will not totally change your character at once when you become a Christian. Rather, He will lead you through a process to become more like His Son. He will keep working in an area in your life until it is controlled by the Holy Spirit. You may eagerly desire maturity in every area of your character, but steady, gradual growth is more lasting. God will not take shortcuts in His process of making you like Christ. He sees your life from eternity and will take as long as necessary to produce lasting spiritual growth in you.

Do not become impatient while God is producing Christlikeness in you. Do not seek more responsibilities than those He has given you. Obey all that you know He has asked, and He will lead you at a pace that fits your present character and His purposes for you.

-- from ***Experiencing God Day by Day*** by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby



Confession



Confession

Strongholds

“And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.” But you have not obeyed My voice.

Why have you done this?

Therefore I also said, “I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”

Judges 2:2-3

God gave the Israelites specific instructions: Drive the Canaanites out of every corner of the land, and obliterate any vestige of their abominable idol worship. This assignment was challenging! Their enemies had formidable chariots. The Canaanites had seemingly impregnable fortresses that were dangerous and difficult to overcome. The Israelites failed to drive all the Canaanites from the land. Much about the Canaanite lifestyle and religion appealed to the Israelites' sinful nature. Rather than destroying them and their idolatry, Israel compromised. The Canaanites would prove to be a troublesome distraction to the Israelites. Their idol worship would present a constant temptation.

When you became a Christian, God declared war on sin's strongholds in your life. Sinful behaviors and attitudes were firmly entrenched in your character, but God commanded you to tear them down. The Holy Spirit pointed out areas of your life that were resistant to God's will. Were you tempted to merely establish a truce rather than obliterating every sin? Is anger one of sin's strongholds? If so, it will rise up against you in moments of weakness. Is there a stronghold of lust in your life? If so, you will succumb to it when caught off guard. In careless moments, these strongholds will still tempt you to continue your past sinful behaviors.

Do not underestimate the destructive power of sin. If there are strongholds in your life that you have never defeated, the Holy Spirit is still prepared to bring you complete victory.

-- from *Experiencing God Day by Day* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Confession

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Prayerfully look at the sins listed in the passages below. Ask God to search your heart and convict you of sin that is in your heart. Confess those sins and thank God for His forgiveness.

Romans 1:29-31			
Wickedness	Evil	Greed	Depravity
Envy	Murder	Strife	Deceit
Malice	Gossip	Slander	God-haters
Insolent	Arrogant	Boastful	Disobey Parents
Senseless	Heartless	Faithless	Ruthless

Galatians 5:19-21			
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Debauchery	Idolatry
Witchcraft	Hatred	Discord	Jealousy
Fits of rage	Selfish Ambition	Dissensions	Factions
Envy	Drunkenness	Orgies	

Colossians 3:5-10			
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Lust	Evil desires
Greed (which is idolatry)	Anger	Rage	Malice
Slander	Filthy Language	Lying	

Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:3-5			
Falsehood	Angry (when sun goes down)	Stealing	Unwholesome Talk
Not Building Others Up	Grieving the Holy Spirit	Bitterness	Rage
Anger	Brawling	Slander	Malice
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Greed	Obscenity
Foolish Talk	Coarse Joking		

Proverbs 28:13

*People who cover over their sins will not prosper.
But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.*

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 32:1-6, NLT

*Oh, what joy for those whose rebellion is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!
Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
When I refused to confess my sin,
I was weak and miserable,
and I groaned all day long.
Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.
Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide them.
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.*

Spiritual

Growth



Spiritual Growth

Hunger and Thirst

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.*

Matthew 5:6

Hunger and thirst are the body's way of telling us that we are "empty." Our natural response to physical hunger and thirst is to seek food and water to satisfy our need. Each Christian has an inner longing that only Christ's righteousness can satisfy. But we cannot be filled with righteousness if we are filled with self. Throughout the Scriptures God emphasizes that the one who longs for Him with all his heart will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). As we crave righteousness, we will repent of our sin, and God will remove it from us. Our selfishness will be replaced by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The Spirit makes us to be like Christ.

Righteousness is not to be taken lightly, nor is it easily attained. Holy God does not give His righteousness to people indiscriminately. He gives it to those who know they cannot live without it. Our desire for personal righteousness must be powerful, all-consuming, dominating everything we do. Pursuing righteousness means that we value the opinion of God far more than we treasure the opinions of people.

Righteousness is not merely an absence of sin. It is allowing God to fill us with His holiness (Romans 6:11). It is being like Christ. Jesus is our model of One who sought God's righteousness first, and then the Father glorified Him. We are not only to seek the kingdom of God, but we are also to pursue His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). If we will hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be satisfied!

-- from ***Experiencing God Day by Day*** by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Spiritual Growth

Prayerfully consider the following passages that describe ways we need to be growing into the likeness of Jesus.

The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23		
Love	Joy	Peace
Patience	Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Gentleness	Self-Control

Clothed with Christ Colossians 3:12-14		
Compassion	Kindness	Humility
Gentleness	Patience	Forbearance
Forgiveness	Love	Unity

The Christian Graces 2 Peter 1:5-7		
Faith	Goodness	Knowledge
Self-Control	Perseverance	Godliness
Brotherly Kindness	Love	

One Another Passages

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

1 Corinthians 12:25

...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 16:20

All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:15

If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:26

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:13

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 13:1

Keep on loving each other as brothers.

James 4:11

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 5:9

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 4:8-9

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 5:5

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:14

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 3:11

This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

1 John 3:23

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11-12

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

2 John 1:5

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.

Ask **God**
for His help
in becoming the person
He wants you to be
in **Jesus**
Christ!

Unity



Unity

Prayerfully read these passages that describe how important unity among His people is to our God and the ones that give practical ways we can bring about unity in the family of God. Ask God to show you specific ways you can make a positive contribution to the unity of the Skyline church and Christians at large.

Psalm 133

*How wonderful it is, how pleasant,
when brothers live together in harmony!
For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.
Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.
And the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
even life forevermore.*

John 17:20-23

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father — that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are — I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your arguments, dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Can Christ be divided into pieces? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul?

This passage on love appears in the context of a passage addressing the disunity of a church, particularly over things going on in their worship assembly. A Christian should respond to such disagreements with love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Keeping unity requires effort, humility, gentleness, forbearance, and love. Ask God to help you contribute to unity at Skyline and in the Christian community at large in these very ways.

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The church at Philippi had been torn up by the disagreement between two women, Euodia and Syntyche. These women are urged to look at the good, noble, pure, etc. things about one another to bring about unity. Ask God to help you contribute to unity at Skyline by helping you see the good things in others rather than just seeing their faults.

Philippians 4:2-9

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Unity

Far Be It From Me!

*Moreover, as for me, far be it from me
that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you;
but I will teach you the good and right way.
1 Samuel 12:23*

It can be tempting at times to give up on God's people! They are so imperfect and can be so sinful, yet they are His people. Samuel had thoroughly warned the Israelites of the dangers in appointing a king over Israel. Yet they wanted to be like the nations around them, insisting that they were willing to pay any price. Almost as soon as the people were granted their desire, they recognized their sin. But it was too late. What was Samuel to do? They had ignored his warnings. Now they wanted him to continue to minister to them. It would seem appropriate for Samuel to abandon them and allow them to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Samuel knew, as Jesus knew, that God sends His servants to the sick, not the healthy (Matthew 9:12). Samuel did not take the people's response as a rejection of him but as an indication of their walk with God. Samuel was serving God, not the Israelites. When God commanded him to minister to them, he could do nothing else, despite their resistance to his message.

At times people will not respond as they should to the message God speaks through you. Don't become discouraged; it is a reflection of their relationship with God. You are God's servant; if Jesus spent His time with the spiritually needy, you can expect Him to ask you to do the same. Don't lose your patience with God's people. Keep in mind that God loves them as much as He loves you.

-- from ***Experiencing God Day by Day*** by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Intercession



Intercession

Pray for others and their needs. Pray for the Skyline church, her leaders, and special servants, and for every member.

Prayerful Hearts

Betsy Summar is scheduled for surgery at noon on September 9. She anticipates staying at JMCGH two days.

Othella Pierce (Margaret Morrison's mother) is awaiting the results from her tests.

Nell Googe has had pneumonia.

Paul Haley (friend of Charlotte Engles) is mourning the loss of his mother.

LaVelle Sullivan remains hospitalized at JMCGH.

Dennis Huntsman (Margaret Morrison's friend) has cancer.

Helen Avent (Ron Darby's mother) is scheduled for knee replacement surgery.

Micky Ross (brother of Betsy Favara) is having complications after a six by-pass heart surgery.

Shirley LaMastus (Lee Birl's mother) has cancer.

Eddie Lee Herndon was able to be at the morning assembly last Sunday!

Ken McEnrol (Clara Williams' relative) is in CCU in a Kalamazoo, MI hospital with Gillian Barre syndrome.

Michael Irwin (5 year old son of Ann Woods' cousin) is at St. Jude undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Loretta Baggett (Ann's sister-in-law) has lung cancer.

Elizabeth Johnson, **Wayne Wright**, **Sherry Cook** (the Chamber's relative), **John Reeves** (Ray Goode's friend), and **Linda Corley** (Christy Forsythe's mother), and **Doug Daniel** are undergoing treatment.

Paul Stevenson (Peggy Forbis' brother) received a good report from the doctors!

Josh Pohl (Libby Thornton's friend) has leukemia.

Frank Rushing is now recuperating at his mother-in-law's.

Tommie Keen (Sid Spencer's sister) has a brain tumor.

Pray for our **church family to be clothed with Christ** — particularly **gentleness, patience, and forbearance**.

Rachel White (David's mother) requires 24 hour care.

Lamaricus Davidson is in West TN State Prison.

Nursing home residents: *Northbrooke:* **Louis Hardcastle** (room 203); *Forest Cove:* **Myrtle Insko** (Pat Snider's aunt - room 128); *Maplewood:* **Forest Hester** (Lee Birl's grandmother - room 300-A), *Northbrooke:* **Fred Pinckley** (Jay's grandfather - room 503), *Crockett County:* **Bertha Summar** (room 40-A); *Dickson, TN:* **Cooper Taylor**, *Veteran's Home:* **Joe Alexander**

Our college students — *ACU:* **Keith Clark & Lauren Self**; *ASU* **Jay Pendergrass**; *DLU:* **Kristen Chambers, Julie McDonald & Ashley Warren**; *FHU:* **Brandon Karnes, Nichole Maness, Brittney Morrison, Tyler Osborne, Brooke Perkins, Susie Ray & Stefanie Wylie**; *HU:* **Grant Jackson, Seth Rudd & Adam Simon**; *JSCC:* **John Anderson, Jeremiah Eddleman, Josh Evans, Brandon Pritchard, Celeste Richardson, & Joseph Welch**; *Lambuth:* **Brian Pearson**; *Mount San Jacinto:* **Ashley Bonner**; *MTSU:* **Justin Darby**; *U of M:* **Meredith Simon & Lee Taylor Walker**; *U of MS:* **John Robert Mehr**; *U of MS Law School:* **Morton Smith**; *UT Knoxville:* **Ken Johnson & Russ McKelvey**; *UTHSC:* **Nick Powers & Brian Short**, *UU:* **Clark Short**.

Preparing for marriage: **Nathan Abbott & Amy Cooley, Adam Rudd & Elizabeth Hakan, Brandon Karnes & Nichole Maness, Mitch Taylor & Amy Skinner**.

Expectant parents: **Josh & Tracey Sykes, James & Kim Bracken, Kelly & Karie Green, Jason & Jennifer Carroll, Tim & Pam Arnold, Tom & Sheri Ward, Jeff & Lora Blankenship, Jason & Marcie Rudd, and Clay & Michelle Beaver**.

Intercession

Skyline, Elders, Deacons, and Ministers

Elders

Doug Daniel
Carl Rudd

Tommy McDonald
Mike Short
Danny Walker

Bob Osborne
Bob Smith

Deacons

Keith Anderson, *Nursery and Pre-school Ministry*
Lance Boyd, *Vacation Bible School*
Larry Chambers, *Missions*
Eric Cohu, *Youth Ministry*
Alan DeJarnatt, *Adult Education*
Shannon Dunlap, *Singles Ministry*
Al Earls, *The Honors Program*
Alan Ellis, *Host Home Guest Outreach*
Buddy Gresham, *Finances*
Mark Harville, *Missions*
Jeff Howell, *College Ministry*
Danny Jackson, *Assembly Management*
David Johnson, *Men's Ministry*
Charlie Lansdell, *Youth Ministry*
John Mehr, *Assembly Management*
Scott Owens, *Small Groups*
Glen Pendergrass, *Communication, Media Outreach*
Jim Pentecost, *Training for Worship and Bible Land*
David Perkins, *Youth Ministry*
Mike Philpot, *Children's Ministry*
Chuck Purcell, *College Ministry*
David Raines, *Small Groups*
John Robinson, *Benevolence*
Billy Schrivner, *Building and Grounds*
Todd Swims, *Small Groups*
Greg Walker, *Building and Grounds*
Tom Ward, *Visitor Hospitality*
Karl Warren, *Children's Education*

Ministers

Bob Clark, *Pulpit*
Sam Wylie, *Media Outreach*
Jamie Leland, *Youth*

Intercession

Skyline Members

You should have received a copy of the Skyline church family directory. Spend time “praying through” the directory. Below are just a few suggestions about things you can be praying for in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Grief	Children starting school
Blended family issues	Middle School behavior challenges
Thanksgiving for model behavior or marriage	High School temptations
Scars from family problems	College Students’ special needs
Disease and illness	Addictions
Spiritual struggles	Entanglement in sin
Issues relating to raising children	Forsaking the church family
Spiritual growth and victories	Moral purity
Concern with adult children	Child custody problems
Business owners	Conceptions problems—childlessness
Work related issues	Adoption issues
Financial blessings/struggles	Foster care challenges
Issues related to aging	Shut-in at home or nursing home
Single parent needs	New marriages
Caring for aging parents	Childhood trauma
Offenses that need to be forgiven	Job safety
Personality traits that demand forbearance	In need of baptism
Attitude problems (bitterness/abrasiveness)	In need of restoration
Thanksgiving for how person has encouraged your walk with God	Grandparenting
	New member integration