

#### INTRODUCTION

pray for people who are sick, your church and its leaders, the lost, missionaries, and the grieving. You may pray that our society will improve. I have been a pastor for over fifty years and in most of the prayer meetings I have attended, these are the things that are usually shared. You should be praying for these things. You should pray for your own needs: your problems, desires, and family. Also include praise to God for who He is, thanks to Him for all He has done for you, and confession of your sins.

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 6:18 "... always keep on praying for all the saints." In the Bible a saint is not a super Christian but any Christian. Paul means our fellow believers. You pray for their material, physical, and emotional needs. Yet many believers pray very little for their fellow believers' spiritual needs. There is seldom a prayer shared for fellow believers to grow in their faith, in Christlikeness, and in becoming effective disciples of the Lord Jesus.

### "What should we pray for our fellow believers?"

The Bible gives an answer. In this devotional guide you will find what Paul prayed for the members in some New Testament churches. In Philippians 4:9a Paul said, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice." Paul's prayers for his fellow believers provide a pattern for us as we pray for one another.

Imagine the renewal your church will experience if such prayers are prayed and answered.





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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Books of Ephesians and Colossians

by Dr. Ken Harmon



#### WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Ken Harmon retired from FBC Newberry after serving the church for 30 years. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC, and is actively pursued by churches seeking a great interim pastor. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 1	Pray for Lost Church Members
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3:16-	19
	"So that Christ may dwe	ell in your hearts through faith " Ephesians 3:17a (ESV)
	the church and have lead Christians. They may hamay be active in the chart they have never been c	s have truly put their faith in Christ. Some grew up in arned the Bible and how to talk and behave as ave joined the church and even been baptized. They urch as adults and even hold leadership positions. But onvicted of their sin and repented. Or they just as to surrender to Christ's lordship. They are not them?
	Christ, pray for those in Christ will overcome the God would give them s true condition. Ask tha righteousness, and judg that when the gospel is repent. Pray that they	convicted of your sin, repented, and put your faith in your church who may not have done so. Pray that e power of Satan in the lost persons' lives. Ask that piritual enlightenment so that they will recognize their t the Holy Spirit will convict them of sin, gment and that God will draw them to himself. Pray shared, they will hear, personally understand, and will then have the courage to make their decision incentive for other lost church members to do
	Prayer	
		not have a judgmental attitude. Then pray that those in your church will come to repentance and accept Savior.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 2	Strengthened by the Holy Spirit
Day 2	Ken Harmon
Read Ephes	
Read Lphes	10115 3.10
	ording to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be
strengthened	d with power through his Spirit in your inner being"
	pend billions of dollars on weight control, personal trainers,
	ines, and power diets. The goal is outward fitness. We want
	es and well-developed minds. These are good goals for our
	s. But we also should strive for inner fitness—to be strong
	uch fitness gives an eternal benefit.  B says, " for while bodily training is of some value, godliness
-	every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for
the life to co	
	y speak about a person's "core" strength. We are to build the
	uscles on it. What gives us core strength spiritually? God's Holy
Spirit within	us!
We are stren	gthened spiritually by God's power. This inner strength is not
something w	e produce on our own, either by good deeds or religious
	is given to us by God. The Holy Spirit gives us strength when we
	ions or when we struggle with problems. As believers we have
	the Holy Spirit to turn from temptation, live lives pleasing to
	bout Jesus, and minister to the needs of others. Your church has be the family of God, a house of prayer for all people, and the
	st in your community.
	st in your community.
Pra	yer
Pray that you	ı will be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your
	Pray the same for your fellow church members.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 3	Rooted and Grounded in Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3:17k	
	" that you, being roo	oted and grounded in love"
	"Grounded" is the lange which the whole buildir that enables it to withst structural core of a skys during earthquakes. In	ral term meaning the bed in which plants are set. uage of architecture and indicates the strong base on ng is built. Think of the inner strength of an oak tree tand the forces of wind and nature. Think of the scraper that enables it to stand straight and tall even Christ, we can have a core strength that can ne all the opposing forces that we might encounter.
	the foundation on which but the love God showed not a love we can produs. It is a love which he	is both the ground in which we grow spiritually and th our Christian lives are built. This is not human love, ed in giving Jesus to die on the cross for us. This is uce ourselves. Rather it is a love that God has given to lips us grow spiritually, enables us to minister in Jesus' as to live life to the fullest.
		ability, unity, fellowship, and power of your church rounded in love? Imagine how attractive such a place ide the church.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that you and your grounded in the love o	fellow church members will all be rooted and f God.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	D 4	
	Day 4	Know the Vastness of Christ's Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3	:17b-18
	-	nay have strength to comprehend with all the saints what length and height and depth "
	length, and height taken in adultery, a multitude, little chi denied him. His lo	Il wants us to grasp the meaning of the breadth, depth, of Christ's love. It is wide enough to reach the woman in unclean leper, questioning Nicodemus, the hungry ldren, those who crucified him, and Simon Peter who we is wide enough to wrap his arms around you and draw, deliver you from hell, and bring you to himself.
		enough to go to Bethlehem, to Jerusalem, to Gethsemane, ne grave, and out of it.
	make him or her a despair, rebellion, o obedience, and ligl	ough to reach the most foul, mean-spirited sinner and child of God. It is deep enough to reach you in your sin, or darkness and draw you into his forgiveness, hope, nt. It is deep enough to go with you as you walk through adow of death—as you face your own death or when you
	ever thought you cand love more than	ough to raise you up so that you can be more than you could be, do more than you ever thought you could do, n you ever thought you could love. It is high enough to take you God's blameless, beloved child.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that everyone the love of Christ is	in your church will know how wide, long, high, and deep s.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 5 Know Personally Christ's I	
Read Ephesians 3:19	rmon
" and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge"	
Here is a question to ponder: How can you know something that surpass knowledge? What did Paul mean when he spoke of knowing the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge? Maybe he meant that we can never comprehend with our human minds the vastness of Christ's love.	
But maybe he meant something else. Maybe he was speaking of head knowledge versus heart knowledge; the knowledge that comes by experiencing something personally rather than just knowing about it. It is know with my head the knowledge that a wife loves her husband and do certain things for him. But it is quite a different thing to have my wife with by me and run her hand over my shoulder, or smile at me when I enter the room, or say "I love you" as she gives me a hug.	oes alk
Likewise, we know the love of Christ in our experiences of being loved by him. We understand Christ's love when we have been convicted of our sand experienced his forgiveness. We grasp it when we have the burden our guilt taken away and when we catch a glimpse of what heaven is like understand it when we see our prayers answered. We comprehend it mass we share it with others in words of witness or acts of kindness, whether with believers or unbelievers.	of e. We ore
Prayer  Pray that you will know experientially the love of Christ and that your fell church members will know it as well.	low
CHUICH HEIMEIS WIII KHOW IT AS WEII.	

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 6	Pray for Abounding Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:3-11	
	"And it is my prayer that yo	ur love may abound more and more, " Philippians 1:9a (ESV)
	and several other converts. him financial and moral sup	e church in Philippi with a woman named Lydia The church was loyal to Paul and provided for poort. The church was very dear to him and prayed for them in verses 9-11 suggest things we our church.
	speaking of the Christ-like I Seminary professor Frank S good, regardless of the cos	love would abound more and more. He was love, which in the New Testament is called <i>agape</i> . tagg said it means to relate to others for their t or consequences to oneself. It is the opposite of ng other people, not because they are lovable, but
	efforts. It is the result of the "God's love has been poure	we can produce in our lives through our own e Holy Spirit's work in us. Romans 5:5b says, ed into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has w in our love for one another as we permit God to
	for one another, help one a	ow into us and through us, we will be concerned inother, forgive one another, and destroy the no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5).
	Note: such love is to aboun	d. It is not stingy but over-flowing.
	Prayer	
	Pray that you and your fello like of love.	ow church members will be abounding in Christ-





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 7	Knowledge and Discernment
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:9	
	"And it is my prayer th knowledge and all disc	at your love may abound more and more, with cernment,"
	God because of what t God from our experier until we have experien	efers first to knowledge about God. We know about the Bible teaches us about Him. We also know about nees with Him. We do not understand much about God ced God's forgiveness of our sins and His making each the understand the depth of God's love.
	others. How do you se love or through the ey the love of God through	d the love of God, you can then show God's love to ee others? Do you see them through the eyes of God's es of jealousy, envy, or anger? If you have experienced gh the mercy and grace He has given you, then you see es of love and extend to them mercy and grace.
	understand them. We desires, and their feelin ways Jesus loved peop "untouchable," to shur caught in adultery by rand to the hungry mul	th discernment. If you really love someone, you try to should be informed about their real needs, their ngs, opinions, and concerns. Think about the different ale. He expressed His love to the leper by touching the need Zacchaeus by eating with Him, to the woman not condemning her and advising her to sin no more, titude by feeding them. We should always be willing scerning love toward others.
	Prayer	
	-	of your congregation, yourself included, will abound ympathetic, and accepting love for each other.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 8	Approve What is Excellent
	Ken Harmon
Read Philippians 1:10a	
" so that you may approve w	hat is excellent, "
discern their real needs so that thinking about discerning value to be judgmental of people, we ideas and behaviors are valuable some bad, some true and some	nment in relationship to people. We are to we can love them effectively. Today we are in ideas and behaviors. Though we are not are to judge ideas and behaviors. Some e, and some are not. Some are good and false, some add to life, and some take away. ke sure something is true, moral, and
"approve what is excellent" can differ." You cannot approve wh things that differ. The idea is to Sometimes the believers in Phili likely, as was true in the church	at is excellent. The Greek phrase translated means "to prove by testing the things that at is excellent unless you can distinguish the be able to distinguish what is vital. ppi had quarrels with each other. More than at Corinth, they were quarreling over a giving a call to approve what is excellent,
Churches quarrel over the color	uarrel that really do not matter? Many do. of carpet, who should clean up after a social, s. Things that do not matter a bit to a lost
Prayer	_
inconsequential arguments that	elievers will not get caught up in hinder both the work and the fellowship of ere will be approval of what is excellent in

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 9	Be Pure and Blameless
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:10	
	" be pure and blameless for the da	ay of Christ,"
		a of Philippi. Since other metals can be lect made with gold can vary according bject. Pure gold is highly valuable.
	As believers, our lives are to be pure. to drink, pure food to eat. Why, then what in impure, sinful, and polluting? bride of Christ. Yet sometimes we flir immoral behaviors. Would you want	The Bible depicts the church as the rt with other gods and engage in
	that we are made blameless before G our Savior. See Colossians 1:22. Now things without grumbling or disputing innocent, children of God without ble twisted generation, among whom you	we are not without fault. Remember food because we have accepted Jesus as consider Philippians 2:14-15, "Do all g, that you may be blameless and
	Remember, we are living in light of the When He comes back, He should find Lamb and living in harmony with one	d us ready for the marriage supper of the
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that you and your fellow church blameless in our relationships with or	·

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 10	Filled With the Fruit of Righteousness
	Ken Harmon
Read Philippians 1:	11
" filled with the fr the glory and praise	uit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to of God."
the fruit of righteous of Christ. Paul wante my own that comes Christ, the righteous	members of the church in Philippi would be filled with sness. Paul knew that we are made righteous by the worked to be found in Christ "not having a righteousness of from the law, but that which comes through faith in ness from God that depends on faith " (Philippians ousness before God because he gives it to us when we
us begins to produce it clear, "I am the vin	to actually make us righteous. That happens as Christ in the the fruit of righteousness through us. John 15:5 makes e; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in the rs much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
engaging in church a program. It comes fi His life through us. N	ior is more than just doing good things for others or activities. It is not obeying rules or a self-improvement rom having Jesus in our hearts and allowing Him to live When that happens, the resulting righteousness will not praising each other. Instead, it will result in glory and
Prayer	
you. Pray the same for	abide in Christ and to allow you to let Christ abide in or your fellow church members. Then you will begin to isness church that brings glory to God.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES	
	Day 11 Knowledge of God's Will
	Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:9
	" asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will" (ESV)
	In chapter 1 of Colossians, we have another prayer that Paul prayed for one of his churches, this one the church at Colossae. In some ways his prayer is similar to one the one for the Philippian Christians, but there are differences.
	In verse nine, Paul prayed that the Colossians would have a knowledge of God's will. Some say we cannot know God's will. But God makes his will very plain in the Bible.
	We find God's will in the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-39): we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbor as ourself. Jesus tells us in John 6:40 that everyone who believes in the Son should have eternal life. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) give us ten things that are the will of God. As believers, we are to make disciples of the people around us and assist others to make disciples around the world (Matthew 28:19-20). Paul's letters tell believers the will of God concerning their relationship with one another. Believers are to live in harmony with, love, honor, accept, encourage, serve, be kind and compassionate to, and forgive one another.
	To be filled with the knowledge of God's will, turn to the Bible. It is full of what God's Will is for us and for others.
	Prayer
	Pray that you and your fellow church members will continually gain knowledge of the Will of God as you hear and read God's Word. Ask that all of you will not just know but do the Will of God.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 12	Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding
	Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:9	
" in all spiritual wis	dom and understanding, "
spiritual wisdom and u lost our fear of the Lo of wisdom; all those w	ost Americans, even church going ones, have little understanding. At the heart of the issue is that we have rd. Psalm 11:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning tho practice it have good understanding." Proverbs Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of it."
are all going to heave hell. We forget that w Chasing passing thing gaining worldly things	e our own rules and ignore God's laws. We assume we in and cast aside consideration of the judgment and we will all have to give an account of ourselves to God. Is and ignoring eternal things, we are in danger of and losing our own souls. The remedy? Fearing him soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).
for forgiveness and sa	ear the Lord so that they can repent and turn to Christ Ivation. Believers need to fear the Lord because we will nt of ourselves to Him.
	r fear of the Lord? Remember, He is burning holiness. ne into His presence because Jesus lets His or us.
Prayer	
respect for Him and H matters casually. Only	examine your own life and see if there is a lack of lis power. Make sure you are not treating eternal then, pray for yourself and your fellow church itual wisdom and understanding that guides your

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 13	Walk Worthy of the Lord
		Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:10	
	" walk in a manner worthy o	of the Lord, "
	name. Unfortunately, many bel things such as pride, pornograp	y of the Lord, a life that brings value to his lievers do not do so. They get caught up in ohy, greed, anger, selfishness, and prejudice. ike the everyone else. Therefore, unbelievers Christians.
		ife) in a manner that honors Christ. He used nirty times in his epistles. He is calling us to
	person on the move. There is to churches. A man I know became and returned to his home church back. You will find that nothing a church or an individual Christian.	and progress. A Christian should be a to be growth in the Christian's life and in the a missionary. After thirty years he retired the ch. A church member said to him, "Welcome g has changed." What a terrible indictment of ian! A church should change to reach more tinually be growing more Christlike. Anything worthy of the Lord.
	Prayer	_
	the Lord. Ask that your lives wil show the beauty and power of	elievers in your church will live a life worthy of I not be a hindrance to unbelievers but will Christ. Pray that your church will be willing to elievers rather than just stay the same because

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 14	Fully Pleasing to Jesus
	-	Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:10a	
	" fully pleasing to Him:.	"
	[God the Father]." He set th	always do the things that are pleasing to Him be example for us. Paul told us in Ephesians 5:10, ang to the Lord." In 2 Corinthians 5:9 he said, "we im."
	wonderful years together. S more precious that rubies."	three weeks since my wife died. God gave us 51 She was truly the Proverbs 31 wife who was "far Because I loved her, it was my goal to please her. s her goal to please me. If we love Jesus, it will
	your own list. In the ESV tra the phrase "fully pleasing to to do the things he listed no the knowledge of God, bein	evolve? Using the Bible, you could probably make inslation of Colossians 1:10 there is a colon after Him." I think Paul was suggesting it pleases God ext: bearing fruit in every good work, increasing in g strengthened with God's might, having y, and giving thanks to God.
	praying for your fellow chur	that praying is pleasing in God's sight. Keep ch members as you continue through this guide, our good and gracious God.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that you and your fello please Jesus.	w church members will make it your goal to
	-	
	-	
	-	
	-	

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

	Day 15	Fruit Bearing
		Ken Harmor
	Read Colossians 1:10b	
	" bearing fruit in every good work"	
	In John 15 we have Jesus' teaching on bear grape vine. In these verses Jesus tells us: w fruit and be pruned to enable us to bear m must abide in Him (vv. 4-5); and by bearing	re will be cut off if we do not bear ore fruit (v. 2); that to bear fruit we
	If you owned an apple orchard and several what would you do? You would get rid of Lord. To do so, we must abide in Jesus. Whe has pronounced us clean when we confremain in Him so that He will bear fruit thro	them. We are to bear fruit for the e are attached by grace to Jesus; essed our sins. But we must
	A grapevine must be pruned to bear grape spiritual fruit. Sin must be pruned way. So meaningless pursuits that may not be evil be Attitudes such as jealousy, pride, greed, and Sometimes God prunes churches. Churche country clubs" where the focus becomes a comfortable, and have things our way.	should distractions and but keep us from bearing fruit.  d self-centeredness must go. s can devolve into "spiritual
	What are the fruits that need to be produce peach trees produce peaches, and believers. We are also to produce the fruits of the Spirof righteousness (Philippians 1:11).	s should produce other believers.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that the members of your church will a produce the fruit He expects through them	





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

D 16	
Day 16	Growing in the Knowledge of God
	Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:11	
" and increasing in t	the knowledge of God;"
Rather it is growing in a person's character as yo knowledge of my wife I me. We grow in our kn	ition of growing in the knowledge of <u>God's Will</u> .  a knowledge of God himself. You learn more about a ou spend time with him or her. I grew in the by living with her and experiencing how she treated nowledge of God by living our lives in his presence. out his character, ways, faithfulness, forgiveness, and
God says, "I will put my hearts. And I will be the shall each one teach his the LORD," for they shall	phet Jeremiah understood this. In Jeremiah 31:33-34 law within them, and I will write it on their eir God, and they shall be my people. And no longer is neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know I all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin
God personally. You ca know all the facts abou Jesus said in John 17:3, true God, and Jesus Ch	istian life is not just knowing about God. It is knowing an know about bread and still starve to death. You can t Christ and Christianity and remain spiritually dead. "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only rist whom you have sent." It is a relationship, not a . Do you know the Lord or just know about Him?
Prayer	
Pray that you and your	fellow church members will truly know the Lord.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 17	Strengthened with God's Power
	Ken Harmon
 Read Colossians 1:11	
" strengthened with	all power, according to his glorious might,"
The cars race downhill s gravity to move. Contra	pap Box Derby on TV. It is a youth racing program. ince they are completely unpowered, relying on last that with the Indianapolis 500 or NASCAR races. Im have hundreds of horsepower.
down-hill. But following	relievers, Satan wants us to spend our lives coasting g the Lord Jesus is an up-hill race. Where do we get ay that pleases him and bears fruit for him?
that Jesus' followers hav us who believe accordin	-God supplies the power. Ephesians 1:19-20 tells us we "the immeasurable greatness of His power toward by the working of His great might that He worked Him for the dead and seated Him at His right hand"
from the dead is able to to live triumphantly for	rrection power! The same power that raised Jesus make us alive together with Christ and empower us Him. No longer do we need to slowly coast downhill. e power to enable us to live lives that count for the and in the world.
Prayer	
Pray first that you will o your life. Ask that those	pen yourself to the power of God in every part of in church with you will open themselves to God's church full of empowered believers would be like.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 18 Endurance
Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:11
" for all endurance"
When I was in high school, I ran cross country. A cross country race at that time was somewhat like a mini-marathon, only you were running through the country side and not on streets. In such a race, endurance is more important that speed.
Living the Christian life takes endurance. Endurance is the believer's stance toward the difficult circumstances of life. Just living in this fallen world means that we likely will face difficult times in our marriages, through illness, in economic struggles, or even in our relationships in the church. We will also struggle with temptations and the allure of worldly things. If we follow Jesus faithfully, seeking to live out the will of God, we will be challenged by those who do not understand our commitment. In the face of all these things we need endurance. Endurance means keeping on even when the way is difficult and painful.
Perhaps Hebrews 12:1-2 says it best: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
Luke 18:1 shows us the secret of enduring (not giving up): "And he [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."
Prayer
Pray that the people who make up your congregation will have endurance, will pray, and will not lose heart.





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 19	Patience
		Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:11	
	" so that you may have patience"	
	Two thoughts come to mind when we think of patien patiently waiting on the return of the Lord Jesus. Jam "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being receives the early and the late rains. You also, be pat hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."	nes 5:7-8 instructs us, ne Lord. See how the patient about it, until it
	The second has to do with how we relate to others. With them. People, even our fellow church members, unpleasant, thoughtless, and even cruel. Later in Colo on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, one another," (Colossians 3:12-13a). We are to be with" one another in the best sense of that idea.	can be grumpy, ossians Paul writes, "Put patience, bearing with
	Think of how many times you have disappointed or fathrough what you did that you should not have done should have done. He has been patient with you ove same patience to your brothers and sisters in Christ	or did not do what you
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Ask God to grant you and your church family patienc Lord and strength to be patient with each other.	e to wait in hope for the





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

D- 30	
Day 20	Joy
	Harmon
Read Colossians 1:11b-12b	
" with joy; giving thanks to the Father, "	
A boy was visiting his grandfather. His grandfather was known as a vereligious man, and was strict, rigid, and dour. After being in his prese awhile, the boy wandered out to the barn and the first animal he saw long-faced mule. The boy said, "I see you have grandpa's religion too	nce was a
Too many church members see their religion as a burdensome obliga rather than the joyful experience the Bible shows it to be. Look at a concordance and be amazed at how many times the Bible speaks of jobeing joyful.	
Here are just a few examples: "In your presence there is fullness of joy 16:11; "God my exceeding joy," Psalm 43:4; "reap with shouts of joy," 126:5; For the ransomed of the Lord, "Everlasting joy shall be upon the heads," Isaiah 35:10; Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, the joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" John 15:11; Paul said Thessalonian Christians, "You are our glory and joy" 1 Thessalonians 2 Peter said, "Though you do not see Him, you believe in Him and rejoid joy that is inexpressible" 1 Peter 1:8. Even when we are filled with sor Jesus reminds us our sorrow will be turned into joy (John 16:20), and the can even rejoice in persecution (Luke 6:23).	Psalm eir nat my d to the 2:20; and ce with row,
Look around you in a worship service and evaluate the amount of joy see. Examine your own life; how much joy is there?	you
Prayer  Pray that your life, the lives of your church family, and your whole chube filled with joy.	ırch will







# "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Book of Romans Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Book of Acts

by Dr. Charles Westbrook



#### WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Charles Westbrook has served as international missionary and pastor of several churches. He is currently pastor of Pelion Baptist Church (SC). In addition to being a pastor, Charles is the author of eight books available www.charleswestbrookmedia.com. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES		
	Day 1	Learners and Practitioners
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Romans 1:7	
	"To all who are in Rome, loved by from God our Father and the Lord	God, called as saints. Grace to you and peace Jesus Christ." (NAS)
	We are called as saints. God loves	qualities: 1) We are loved by God, and 2) s us. He calls us to a life that is set apart to we share in God's grace and in the peace
	Paul, thus, opens his letter to the with doctrinal truth. They set the	Romans. The first seven verses are packed tone for the rest of his letter.
		doctrines in the first seven verses: election, cripture, Lordship of Christ, promise and nip, obedience, faith, and peace.
	set apart to Him for His service, a have much to learn. To be effective learners of God's truth. And then, One of the foundations for revita	d loves, those whom God has called to be the to be a people of truth, which means we we in our service to God, we must be the weare to be practitioners of God's truths. Solization, whether for an individual or a the mer-practitioner of the truths of God found
	Prayer	
	practitioner of Your truths, so tha	ner of Your truths, so that I may then be a at I may be useful in the work of Your
	Kingdom. In Jesus' Name. Amen.	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Day 2	Rejoice in Affliction?
	Charles Westbrook
Read Romans 5:3-4	
"And not only that, but we also rejoice in affliction produces endurance, endurance proven character produces hope."	
Some might read the verses above and conclude that Paul was off his rocker, so to speak. Who in their right mind would rejoice in their afflictions?  Affliction is not normally associated with something positive.	
Paul does not necessarily see affliction at the outcome as positive. It produces enturn produces a hope that does not disate enables us to keep going. So, we do not do rejoice over what they produce.	durance and character, and that in appoint but instead encourages and
The first two-years for a new missionary language study. It may even take four ye missionaries, can be one of the greatest they do survive. Then, they thrive, and e truths of God to Japanese people in the of the process for getting there, and misthey cherish that language-learning exp	ears. Studying Japanese, for many afflictions they have ever known. But eventually they can communicate the eir heart language. Affliction was part assionaries in Japan will often say that
In your personal walk with God, and in y your afflictions. Endure them. See beyon what will take you to hope and lead you	nd them to eventual outcomes. That is
Prayer	
Lord, teach me to value affliction for its the church I am part of also recognize the revitalization processes are going to cre positive. In Jesus' Name. Amen.	hat the afflictions we experience in
_	
	"And not only that, but we also rejoice in affliction produces endurance, endurance proven character produces hope."  Some might read the verses above and so to speak. Who in their right mind wo Affliction is not normally associated with the outcome as positive. It produces en turn produces a hope that does not discensibles us to keep going. So, we do not do rejoice over what they produce.  The first two-years for a new missionary language study. It may even take four y missionaries, can be one of the greatest they do survive. Then, they thrive, and etruths of God to Japanese people in the of the process for getting there, and mit hey cherish that language-learning expunsions. Endure them. See beyon what will take you to hope and lead you hat will take you to hope and lead you have church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to revitalization processes are going to create the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am part of also recognize to the church I am pa

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES	_	
	Day 3	Just "Faith" It
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Romans 6:11	
	"So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and	d alive to God in Christ Jesus"
	This is Paul's first command in his letter to the plural and in the imperative. So, it is a comma intended for all believers.	
	Earlier, Paul teaches that we were dead to Good world. We were spiritually dead. Stone cold de however, we then died to sin and became alive Paul also says that baptism (by immersion) poresurrection. So, now that the situation is revewed are alive to God in Christ Jesus. That mean those alive to God.	ead. When we believed in Jesus, e to God through His grace. ortrays this death and ersed, and we are dead to sin,
	How are we supposed to do this? Simply put: dead to sin and alive to God. So, that's it? Just	
	More specifically, we "faith" it. Literally, the wo it." That is, the money is deposited, so count it done deal on the basis of faith. We accept it a we are dead to sin and live to God. We faith it the basis of that reality.	t. This means we count it as a s a genuine reality by faith that
	_	
	Prayer	
	Lord, by faith I count it as reality that I am dea commit to live this day and each day in that fr	reedom so that my life will
	honor You and serve as a testimony to the los Jesus' Name. Amen.	it of what is truly possible. In
	_	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES		
	Day 4	Free to Choose
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Romans 8:5	
		e flesh have their minds set on the things of ing to the Spirit have their minds set on the
	we can choose a lifestyle oriented a on the basis of the physical is deatl	w a life oriented around the physical, or around the spiritual. Paul added that living h. That's because the physical is temporary. s life and peace because the spiritual is
		ee to choose. To choose a life oriented ve the ability, the power to make that happens. So, how do we do that?
	desire to live life in the Spirit, He w Spirit then "seals" us in this decision	f enables us to decide. If we have the ill enable us to make that decision. The n. The Spirit becomes the "guarantee" of I and characterized by joy and peace.
	joy, love – the fruit of the Spirit. Liv	irit. That is the path that leads to peace, ing according to the Spirit is an absolute fe, and it is an essential ingredient for all zation of a church.
	Prayer	
	· ·	ut I choose in the power of Your Spirit to than according to the physical. Enable me Amen.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES		
	Day 5	Groaning in Hope
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Romans 8:23	
	"Not only that, but we ourselves who hav groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting fo bodies."	•
	This may sound negative, maybe even connect all of the creation is: Groaning.	•
	Groaning comes from suffering. Suffering that is, in reality, the result of God's judg human condition produces groaning, who something better to come. Thus, it is als groaning points us toward a groaning for inexpressible desire to experience the furgroan for that. One reason for this is be groans before the Father and the Son on hope He has given us in Christ.	gment on human sin. Thus, our fallen hich is pointed toward the hope for to true that this suffering-produced or hope, a deep, heart-felt almost all redemption promised in Christ. We because the Holy Spirit within us
	We hope for something yet unseen, whi therefore, wait patiently, believing that time.	·
	This same groaning we experience indiv need to experience corporately if genuir indispensable. Are you, in your church, ghope you have for the full revitalization	ne revitalization is to take place. It is groaning for the fulfillment of the
	Prayer  Lord, in this day, may each of us acknow Your Spirit, and may we also as Your chufor the full revitalization of Your church.	urch in this world groan in the hope

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Day 6	The Transformation of Mercy and Grace
	Charles Westbrook
Read Romans 12:2	
	med to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect
means to look past and then treat that	nplished our salvation through the blood of Christ. Mercy t someone's faults to see their potential and possibility, t person on that basis rather than on their faults. Mercy ace realities to what can be. A great thought, but what does
follow the values of and culture will pre need to justify their	nust not conform to this age, meaning, not to give in and f unbelievers. Rather, we follow God's truth. Our society essure us to conform to their values, primarily because they r behaviors, their existence, to convince themselves they woid the ravages of guilt. We must not conform to that.
work of transforma transformation is n visual. We see it in	we must be transformed instead. The Holy Spirit does this ation by renewing, by making our minds new. This ot just some esoteric life principle but is practical, real, and the exercise of our spiritual gifts. It is love expressed as yout our spiritual gifts, we are expressing love for God and
and submit your m	of God's grace and mercy, reject conformity to this age, ind to the transforming work of God's Spirit. All levels of re that we follow this path.
Prayer	
	reality of this truth, and help us to follow this path for the om and glory and Your church. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Day 7	The God of Hope	
z ay :	Charles Westbroo	
Read Romans 15:13		
"Now may the God of hope fill you wi that you may overflow with hope by the	ou with all joy and peace as you believe so e by the power of the Holy Spirit."	
What a verse! Look at the range of the peace, faith, power, Holy Spirit. This is believers, an expression of his hope for that the God of hope would overflow Spirit so they would know joy and peathat something every individual and continuous continuous something every individual and continuous co	a Pauline benediction to the Roman or them and for their church. He prays hope in them by the power of the Holy ace through their faith in Christ. Isn't	
Peace – the state of being at reconciliation.  Faith – the unity with God that	y hope, independent of circumstances. rest with God, others and self through	
— I	•	
This describes an individual Christian i church that is in the process of revitali and for our churches.	in personal revival, and it describes a ization. May it be true for us individual	
Prayer		
ord, God of hope, create in me and in that we may live out this joy as our tes Jesus' Name. Amen.	·	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

OTES		
	Day 8	The True Resource for Revitalization
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Acts 3:6	
		on't have silver or gold, but what I do have I give you: In the st of Nazareth, get up and walk!"
	entering. When Pet They looked straigh made the statemen	oirth was daily taken to the temple gate to beg from those ter and John were entering, he asked them for money. In the action of the second of
	better position fina sometimes it seems resources. Zecharia Spirit, says the Lord resources God prov	longer say, "Silver and gold have I none." We are in a incially to help those who suffer. Related to this, though, is as though the church of today has an over-reliance on wh 4:6 reminds us: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My dof Hosts." We certainly have a stewardship to give of the vides, but it is equally important, if not more so, to primary Resource is the Spirit of God.
	allow that to be de we are restricted to purposes and plans	revitalization, resources are important, but we must not terminative in our ministry and missions engagements. If o resources only, we cannot possibly carry out God's s. That can only be achieved when we rely on the Holy r required. All other resources must be submitted to the
	Prayer	
	•	arn to rely on Your Spirit alone as the true Resource for we trust You to provide any other resources needed. In n.





### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES		
	Day 9	Guilty of His Blood
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Acts 5:38	
		reach in this name? Look, you have filled re determined to make us guilty of this
	boy that he understood its meaning said, "For you know that you were r	ad enough training in the Torah as a Jewish g. Later, when he wrote his first epistle he redeemed from your empty way of life th perishable things like silver and gold, ist." (1 Peter 1:18)
	century might have said, "What do you ARE guilty of His blood." These though technically the Romans kille	was effective, but someone from our you mean 'make' you guilty of His blood; men made the decision to kill Jesus, ed Him. Here's what Peter said, "You m to His right hand by raising Him from
	head because they believed Jesus v	. They believed His blood was on His own was a charlatan, an imposter, a messiah- ed. Their opinion was unchanged. So was ere guilt of His blood.
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	guilty of His blood, in that His blood was heirs? The blood of the cross must always revitalization is to take place.
	Prayer	
	Lord, before You we plead the bloc	od of Christ. In His Name. Amen.





### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Day 10	tephen's Story
	arles Westbrook
Read Acts 7:56	
"He said, 'Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Manright hand of God!'"	standing at the
His name suggests a Hellenistic Jew who likely migrated to I point he became a believer, one of the first seven deacons, the Spirit and wisdom." He argued forcefully for Jesus as Me Synagogue of the Freedmen. They finally reached total frust	srael. At some evidently "full of essiah in the ration and hauled
Israel's history of rebellion and mistreating the prophets. Th until he accused them of resisting the Holy Spirit and not ke His statement, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son at the right hand of God!" pushed them over the edge. That dragged him outside the city and gathered stones. They laid	ey were with him eping the Law. of Man standing did it. They I their robes at
When it comes to revitalization, severe sacrifices may be red death served to advance the gospel. Then, secondly, never use the gospel of the company of the	uired. Stephen's Inderestimate the
Prayer	
·	
	Read Acts 7:56  "He said, 'Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man right hand of God!"  What an interesting young man, this Stephen. He was proba His name suggests a Hellenistic Jew who likely migrated to I point he became a believer, one of the first seven deacons, of the Spirit and wisdom." He argued forcefully for Jesus as Me Synagogue of the Freedmen. They finally reached total frust him in front of the Sanhedrin and accused him of speaking a Temple and the Law. The Sanhedrin allowed him to speak.  Interestingly, Stephen never mentioned the name of Jesus. He Israel's history of rebellion and mistreating the prophets. The until he accused them of resisting the Holy Spirit and not keen His statement, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son at the right hand of God!" pushed them over the edge. That dragged him outside the city and gathered stones. They laid the feet of a young Pharisee named Saul of Tarsus as they the Stephen to death.  So, what does Stephen's story have to do with church revita When it comes to revitalization, severe sacrifices may be requested to advance the gospel. Then, secondly, never use transformative power of God. It could be your greatest misting here of Saul, not Stephen.  Prayer  Lord, help us to understand the costs that come with a revitable pus recognize Your ability to transform those You intended.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

Day 11	The Power of Prayer for Revitalization
	Charles Westbrook
Read Acts 12:11	
	o himself, he said, 'Now I know for certain that the Lord nd rescued me from Herod's grasp and from all that the red."
ensued, resulting in Antioch, and Barnab in Jerusalem, Barnab arrested James the k pleased the Jews he chained between tw mother of John Mar miraculous display o once outside the pri	ment declined in popularity, and a full persecution a scattering of believers. A church was planted in was and Saul became primary leaders. Because of a famine was and Saul were dispatched with a relief offering. Herodorother of John and beheaded him. When he saw that this arrested Peter and intended to execute him. Peter was so guards. Believers gathered at the home of Mary the k to pray. An angel of the Lord, in a remarkable, of power, released Peter. Peter thought it was a vision, but son he "came to" and knew it was real. He then went to ohn Mark's mother before departing.
we assume she was named. No other na	or that prayer meeting? Well, Mary owned the house, so there with her son, John Mark. Rhoda, a servant girl is mes are mentioned, but since Barnabas and Saul were in sider they were there. Probably some of the other as well.
with prayer. When w	miraculous release points us to the power associated we think of church revitalization, we must recognize that sed into every part of that process.
Prayer	
Lord, may every pro Name. Amen.	cess of church revitalization be bathed in prayer. In Jesus'
_   _	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

OTES		
	Day 12	Trust the Spirit's Lead
	Day 12	Charles Westbrook
	Read Acts 16:6	
	forbidden by the Holy Spirit	on of Phrygia and Galatia; they had been to speak the word in Asia. When they came to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them."
	searching for a place to pre-	onary journey, he, Silas, and Timothy traveled west ach the gospel. They were following the Spirit's do; everyone was lost. But they did not find a listic ministry.
	With all those people there, be, but apparently it wasn't foundations there through at that time or that he was inortheast, only to be stoppe seems that Peter was involved.	d Ephesus. They Holy Spirit forbade that. Why? surely that was a harvest field. It certainly would the time because the Spirit was laying some a man named Apollos. Paul did not know Apollos in Ephesus, but the Spirit did. So, they headed ed by the Spirit of Jesus (the Holy Spirit). Why? It ed in work in Bithynia. So, Paul and company here they met Luke, and from there they launched ope.
	know what He is doing. He He may be preparing the wa	ly Spirit is working. We may or may not see or may be building foundations for future ministry. ay. We must never assume He is not working. We m, and move forward whether we fully
		our Spirit is at work in all the processes of church
		w Your lead. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





**AUTHOR: Charles Westbrook** 

### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

NOTES		
	Day 13	Look for Doors Already Open
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Acts 16:40	
	"After leaving the jail, they encouraged the brothers a	v came to Lydia's house, where they saw and and and sisters, and departed."
	were imprisoned at Philip Philippian jailer, now a be probably sent for Timothy Philippi once they apolog	I, Silas, and Timothy. Apparently, only Paul and Silas pi. Somehow Timothy and Luke escaped that. The liever, took care of Paul and Silas' wounds and and Luke. The city leaders requested they leave ized, since they had learned that Paul and Silas were it to Lydia's home to tell everyone goodbye and lined there.
	relationship with Paul. So, include Luke and Lydia ar Then, there's the Philippia (again, let's say 5-10 in hi Church of Philippi was be	th was planted, a church that would have a special who were the members of this church? We would ad her household (let's say 5-10 in her household). In jailer and his household who were all baptized is household). So, that suggests the First Baptist gun with 13-23 members. If the young lady who was part of it, that would mean 14-24. Not bad for a
	It all started when Paul ar outside the city wall.	nd his team heard about a place of prayer by a river
		on, we learn that when we pursue the Lord's work, God is already doing. Sometimes the doors are need to go through.
	Prayer	
		ave already set up, show us the open doors, so we our Kingdom. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





**AUTHOR: Charles Westbrook** 

### "God's Grace & The Believer's Acts"

TES		
	 Day 14	A Spiritual Battle
		Charles Westbrook
	Read Acts 17:18-19	
	"And many who had become believers car practices, while many of those who had pr and burned them in front of everyone."	
	When someone decides to believe in Jess Him. They have chosen to turn away from incompatible with the Christian faith and which glorify God and magnify the name	n previous practices that may be engage in a lifestyle and practices
	Luke tells us about some believers in Eph magic arts. This was not "sleight of hand" sorcery and witchcraft. Because of their re their incantation books publicly to demo	' magic we know today. It was more epentance and faith, they burned
	A decision to follow Jesus is transformative a decision is essentially a battle of the healthough we live in the flesh, we do not we since the weapons of our warfare are not through God for the demolition of strong every proud thing that is raised up against take every thought captive to obey Christ advance of the gospel, whether the plant church, or a church revitalization, we must battle. And our weaponry is spiritual in na	vart, the will. Paul wrote, "For wage war according to the flesh, of the flesh but are powerful gholds. We demolish arguments and st the knowledge of God, and we t." (1 Corinthians 10:3-5) In any sing of a church, the re-planting of a st recognize that it will be a spiritual
	Prayer  Lord, we acknowledge Your sovereign po	
	those who turn from sin and in faith turn Name. Amen.	to You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus'





**AUTHOR: Charles Westbrook** 



# "Christ and His Church"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Old Testament and New Testament

by Rev. Rick Fisher



Rev. Rick Fisher is Vice-President of Blackaby Ministries International. Prior to joining Blackaby Ministries, Rick served as pastor of several churches, among them being 10 years at Lexington Baptist Church (SC). He is a frequent speaker on topics related to spiritual leadership, revival/awakening, prayer/prayer ministry, building a godly legacy in the home and other ministry-related topics. In writing this prayer, he utilizes themes and statements found in the Blackaby's Flickering Lamps material and builds a prayer focus for the local church to embrace and experience together.

## "Christ and His Church"

Day 1	Preparing for a Significant Movement of God
_	Rick Fisher
Read II Chror	nicles 7:14
and seek my fo	who are called by My name. will humble themselves and pray ace, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from all forgive their sin and heal their land." (KJV)
His people, the to the Churche communicates activity in spectors want to do for we hear His vo	ay God works in the world to achieve His purposes is through e church. Henry Blackaby, in his book What the Spirit is Saying es, states: "God is always at work around us, and He personally His will to His people, inviting each church to join in His cific ways." It is not the role of the church to determine what we God because He already knows what He is purposing. When sice, understand where He is inviting us to join Him in His work to obedience, He will release His power in us to accomplish His ugh us.
But, if they are of eternal valu opinions of pe	e are oriented to His voice, they will be used mightily by Him. not oriented to His voice, there will be no power and nothing e will be accomplished. The church must move beyond the ople and be led by the mind of Christ. Otherwise, the entire people of God will be in jeopardy.
our hearts for Today, let us fo	a fresh moving of God among His people, we must prepare a fresh encounter with the person, mind, and heart of God. ocus on being still before the Lord, parking our hearts in His n extended period of time. He has will draw near to us (James
Pray	<u>er</u>
Word and pray ways, Your pur Jeremiah 29:12	ed to hear from You. As we draw near to You by reading Your lying Your Word, we ask that You reveal Your character, Your reposes to us in fresh and powerful ways. (Psalm 27:8, 145:18; 2-13; Hebrews 10:19-22, 11:6; Romans 11;33-36; Ephesians 1:7-ns 2:10; Il Corinthians 3:5)

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Christ and His Church"

Day 2 Repentance
Rick Fisher
Read Isaiah 59:1-2
"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."
We began our devotional prayer journey on Day One by seeking to know God more fully; especially to know His character, who He is. As we see God for who He is, we begin to see ourselves for who we are. When Isaiah encountered God (Isaiah 6), he experienced God's holiness, the centerpiece of His character. Isaiah's first reaction was to see himself in light of a holy God: "woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."
God intends for His people to walk in fellowship with Him and in this love relationship, He speaks to reveal His purposes, plans and ways. But scripture reminds us that there is a problem in the relationship and the problem is that our sin separates from God and the awareness of His presence. Isaiah 59:1 clearly states that the issue is not with God, but with us.
Do you sense you are hearing from God, that you have an awareness of His presence? Does your church have a clear understanding about what God is saying to you and how He is calling you to join Him and His work? Do you view life from God's perspective? Could it be there is unconfessed sin in the lives of God's people that is preventing hearing His voice, sensing His presence, and knowing His will?
God waits for us to adjust our lives to His standards before He chooses to speak to us. The first step in our adjusting is repentance, agreeing with God about our sin, naming the sin before Him and seeking His forgiveness.
Prayer
God, we have sinned against You. Search our hearts. Reveal our sin as individuals and as a church. As You show us our sin, we will repent and turn from that sin, seek Your forgiveness and cleansing so You can do a fresh work in and through us. (Psalm 139:23-24; I John 1:8-9; Malachi 3:7)

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Christ and His Church"

Day 3	Surrender
	Rick Fisher
Read Luke 9:23	
"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come afte himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"	r Me, let him deny
A theme that characterizes successful teams, whether in that each member is willing to subjugate their personal see the team succeed.	•
Jesus indicated that He was looking for followers with a be part of His Kingdom team on earth. First, there must relationship with Jesus, to follow Him as the leader. Seco deny self, to surrender personal desires, plans and prefe agenda for them.	be a desire to be in a and is a willingness to
Jesus continued in Luke 9:24: the people who choose to their lives by losing it. Through the attitude and action of of Jesus find life, both abundant and eternal. Do you has say "yes" to whatever God reveals to you as His agendal make the necessary adjustments in your attitudes, priori order to embrace what Jesus has in mind for your life ar	of surrender, followers we a predisposition to? Are you ready to ties, relationships in
Our culture screams "it's all about me". Am I willing to to the world so I can hear the voice of Jesus clearly? Am I my agenda and preferences so I can be a part of someth than me, a Kingdom agenda that will bear eternal fruit? willing to make any adjustment God asks of us so we ca encounter with His power, so that we can become all th	ready to surrender ning much bigger Are we as a church n experience a fresh
Prayer	
Father, You desire to work in and through Your people to Kingdom. Would You do in me and in our church whate us into people You are please to work through? As You to us, may our first words be "YES, LORD!!" (II Chronicles Matthew 26:39; Galatians 2:20; II Timothy 1:9)	ver it takes to shape reveal Your agenda

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## "Christ and His Church"

OTES		
	Day 4	The Headship of Christ
		Rick Fisher
	Read Colossians	
		t, the church, who is the beginning, the all things He may have the preeminence."
	picture of Christ helps us under	text for this verse: Colossians 1:15-18. This stand His role in creation, salvation, and the ead of the church, the sole authority.
	The church exists to be salt and	and to make disciples (followers of Jesus). light in the community where God has placed ne church might reflect and His character and it exists.
	Head builds the church (Matthe loving relationship with His peo From this daily relationship of p	from their plans and efforts; Christ as the w 16:18). He does this through a personal, ple as He reveals His mind and heart to them. brayer and time in scripture, Christ empowers church become all that He purposes.
	surrender themselves fully to th burial, and resurrection, Christ e	by a group of believers are willing to e Headship of Christ Through His death, established Himself as the ultimate leader of the purposes for which they exist.
	Prayer	_
	leadership of Christ as the Head everything Christ purposes for u	re have trusted our own efforts over the d. Restore us to a place of desiring to fulfill us. May we be known as a people who reflect do our lives. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 3:1-6; I phesians 4:15-16)
	_	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Christ and His Church"

NOTES				
	Day 5	Christ's Purpose for His Church Rick Fisher		
	Read Revelation 2:4-	5		
	Remember therefore fro	"Nevertheless, I have this against you; that you have left your first love.  Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent."		
	scriptures teach that Go glorify God, make disci to live out His purposes	Lamps, Henry and Richard Blackaby state the od has three primary purposes for the Church: to ples and bless their community. As God's people seek s, the Holy Spirit helps each church pursue these nique circumstances and the gifts of the people Christ h.		
	were doing many thing relationship with their h remember their first ca	nad a harsh word for the church at Ephesus. While they is well, they had lost the focus on their "first love", the Head! Christ challenged the Ephesian Christians to lling, repent of their sin and return to the primacy of with Him. Out of that relationship, He would lead them ses in His ways.		
	the primary purposes F things, are they accomp Blackaby states: "Churc	head means we evaluate everything we do in light of de has for His church. While we may do many good olishing the purposes for which we exist? Henry hes bring God glory when they focus on what He by act, talk, and look like Christ."		
	Prayer			
	individual believers and secondary matters. Give sin and pursue only the	our desire that we live out Your purposes for us as I as a church. Forgive us for being distracted by e us a heart to remember Your words, repent of our works that glorify You. (Psalm 86:11-12; Romans Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16; Jeremiah 29:7)		

## "Christ and His Church"

OTES		
	Day 6	Christ's Plans for His Church
		Rick Fisher
	Read Isaiah 55:8-9	
	, ,	rour thoughts, nor are your ways My ways', says the re higher that the earth, so are My ways higher than rs than your thoughts'."
	them. The challenge is that He would build His church	es for His Church but plans for accomplishing t we do not think like God does. Christ promised . His desire is to be actively involved in every t is the Head and He wants to direct His church!
	fallen world's way of thinki God, He reveals His purpos within each of God's people	use our thinking, it is no higher or better than the ng. As we seek what is on the mind and heart of ses and plans to us (Jeremiah 33:3). The Holy Spirit le then guides us into the will of God. We begin to de will show us how to do what He has purposed
	<i>first</i> . The Holy Spirit then w	rch God uses is that in all things the people <i>pray</i> vorks to move us from <i>people-centered</i> thinking to then have the opportunity to trust God to guide
	Prayer	
	world's way. Forgive us and know Your plans so we car	nd confess our tendency to try to do Your work the d cleanse us of our self-centeredness. We want to a live and minister in ways that will bring Your undant fruit. (John 15:7-8; 17:20-23; I Peter 4:7-11; 15-18; Proverbs 3:5-6)

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Christ and His Church"

Day 7	Christ's Presence in His Church
	Rick Fisher
Read Revelation 2:2	
"I know your works"	
He spoke these words, "I ki to be present in the midst of with us", but is this biblical present You are". When we	nes the Risen Christ addressed in Revelation 2-3, now your works". To know their works, Christ had of the church. Often, we find ourselves praying "be We should pray, "make us aware of how very gather in corporate worship, we do more than on. We encounter the transforming presence of
revealing His activity, His p Him in what He is doing ar	st pursues a personal love relationship with us, urposes and plans to us. He then invites us to join ound us. His presence brings an accountability for do. He looks for obedience and in those places of epentance.
us be aware of the presence no need to be anxious or for us confidence to enter the us in ways that produce mu church, no matter the size of	re equipped with spiritual senses designed to help e and activity of our Head. In His presence, there is earful. Because of who He is, the Risen Christ gives future with expectation that our Leader will direct eich spiritual fruit and bring blessings to many. Any or location, has complete access to the fullness of hrist and all that can mean for them!
Prayer	
each of us as His followers us fully aware of all that me daily. May the presence of	at the Risen Christ is present in His church. He is in and He is among all of us as a congregation. Make cans and empower us to live in that awareness the Risen Christ transform all that we are and all orinthians 2:12-16; Hebrews 13:5; Ephesians 4:11-

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## "Christ and His Church"

Day 8	Christ's Power at Work in His Church
	Rick Fisher
Read Ephesians 1:2	22-23
	gs under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."
reminder of the pow the Risen Christ as the most of that as a ser displayed in a variety We may seek His po circumstances, but the Richard Blackaby statinfinite power in our	ead the entire text of Ephesians 1:15-23. This is a clear ver that is available to every church that acknowledges heir Head. As I served for 30 years in the local church, nior pastor, I discovered that the power of Christ was y of circumstances and decisions, both large and small, wer only when we have large decisions or challenging he Risen Christ is very present in the ordinary. Henry and ite: "Often we long for spectacular displays of God's churches. But most often, God's power is experienced grind of ordinary living as we faithfully obey the last thing
all the power we need truth made its way to behave? When we so obedience by what work who we have as of who we have as of among us and sees/	t challenge is <i>faith</i> . We can know that we have access to ed to accomplish anything (Matthew 19:26), but has that o our hearts and affected the way we think, plan and ense God is inviting us to join Him, do we measure our we can do, what we have in terms of resources, or in light our Head? Could it be that the Risen Christ, who is present knows us is waiting on us to move from trusting what we no ourselves to what only He can do?
	elves and our church fully on who we serve as our leader, to imagine there is anything too hard for Him!
Prayer	
ourselves and our all power. Remind us he decision we make. W	ess there have been times when we have trusted bilities and ways. We repent of our lack of trust in Your low powerful You are, and may that truth impact every we trust You with the future and every aspect of our lives the 1:37; Ephesians 1:15-23; Acts 1:8; II Peter 1:3; Revelation 4:9-11)

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## "Christ and His Church"

Day 9	Christ's Provision for His Church
	Rick Fishe
Read Philippians 4:19	
"And my God will supply Christ Jesus."	y all your needs according to His riches in glory in
awareness of this truth, our lives? Recently, I sp leading them to take a specific group of peopl Practically, the answer v God speaks, the next th power and provision. The	e truth found in this verse? Do live with a daily facing decisions with this truth guiding and shaping toke with a leader whose organization felt God was step of faith to expand their staff in order to engage to but there was no financial provision available. Was "no". However, God had spoken clearly and when sing we do reveals what we really believe about His the leadership team decided to take this step of faith. So, they received more than enough funds to secure the other future.
Henry Blackaby has ofte intentions. He promised come in a variety of wa	nd to provide if we are not following His agenda? As en stated: "God did not promise to supply our good d to provide for our obedience". His provision can ys: leaders, finances, circumstances and more, but beyond the capacity of His provision!
of God, senses what is of they can obey, God rele anything the church can	n that when a congregation seeks the mind and hear on His agenda and moves to make adjustments to eases His power and provision in ways that are beyon n imagine. The Risen Christ bases His plans for His urces, but on His ability to provide what is needed for
Prayer	
You purposed for us. T resources. We commit to	iling to trust You for the provision to accomplish wha oo often we have trusted in our abilities and to say "yes" to everything You place in our hearts to of the circumstances or challenges. (Ephesians 3:20-21 hn 3:22; Revelation 3:8)

## "Christ and His Church"

Day 10	Christ's Future for His Church
	Rick Fishe
Read Jeremiah 29	11
"'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'."	
mentioned in Revelopresent in His church However, He also ke effective future. Regular for a future fille live in a love relation know, and He know Just as with the church present in the church pres	tied John to send messages to each of the seven churches ation 2-3. With each message, Christ revealed that He was hand that He knew priorities and works of each one. new the solution for each church to have a vibrant and pardless of the sin that had hindered them, Christ had a ed with hope. We do not know the future. However, if we haship with Christ, we have access to the One who does as the plans He has for His people today and tomorrow. In the revelation, much of the future Christ has for us adjustments in order to see His provision and blessing.
sensed they were not Kingdom. The leader specific prayer over mind, asking Him to where they should j had revealed three sadjust both priorities this church to impact	rch that was growing in number, but the leadership of impacting their community in positive ways for the ers invited the congregation to enter an extended time of several weeks. Each week, they sought God's heart and o reveal where He was at work in the community and oin Him. At the conclusion of the season of prayer, God specific areas of His activity. The church moved quickly to se and resources. God honored their obedience by using at hundreds of lives in their community in years to come.
confidence and und	set the agenda for your future. Obey Him with the lerstanding that He can provide all that is needed for you ever He leads you to do.
<u>Prayer</u>	
He knows the future and area where you obedient to what is	e Risen Christ has been appointed as Head of this church. It that would bring the Kingdom more fully to the people have planted our lives. We desire to glorify You by being revealed to us as we pray. (Luke 9:23-25; Psalm 32:8; I Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 12:2; 15:13)

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION





# "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Book of Nehemiah

by Rev. Lee Butler



#### WRITER'S BIO

Rev. Lee Butler is pastor of Faith Baptist Church (Swansea SC). Including as a pastor, he has served in church staff positions in SC and FL. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

Day 1 Trusting in God's Plan
Lee Butle
Read Nehemiah 1:1-11
A US Marine was trapped in a cave with the enemy quickly approaching. He prayed and asked God to spare his life. He noticed a spider building a web over the front of his cave. He thought, "What I need is a brick wall and the Lord has sent me a spider web." To his amazement the enemy passed by the cave entrance and his life was spared because the spider web gave the appearance as if no one had entered for quite some time. (Story from Steve Champeau, "The Utah Veteran") Nehemiah's prayer reflected three ways he trusted God and his example is a great encouragement for church revitalization.
We must acknowledge our current reality.  Our fear of the future often drives a denial of reality.  Nehemiah didn't deny the reality of Jerusalem. He acknowledged it and sought God for the sake of his homeland. We must learn to trust God in spite of circumstances.
We must turn to God for His plan.  We need to seek God first instead of waiting until our plan goes wrong. Nehemiah praised God for His faithfulness and confessed the sin of his people. We must trust God's plan fo His people.
We must stand on His promises.  We need to be more aware of God's promises. Nehemiah prayed the promises of God. We must trust God to keep His promises.
God may work in ways that we don't anticipate, but He ways can always be trusted.
Prayer
Lord, help us to trust You as we seek to see Your church and our lives revitalized for Your glory! Amen!





## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

 Day 2	Learning to Be Patient
Day 2	Lee Butler
	zee batte.
Read Nehemiah 2:1-8	
"And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God we me." Nehemiah 2:8 (NAS)	
A four-year old boy asked his mother: "Are him to be quiet and stop asking that quest still be four when we get there?"	•
Nehemiah teaches us a lesson in leadershi more difficult to practice wait for it Pat revitalization calls for intentional relationsh to remain in a posture of waiting for God t temptation for some in situations like Neh response in the name of justice for God's patiscern God's timing as He works in our live. The change that is needed in many cases recompassionate and strategic patience as we for FOUR MONTHS and waited for God's timing as the strategic patience.	tience. While it is true that nips and action, it also calls for us to reveal His timing. The emiah faced is to launch a quick people. We must be careful to the estand in the life of our churches. The must be brought with well as intention. Nehemiah prayed
As a result of Nehemiah's prayerful and pa God developed in his mind a well thought Nehemiah's heart to help his people and t fact that the king granted Nehemiah's requestion to do the work confirmed God	out plan which emphasized his plan impressed the king. The uest for the materials and
God's ways are perfect, and His timing i timing, His provision is sure to follow!	is perfect! When God reveals His
Prayer	
as we navigate the paths of revitalization.	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

Day 3	Encouraging the People
	Lee Butler
Read Nehemiah 2:17-20	
"Then they said, 'Let us arise and b work.'" Nehemiah 2:18	ouild. So, they put their hands to the good
· ·	nley comments, "Nehemiah could not have his heart unless he had encouraged the
that the people of the church mus	ious thought, we must always remember st support the work of the church. The ears witness to the community that God is at as for eternity.
ones best suited to do them "right opportunities to serve Him accord people, the body of Christ to serv	elves because we foolishly believe we are the it." While God will surely give us plenty of ding to His will, He has also called His e Him. The people responded when haring the needs of the moment as well as that point.
loving and prayerful support of th	ng revitalization to churches without the ne congregation. As leaders we need to own and help encourage the people to meet as already been doing.
best when they are encouraged	and uncertain future, but they can face it by God's man who loves to see the od to be made manifest through the lives
Prayer	
,	ment to Your church as we share the hope ritual vitality and bring You glory in our

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

ES	
	Day 4 Overcoming Adversity
	Lee Butle
	Read Nehemiah 4:1-23
	"Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."  Nehemiah 4:14
	In times when my kids are going through various trials in relationships, I always encourage them with two thoughts: 1. You cannot control what other do or how they act, but you can control your response to them. 2. Always remember who you are and Whose you are. As we pursue revitalization, Satan will always try to relate to us according to our weakness and past failures. He will mock our life's work through the mouths of his people, but he cannot change what God desires to do in and through our life.
	The enemies of God's work through Nehemiah mocked the work and threatened to destroy it and the people, but the reminder that "the Lord is great and awesome" gave them the courage to overcome the adversity they faced. Satan does not want the church to have an effective witness in our communities and he will seek to destroy it. We must not allow the harsh words and actions of those who need our message of hope and salvation through Jesus to cause us to give up the work of making disciples. We must help our congregations overcome adversity and remember who they are and Whose they are.
	Remember that God will always relate to us in light of His great plan for our life; not according to the lies of the enemy.
	Prayer
	Lord, give us wisdom to help Your church overcome the adverse times of our day. Remind us of Your plan for the church and of Your great and awesome power to carry it out. Amen!

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

NOTES		
	Day 5	Pursuing a Purpose
		Lee Butler
	Read Nehemiah 6:16-7:3	
	"When all our enemies heard of it, and they lost their confidence; for they reconstance accomplished with the help of our God	<del>-</del>
	Rome may not have been built in a data around Jerusalem in 52 days! Even so "revitalization in Jerusalem." God had but His plan to rebuild the faith of His Practitioners in the work of revitalizat process, not a program." How much r lives?	, this did not mark the end of accomplished the rebuilding of the wall s people was not yet complete. ion often remark, "Revitalization is a
	In the meantime, we must remain foc revitalization in our churches. We muse God to reflect His glory in our commu	rk done while on earth. This work on vill not be perfected until Jesus returns. Tused on the reason that we seek st persevere in our efforts to be used of
	The work of revitalization is not the pursuing the purpose of reflecting communities.	at of completing a program, it's of the glory of God as He works in our
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Lord, help us not grow weary in lifting glory. May we reflect the Light of the	g up Your name so that all will see Your world as we follow You. Amen!

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

Day 6	Rebuilding the Church
	Lee Butler
Read Nehemiah 8:1-12	
"Ezra opened the book in the sigh all the people; and when he open	nt of all the people for he was standing above ned it, all the people stood up." Nehemiah 8:5
Nehemiah eight through thirtee	n seven is about rebuilding God's wall; n is about rebuilding God's people. What the rebuilding of the wall positioned the faith
easy to forget that it was planted are not careful, we will make ass that not only distract us from ou essential for future hope. As Ezra essential responses from the per revitalization: 1. The desire of the	h has been facing years of decline, it's too d as a Gospel witness to the community. If we umptions about the history of the church or calling, but sabotages relationships that are a comes and reads God's word, we see two ople that must remain paramount in the people to hear from God through His Word onor God in response to His Word.
and dwelt among us." Those who remains of our churches are in nee	hurch and He is the "Word that became flesh o heard Him and responded to Him found rejected Him were left in despair. Though d of physical repair, the greatest task of earts of our people. We must depend on
God builds His people through His Word as they desire to hear fi	
Prayer	_
Lord, keep us from neglecting the church. May we hear and respon	ne chief work of your Word in rebuilding the and to Your Word. Amen!





## "A Prayerful Longing to See God's Glory"

NOTES	
	Day 7 Empowering Leaders
	Lee Butler
	Read Nehemiah 3:1-22
	"Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters."  Nehemiah 3:5
	Perhaps everyone is not a leader. Perhaps not every leader assumes empowerment. Revitalization requires leadership. Lack of leadership has hindered many efforts towards revitalization in the local church. What should our prayerful response be in regard to this situation?
	Though we can learn various leadership skills from Nehemiah, he shows us a key component in responding to God's call to bring fresh life into our churches. We must help our churches empower leaders to serve in areas in which they are gifted and are passionate about serving. This requires intentionality and prayerful consideration. Three practical steps in this process are: 1. Illustrating the intersection of the need at hand and giftedness of those who can meet the need 2. Providing the opportunity to respond to the need and a compelling vision to follow 3. Celebrating the work that has been accomplished. Many responded but some did not.
	The ones who did respond were passionate about repairing and defending the areas in which they lived, but up to this point they had not rebuilt the wall. Nehemiah's leadership reflected the practical steps above as he led the people to meet the needs at hand. They did so in record time and they celebrated before moving on to the next part of their mission.
	God desires His people to passionately respond to needs around them according to the gifts He has given to them.
	Prayer
	Lord, teach us what it means to empower the leaders of Your church to serve as You would have them serve. Help me be the leader you desire me to be for Your glory. Amen!

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION





# "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Book of Ephesians

by Dr. Bob Lowman



#### WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Bob Lowman is the Executive Director/Associational Mission Strategist where he serves to encourage and equip the MBA churches and their pastors and leaders to fulfill the Great Commission in their context. His vision is to see the family of churches be the praying, caring, sharing fellowship of congregations they must be to reach their city and region for Jesus Christ.

## "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

Day 1 First Prayer for the Church: To Develop the Relationship
Bob Lowman
Read Ephesians 1:15-17
"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)
Paul prayed that the Christians would take the time needed to develop the relationships necessary to live a fruitful and blessed Christian life.
My relationship with God is what makes life possible for me. This is true for us as individuals and as a church. Therefore, developing our relationships with God through prayer is a top priority.
Revitalization begins in our personal relationships with the Lord. We don't have a church unless relationships with God in the name of His Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit form the core of who the church is. This is one reason why there are so many problems in the church in North America today – too many people who say they are part of the church do not have the relationship with God that they need.
Do we ever struggle with knowing what God's will is in a particular situation? The only way we can discern God's will for us is to have relationships with Him that makes such knowledge possible. If I'm having a hard time figuring out what God wants me to do in a particular situation, I need to check on my relationship with Him at that point in time.
Too many Christians neglect their relationships with God and act like nothing is wrong. Too many of us as church leaders neglect our relationships with God and act like nothing is wrong. Please pray that you and every person who comes to your church will develop a deep and growing relationship with God.
Prayer
Lord, help me to grow in my relationship with You. Lead me to practice the spiritual disciplines necessary to help me become the follower of Jesus that You have saved me to be. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

TES	
	Day 2 Second Prayer for the Church: To See the Possibilities
	Bob Lowman
	Read Ephesians 1:17-18
	"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people" Ephesians 1:18
	The first prayer is that we would develop our relationships with God. To have a relationship with Almighty God opens the door to all of the blessings available to the believer. The possibilities are infinite! So, the second prayer is that we would see what God can do in, thru, and around us when we trust and follow Him.
	Have you seen with the eyes of faith the riches of God's glorious inheritance for you? Peterson paraphrases verse 18 in this way: "to grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for Christians."
	Pause and let your imagination go as you realize this truth: What God can do is available to you! Yes, what God can do is available to you. This is a hope we must know and share. Tell a fellow Christian: What God can do is available to you. Say to your church family: What God can do is available to you.
	But hear a warning: there are no possibilities if you do not have a relationship with God in Christ. Without the relationship, there are no possibilities. With the relationship, the possibilities are infinite!
	Let this glorious truth build your faith! Trust in the God who has a glorious inheritance ready for you today.
	Prayer
	Lord, help me to see with eyes of faith what the amazing possibilities are as I trust and obey You day by day. Help my church family to see the possibilities and believe in all You can do for Your glory and our good.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

Day 3 Third Prayer for the Church: To Experience God's Power
Bob Lowman
Read Ephesians 1:17-21
"and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength" Ephesians 1:19
Paul prayed that the church would see the possibilities and experience the power necessary to achieve those possibilities. He prayed the church would "know the immeasurable greatness of His power." The Amplified Bible says "the immeasurable, unlimited, surpassing greatness of His power"
That, friends, is God-sized power! This power is the same as the power which raised Jesus from dead, according to verse 20, and it is available to us as individuals and as the church.
Put the second prayer and the third prayer together: as we know God's possibilities and experience His power, we take part in God's redemptive plar for the world, starting in our own neighborhood. This is so much bigger that us. It's not just about us and our church – this is part of God's redemption of all who believe.
Paul prayed that we would know this power. Question is, do we? Do you know the power of God at work in your life? He has made it available to those who have relationships with Him.
Here's another warning: this power is available only to those who know and hope toward God's possibilities for us, not our own. It's easy to crave God's power to do what we want to do. It's more of a challenge to desire His power so that He can accomplish His plans through us.
But, think what God can do with believers who have growing relationships with Him, who realize the possibilities of depending on Him, and who rely on His power at work in and through them – the possibilities are God-sized!
Prayer
Father, today, I depend on Your supernatural power to be my strength. In my weakness, show me what You can do as I depend fully on You. Thank You!

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

Day 4 Fourth Prayer for the Church: To Follow Jesus as Lord
Bob Lowman
Read Ephesians 1:22-23
And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church". Ephesians 1:22
Paul's prayer changes tone in verse 22. He moves from asking God to help the church to telling the church through prayer the truth about Jesus. In verses 22-23, Paul says that God put everything under Jesus' feet and appointed Him as head over everything for the church, which is His body. Jesus is our Head. Jesus is in charge.
Pray that we will show we know this truth by following Him as Lord. Jesus is Lord of all. If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all. If He is Lord of us, we see what He sees, we go where He leads, we think what He thinks, we do as He commands.
Yes, this is difficult for people like us who want to do what we want to do. Not only difficult, it's impossible apart from God's power at work in us. We want our way. We crave our things. Only God's redeeming power at work within can cause us to follow Jesus as we ought.
Please pray that we will submit to the Lord Christ and follow Him faithfully.  Pray this for yourself, pray this for your church family. So many problems could be averted if we yielded fully to the Lordship of Jesus, following Him as Head of the Church.
You've probably caught on by now that these four prayers are interconnected. Without the relationships, we can't see God's possibilities. Without the possibilities, there is no need for power. Without God's power at work, we cannot follow Jesus as Lord.
Prayer
Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life so we could know life abundant and eternal. May we bring You glory and our community good, because we have decided to follow Jesus. In Your name and for Your fame we pray. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

NOTES		
	 Day 5	Fifth Prayer for the Church: The Worthy Life
		Bob Lowman
	Read Ephesians	4:1-6
	"Be completely he love." Ephesians	umble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in 4:2
	insists that there words, if you are Ephesians 4:1-6,	o relationships with others, especially in the church, Paul be a balance between profession and practice. In other a born again Christian, you need to live like one. In Paul outlines four qualities and one activity necessary in ie as a follower of Jesus.
		s humility, consider others more important than us. By ty, we position ourselves to experience the power of God.
	wondering why g situation and sor	ty is gentleness, one of the fruits of the Spirit. In case you're gentleness is so important, have you ever been in a difficult neone was really nice to you, encouraging you, gently caring per how good that felt? That's why.
	willing to wait. In	is patience, another fruit of the Spirit. This is love that is churches today, impatience frequently causes division, hurt, ience brings unity and strength.
	old saying goes, below, with saint	y is forbearance, or bearing with one another in love. As an "to live above with the saints we love, that will be glory; to live swe know, that's a different story." This quality is a readiness pults and idiosyncrasies of others, knowing we have our own.
	united, so the wo	ed for us in John 17, He prayed that we would be one, orld would know He has come. Unity is the ultimate goal for nust be united to be effective in reaching others for Christ.
	Prayer	<u> </u>
	with humility, ge	me live a life worthy of Your calling to me. Help me to live ntleness, patience and forbearance, following Your lead to the church. Thank You for making this possible. Amen.





## "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

Life is a journed Spirit is in us  This passage of the second of the	Every taken one step, one day at a time – For the Christian, the Holy whelping us in each of those steps we take.  Itells us three ways to walk day by day: alk carefully, not foolishly (verse 15). We cannot leave our living at must make wise decisions and follow Jesus well. alk the most of the time, since the days are evil (verse 16). Each ble gift – we must use those days wisely. It derstand what the Lord's will is (verse 17). Here Paul is not some difficult decision we must make, but to God's will as cripture, understanding the Bible and applying it to our living.  18-21 tell us what happens when we let the Holy Spirit fill and tice, what Paul says about how the Holy Spirit impacts our living:
"Be very carefice Ephesians 5:1  Life is a journer Spirit is in us  This passage 1. Was to chance, but 2. Maday is a valual 3. Under referring to so revealed in Science 1. We see the see	ful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise"  5  ey taken one step, one day at a time – For the Christian, the Holyhelping us in each of those steps we take.  tells us three ways to walk day by day: alk carefully, not foolishly (verse 15). We cannot leave our living it must make wise decisions and follow Jesus well. aske the most of the time, since the days are evil (verse 16). Each ble gift – we must use those days wisely. derstand what the Lord's will is (verse 17). Here Paul is not ome difficult decision we must make, but to God's will as cripture, understanding the Bible and applying it to our living.  18-21 tell us what happens when we let the Holy Spirit fill and cice, what Paul says about how the Holy Spirit impacts our living:
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Life is a journed Spirit is in us  This passage of the second of the	ey taken one step, one day at a time – For the Christian, the Holyhelping us in each of those steps we take.  tells us three ways to walk day by day: alk carefully, not foolishly (verse 15). We cannot leave our living it must make wise decisions and follow Jesus well. alke the most of the time, since the days are evil (verse 16). Each ble gift – we must use those days wisely. derstand what the Lord's will is (verse 17). Here Paul is not ome difficult decision we must make, but to God's will as cripture, understanding the Bible and applying it to our living.  18-21 tell us what happens when we let the Holy Spirit fill and tice, what Paul says about how the Holy Spirit impacts our living:
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direct us. Not	ice, what Paul says about how the Holy Spirit impacts our living:
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Singing (vers	
	e 19). We're not talking about singing well, just singing, lifting
_	the Lord in worship. Doesn't matter what you sound like to
	eautiful to the Lord when we worship Him with singing hearts.
_	ss (verse 20). The Spirit-filled Christian is a thankful Christian,
	ne gratitude He deserves for His grace at work in and around us.
.	verse 21). This effect causes us to be ready to humbly submit
	one another in the church. A Spirit-filled Christian is a submissive
Christian, one	who is ready to show love and yield to others.
If a church de	emonstrates these effects of the Spirit's work in their fellowship,
-	ey are ready for God to do whatever He needs to do to glorify
	eir midst, even if drastic changes need to come their way.
Pray	<u>/er</u>
Holy Spirit ha	ave Your way in my life and in my church so others will know we
	vith You, following You. May our lost neighbors be amazed of
	d may You, God, receive glory. Amen
Tour work and	d may rou, dou, receive glory. Amen





## "Healthy Practices of the Believer"

NOTES	
	Day 7 Seventh Prayer for the Church: The Struggle & Victory Bob Lowman
	Read Ephesians 6:10-18
	"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.". Ephesians 6:12
	This passage of Scripture presents two rules for Christian living: 1) Be strong in the Lord; and 2) Remember who the struggle is against.
	The Lord is the source of our strength, and the devil is the source of our struggles. Yes, we have to deal with the world, our flesh, and the devil in living, but verse 12 makes the second rule clear: We do not struggle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. All of these opponents listed in verse 12 are spiritual in nature, and are united with Satan as he makes war against those who follow the Lord.
	So, we do all we must do to gain strength from the Lord day-by-day so that we can stand against the devil's schemes. This passage describes those sources of strength as the armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of Gospel peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.
	These pieces of armor are not mechanical but relational – we have their strength through our relationships with God in Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit.
	We have these relational sources of strength so that we can stand and so that we can pray. Ephesians 6:18 calls us to prayer four times in one verse – so, we need to be praying, depending on the Lord who is provider of all our needs.
	Prayer
	Lord, I depend on You for the strength that I need to face my daily struggles. Thank You for the victory over the enemies of my soul that tempt me turn away from You. Lord, strengthen my relationship with You so that I can stand and pray. And, I will watch You provide the needed victory day by day. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION





# "2 Chronicles 7:14"

A focused look at 2 Chronicles 7:14

by Dr. Tim Sieberhagen



#### WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Tim Sieberhagen is pastor of Kittiwake Baptist Church (SC). Including as a pastor, he has served in church staff positions in NC and SC. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

## "2 Chronicles 7:14"

NOTES				
	Day 1	God's Recipe for Revival		
	Day 1	Im Sieberhagen		
	_	Tim Siesemagen		
	Read II Chronicles 7:14			
		<b>by my name,</b> will humble themselves and from their wicked ways, then I will hear from n and will heal their land." (NIV)		
	church. The call of God in this ve God's name. It is a call to turn ba lie in human government, civic o the church would represent the when we do what God requires.	We desperately need our nation to turn back to God, but it must begin in the church. The call of God in this verse is addressed to those who are known by God's name. It is a call to turn back to him. The hope of the world does not lie in human government, civic organizations, or self-help groups. Jesus said the church would represent the hope of the world. Revival can only occur when we do what God requires. Before God can reform our nation, the church must get its own house in order.		
	one word. God is both willing an	"IF". Everything that follows hinges on that able to heal our land, but the fulfillment of His conditions are met. When the conditions mise.		
	not prevail against it. We have fo	uild his church and the gates of hell would orgotten what powerful things we can do potent partner. It's time we remember again.		
		_		
	Pray that we will fulfill the requir land.	rements of God so we can see revival in our		

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT THE HEART: "2 Chronicles 7:14"

ES			
	 Day 2	Dependance on God	
		I Im Sieberhagen	
	Read II Chronicles 7:14		
		my name, will humble themselves and pray their wicked ways, then I will hear from in and will heal their land."	
	We have allowed the sin of price have boasted in our programs, has stepped into the spotlight adependence on God. Is it any week the spotlight and the spotlight and the spotlight are spotlight and the spotlight are spotlight.	The first condition for revival is that God's people would humble themselves. We have allowed the sin of pride to enter into our lives and our churches. We have boasted in our programs, our personalities, and our possessions. Man has stepped into the spotlight and taken center stage. We have forsaken our dependence on God. Is it any wonder we have lost His divine power and presence in our midst? God cannot work where pride exists.	
	God does not do it for us. We r and turn back to dependence c individual or church will experie	ole ourselves. It is a clear command of God. must humble ourselves, repent of our pride on Him. Until we meet this first condition, no ence the blessing of God. For revival to come die to self. There is no other way.	
		as crept into your life? Are you waiting for God og to humble yourself? In what ways has the God?	
	Prayer	_	
		the pride in our hearts and grant us the grace itudes until we are fully dependent on Him.	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "2 Chronicles 7:14"

NOTES	
	Day 3 The Power of Prayer
	Tim Sieberhagen
	Read II Chronicles 7:14
	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
	No revival has ever occurred without prayer. Priscilla Shirer says, "Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against you." Our prayers move the heart and hand of God. Since God is all-powerful, there is no limit as to what prayer can do.
	Christians are feeble in their own strength but become mighty when they pray. William Cowper said, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon their knees." No wonder our enemy works so hard to keep us from praying!
	The power of prayer does not flow from us; it is not special words we say or the special way we say them or even how often we say them. The power of prayer comes from the all-powerful Savior who hears our prayers and answers them. Prayer places us in contact with Almighty God, and we should expect almighty results.
	Jesse Penn-Lewis writes, "If there was a revival of prayer among the people of God, there would soon be a revival of blessing in the world." Will you commit to ask God for a revival of prayer in your life and the church?
	Prayer  We repent of our lack of prayer and pray that God may lead us to seek Him again.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT THE HEART: "2 Chronicles 7:14"

OTES			
	_		
	Day 4	Seeking God's Face	
		Tim Sieberhagen	
	Read II Chronicles 7:14		
		y my name, will humble themselves and pray om their wicked ways, then I will hear from sin and will heal their land."	
	pleasure was expressed by say of our praying should be to se focused on seeking God's han getting bigger and better thing God without condition. Our programmes 4:3 reminds us, "When you wrong motives, that you may seek God's face is to seek God's face is to seek God's will and make it fit following it. Prayer is the way of longs to bless his people, but the will of God. Successful prayers.	er God was pleased with His people, His ring He turned His face toward them. The focus ek the face of God. Too often our prayers are d and not his face. We are concerned with gs for the comforts of life. We ask to bless us rayers become focused on the things we want. You ask you do not receive, because you ask with pend what you get on your pleasures."  God's will. Prayer is not an exercise where we cour own. Prayer is seeking the will of God and for getting God's will done on the earth. God we must come to the place where we can know yer is finding the will of God and getting in on its the confidence that we have in him that if we will he hears us."	
	Are your prayers Centered aro what God wants?	und what you want or are they focused on	
	Prayer	<u> </u>	
	Pray that we would be motivated God.	ted to seek the face and not just the hand of	
	_		
	_   _		

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



## "2 Chronicles 7:14"

NOIES		
	Day 5	Turning from Sin
		Tim Sieberhagen
	Read II Chronicles 7:14	
	"If my people, who are called by my no and seek my face and <b>turn from their</b> heaven, and I will forgive their sin and	r wicked ways, then I will hear from
		remains in His people. It is clear, that ure states that judgement must begin at
		Repentance was experienced as they
	We talk about revival, we want it, we recommended will not answer our prayer for rev	
	Do you want to see revival come to the you willing to pray what David prayed	ne church? It must begin with you. Are I in Psalm 139:23-24?
	Prayer	
	"Search me, O God and know my hear see if there be any wicked way in me,	rt; test me and know my thoughts: and and lead me in the way everlasting."

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT THE HEART: "2 Chronicles 7:14"

	Day 6	The Blessings of God
		Tim Sieberhagen
	Read II Chronicles 7:14	
		my name, will humble themselves and pray their wicked ways, then <u>I will hear from</u> r sin and will heal their land."
	behalf of His people when he sa short to save, nor his ear too dull you from your God; your sins hav hear." We have the limitless pov leave it locked up in Heaven. Wh	nat God is all powerful and loves to work on ys, "Surely the arm of the LORD is not too to hear. But your iniquities have separated we hidden his face from you, so that he will not wer of God at our disposal, and we cannot men we fulfill His requirements, He is willing to have the answer that will eliminate in our culture.
	released upon them. Once that he population. In 2 Chronicles hear our prayer. 2) He will forgiv promises are spoken from the m	he conditions of God his promises are nappens, the effects will flow to the rest of He gives us a three-fold promise: 1) He will e our sin. 3) He will heal our land. These nouth of God Himself and none of His is no uncertainty here. He states clearly what is Word.
	Prayer	-
	subconsciously that my worth co	that I assume either consciously or omes from what I can do or what I have done. nany times it seems contrary to what I feel, Christ has done on my behalf and has

PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE ABOUT THE HEART: "2 Chronicles 7:14"

NOTES		
	Day 7	Let Revival Begin
		lım Sieberhagen
	Read II Chronicles 7:14	
	"If my people, who are called by my name and seek my face and turn from their heaven, and I will forgive their sin and	
	and His guidance. But it all depends called by My name" We must responde likewise. That is where the solution unbelievers in America to get their awhat the Church does. If the Church reflection of the fallen culture, then it	God has an answer to every problem America faces. All we need is His favor and His guidance. But it all depends on the Church: "if My people who are called by My name" We must respond to that call and encourage others to do likewise. That is where the solution begins. God is not waiting for unbelievers in America to get their act together. America's future depends on what the Church does. If the Church is nothing more than a polished reflection of the fallen culture, then it will have little positive impact. If the Church takes the right action, revival will take place that transforms the culture.
	answer will not be found in the Whit schoolhouse but it will be found in the my house. Will you respond to the care	ged. The Scripture makes it clear that the e House, the courthouse or the he church house, in your house and in all? Will you be part of the answer? The filled, <b>IF</b> we meet God's requirements.
	Prayer	
	Ask God to enable you to become ar	n instrument of revival in this generation.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION





#### 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE AFTER THE VOTE:

# "Now What?"

Gleanings from Ephesians 1:3-10

## by Rev. Jason Rumbough



#### WRITER'S BIO

Rev. Jason Rumbough is pastor of Hope Church (TN), a replant church in East Nashville. Including as a pastor, he has served in church staff positions in NC, SC, and TN, as well as an international missionary. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC.

NOTES	
	Day 1 Remember the Gospel
	Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:1-23
	"just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love." Ephesians 1:4 (NRSV)
	Sometimes, we can get caught up in all the changes that have taken place over the past season that we forget to pause and remember the "why". Revitalization is not about change for the sake of change. It's a process that is designed to get back to the original mission of the church. Sometimes, we experience mission drift, and it is good to be reminded of what God has saved us with and what God has saved us for.
	This week, we are going to be focusing on Paul's central idea that the gospel saves us by Christ and for Christ. A succinct way of summarizing the above passage is to say that we have been blessed by God in Christ with every spiritual blessing to be holy and blameless in love as sons and daughters, secured by Christ for the purpose of uniting all things in Christ. We are going to take one part of this statement each day and pray through what it means for us as individuals and for us as a revitalized church.
	Prayer
	Pray this passage slowly out loud to yourself.  "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." Ephesians 1:3-10





OTES			
	Day 2	Blessed by God in Christ	
		Jason Rumbough	
	Read Ephesians 1:3a		
	"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ"  Real estate investors will tell you that the number one rule in real estate is location, location, location. The reason why location is so important is because it determines so many other things regarding the property. The size of the property is insignificant compared to the location of the property. For example, 1 acre of land in the middle of Montana is not going to have the same property value as 1 acre of land in downtown New York. Additionally, the location of our property in proximity to other properties and the things I found on that property are going to determine the value of that property. When Paul starts his letter by stating that God has blessed us in Christ, Paul is dropping a location pin on where that blessing takes place—in Christ.		
	forget that it was God who brock hearts, and it was God that creed And all of these things happen 15 that apart from Him we can question "what now" is to remark.	the revitalization process can sometimes bught the change, it was God who softened eated the catalyst for revitalization to happen. The distribution in the catalyst for revitalization to happen. The distribution is do nothing. So, the first step in answering the ember that everything that has happened up a result of God's movement in your church as it	
	Prayer	<u> </u>	
	blessed you and your church o	ys you can specifically remember how God has over the past season of revitalization. Then g God for each of those things.	

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



NOTES	
	Day 3 With Every Spiritual Blessing
	Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:3
	"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"
	Not only does the location of God's blessing matter, the substance of that blessing matters as well. Paul tells us that God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. The process of revitalization can be hard and going through this process can often be exhausting. It's easy during these seasons to feel as though we have nothing left in the tank.
	Jesus—the embodiment of spiritual blessing—regularly encountered people who were in desperate need, and he met those needs every time. However, we also read that Jesus regularly got away to be still and pray. Meaning, even the Son of God needed to rest and reflect on what God had called Him to.
	The spiritual blessings that God offers us are free to all followers of Christ. They cannot be taken away. They do not fade. They never rust. And they cannot be taken from you. However, many times they go unnoticed because we have busied ourselves with the work of revitalization. Take some time to slow down for a few minutes to reflect on the spiritual blessings God has given to you in Christ. The finished work of Christ on the cross and the power of the resurrection are proof that the work of revitalization does not rest entirely on your shoulders. In fact, take some time to simply sit and pray a simple prayer like this:
	Prayer
	Father, today, I commit to being still in Your presence; remembering that I have all I need in You. Amen.

PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



Day 4	To Be Holy and Blameless in Love
	Jason Rumbough
Read Ephesians 1:4	
"just as he chose us and blameless before I	in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy him in love."
of things, that at one appliance, extra batter floor and you can't repull all those things or	e has a junk drawer. In that drawer are things, or pieces time served a purpose. They may be pieces to an ries, or a Lego piece that somehow wound up on the member where it goes. Every now and then, it's good to ut and to sort through the drawer and try to remember used for so that I can go back to serving its original
that are taking place, in the first place. It can us those spiritual bless to be holy and blamel we start, and every pe through this lens. If the that is set apart – there is something that is keep how to bring reconciling forgiveness that need prompting you with.	ess of revitalization is so hard or there's so many things it can be easy to forget why certain things were begun also be easy to get off track and forget why God gave sings to begin with. Paul's answer is very simple: we are ess in love. Every decision we make, every new program rson who walks through our doors is to be viewed ere is something that's clouding our ability to be holy—a we should try to figure out how to remove it. If there eeping us from being blameless then we need to seek ation. It may be an apology that needs to be given, or is to be offered, or it could be something else God is While difficult, holiness and blamelessness in love is the set and toward others second.
	nat things are in your spiritual junk drawer that need to ou may be holy and blameless in love?
Prayer	
purpose is often cloud may be good thing th haven't been used at a	have saved me in Christ for a purpose. Yet I know that ded by things I bring to the table. Sometimes, these at have been misused or they may be some things that all. Father, show me today those things that I may be love before You and before others. Amen.





NOTES		
		As Cons and Daughters
	Day 5	As Sons and Daughters
		Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:5-6	
		s his children through Jesus Christ, according to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely "
	anyone else. For example, if so knocked on your door and ask because they've had a bad dre one of your children comes to	we do for our kids that we would never do for omeone showed up at your house at night and ked if they could crawl in the bed with you eam, you would call the police or. However, if your bedside and tells you the same thing, you not tell them that they are safe.
	are given to his sons and his d try and figure out what we we	daughters. We are not strangers who are left to ere to do and how we are to do it. We are God's ere access to come to him at every point in life.
	changes that have been made people you love and have kno difficult, often emotional process is not done in isolatio participation with our heavenlus. What about you? Do you feense his nearness? Would you	an feel very lonely. Sometimes, because of e, you may find yourself saying goodbye to own for a while. It can feel like a very lonely, very ess. However, we are reminded by Paul that this in, but it is done in the presence of and in ly Father who loves us and has not abandoned feel the presence of God in your life? Can you u say that you would be able to come to God in the night? Regardless of however you feel,
	-	or Your love and for making Yourself available. ess and give me the boldness to come to You eavy on my shoulders. Amen.
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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



Day 6 Secured by Chi	ıst
Jason Rumboo	
Read Ephesians 1:7-8	
"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of trespasses according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us."	,
One time, when I was a child, I remember jumping into a pool in order to play with friends. Unfortunately, in my excitement, I forgot that I didn't know to swim. It did not take long for me to begin sinking to the bottom of the pool. It was the most helpless feeling that I have ever had. Within a matter of seconds – though it felt like an eternity – a hand reached down a pulled me out of the water and placed me back on dry ground.	
The revitalization process can sometimes feel like jumping into a pool and forgetting how to swim. You can feel the pressure and stress of so many things that have changed, so many conversations that have happened, and so many things that still need to be done. With all of these things taking place, it can often feel like you're sinking to the bottom of the pool. Howe one important truth remains: as a follower of Jesus, you are secured by Ch in God. This means, that your value does not come from how successful you handled every part of the revitalization process. Your worth does not stem from what people think of you or the decisions that you've made. No, you have been secured by God in Christ. You have redemption through His blow you have the forgiveness of your sin. And you have the riches of His grace that He has lavished on you. These are not things that you earned, and the are not things that you can lose. They are secured for you by God in Christ.	ver, rist ou od.
Prayer  Father, forgive me for the times that I assume either consciously or subconsciously that my worth comes from what I can do or what I have do Help me to remember, though many times it seems contrary to what I feel that my value comes from what Christ has done on my behalf and has secured for me. Amen.	





NOTES		
	Day 7	For the Purpose of Uniting All Things in Christ
		Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesia	ns 1:8-10
	according to hi	om and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, is good pleasure he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness er up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."
	coaster. When can hear the go while exciting i that you can't At some point, plunging acros adrenaline rusl The reason wh that track is ke	riest things I've ever done is just sit on the front of a roller that roller coaster makes the initial climb up the hill and you ears clicking as you get higher and higher, reaching the top is also terrifying. There's a point when you get to the very top see the tracks in front of you, all you can see is the sky above. The back half of the coaster makes it far enough to send you as the tracks below. Even though this process is a terrifying h, I've never once been afraid to get back on the roller coaster. You is because I know that despite what my eyes are telling me, eping that roller coaster from flying off. I also know that that initive beginning and ending. At some point, the ride is over get off safe and excited, ready to do it again.
	reminds us that ends with all the forth in Christ, complete as pr	aos and seemingly out of control process of revitalization, Paul at not only does God have a plan in place, but this plan also nings in heaven and on earth united in Christ. This plan, set will reach its climax and, in the fullness of time, will be romised and as planned. In other words, God's plan for the in Christ—and He will see it through until the end.
	Pray	er
	do not rely on they rely on Yo time is right. H	You that Your plan for the world and Your plan for this church my wisdom, my insight, my ability, or my strength. Instead, bu, and I believe that You will bring it to completion when the elp me to trust that Your plan is on the right track, even when and out of control. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION

