



Prayer Guide

3 August 2020

**Thank you for your commitment to pray
for 30 minutes on the third day of the month!**

DEDICATED TO PRAY

2 Chronicles 33:1–13, the passage from yesterday's (August 2) One Year Bible reading tells the story of King Manasseh. After the death of his father, Hezekiah, Manasseh became king of Judah at 12 years old. His career is summarized by these words, *"He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, following the detestable practices of the pagan nations that the LORD had driven from the land"* (2 Chronicles 33:2^{NLT}).

Just how evil was Manasseh? (From 2 Chronicles 33)

- He rebuilt the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had torn down (vs. 3).
- He erected altars for the images of Baal and set up Asherah poles (vs. 3).
- He bowed down to the stars of Heaven and worshiped them (vs. 3).
- He sacrificed his own sons as burnt offerings (vs. 6).
- He practiced witchcraft, used divination, performed acts of sorcery, and consulted with mediums and psychics (vs. 6).
- He commissioned an idol to be carved and then placed it in the house of God (vs. 7).
- He misled Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem to do evil deeds that exceeded the wickedness of the pagan nations that God had previously destroyed (vs. 9).

I cannot fathom a king being more wicked than Manasseh! From a human point of view, if anyone could be beyond God's mercy and power, it would have been Manasseh.

AND YET, *"When he was in distress, he **entreated** the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him to Jerusalem to his kingdom"* (2 Chronicles 33:12–13).

Manasseh “*entreated*” the Lord. **He prayed fervently like it matters!** He “*humbled himself greatly*” (typically an action associated with **fasting**). The result? God was moved and delivered him.

God is moved when we fast and pray!

As you pray for the needs listed in this prayer guide, pray with confidence, knowing no person and no circumstance is beyond the mercy and power of God when we **pray fervently!**

Bill Street
Minister, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Prayer

PRAYER GUIDE:

PRAY WE WILL BE A CATALYST FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN MEMPHIS AND BEYOND.

“To be a catalyst for spiritual awakening” is our Vision. It is also the greatest need in Memphis and beyond. Every battle we fight is a spiritual battle! Paul tells us, “*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (Ephesians 6:12). Our greatest need is to be the people of God experiencing the power of God flowing through us.

- Pray God will revive His people. “*Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?*” (Psalm 85:6).
- Pray we will walk in both the fear of God and faith that God will respond to believing prayer. “*Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy*” (Habakkuk 3:2).
- Pray God will both revive present leaders and also raise up new spiritual leaders—men and women who know the living God is the only answer. “*Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom you made strong for Yourself. Then we shall not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name. O Lord God of hosts, restore us; cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved*” (Psalm 80:17–19).

PRAY SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS WILL BE BROKEN.

In the prayer for Memphis, which we put here every month to pray, you’ll remember these words, “Demolish every stronghold of pride, violence, racism, poverty, crime, sexual immorality, drug abuse, sickness, religious formalism, fanaticism, legalism, liberalism, and traditionalism.” Strongholds are developed in lives, families, churches, and the culture where the truth of God is ignored or rebelled against, and sin is not forsaken.

- Pray we will realize both the problems and the solutions to what we face are spiritual. Drugs, violence, poverty, pornography, and intolerance all have their root in rebelling against God. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds”* (2 Corinthians 10:4^{ESV}).
- Pray we will engage in spiritual warfare. Resist does not mean ignore. Resist means to stand against. *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”* (James 4:7–8).
- Pray we will clothe ourselves with the armor of God. *“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6:13–17).

PRAY GOD WILL BRING HEALING TO OUR LAND

Jehovah-Raphi, the Lord our Healer, is the One we look to. *“See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand”* (Deuteronomy 32:39). He and He alone is our ultimate refuge.

- Pray we, as Christians and as a nation, will do our part (repenting, humbling ourselves, and praying) in living out God’s will, so we might experience healing. *“And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- Pray God will supernaturally protect and heal His people. *“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers”* (3 John 2).
- Pray a vaccine for COVID-19 will be developed. *“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).

PRAY SCHOOLS WILL REOPEN IN A SMOOTH WAY

At this time, Shelby County Schools (SCS) are planning to reopen August 31. Please pray for the leaders of SCS and the other surrounding school districts to have God’s wisdom as they reconvene.

- Pray teachers and administrators will have wisdom to lead wisely through these challenging times. *“Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was a widow’s son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze. So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work”* (1 Kings 7:13–14).

- Pray parents and students will walk through these unique days with their eyes fixed on Jesus. *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:1–2).

PRAY FOR MEMPHIS

Don't just read. Please take time to verbally pray Bro. Steve's Prayer for Memphis.

Heavenly Father, thank you for Memphis. Thank You for strategically locating our city in the middle of this nation, so we can be a catalyst for revival and spiritual awakening. Please pour out Your Spirit on Memphis, Shelby County, the Mid-South, and beyond. Help every Christian and every Bible-believing, Jesus-loving, Gospel-preaching church to Love God, Love People, Share Jesus, and Make Disciples. Demolish every demonic stronghold of pride, violence, racism, poverty, crime, sexual immorality, drug abuse, sickness, religious formalism, fanaticism, legalism, liberalism, and traditionalism. Replace them with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, blessing, mercy, grace, hope, healing, liberty, and freedom. Destroy the stronghold of religion in Memphis that has a form of godliness but denies the power thereof. Give us churches that believe in the Bible and preach salvation only in Jesus Christ. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in Memphis on Earth as it is in Heaven. Bring pastors, lay leaders, and congregations together as we pray for this city. Bless our governmental leaders, schools, and economy. Please send good jobs to Memphis. Keep casinos, strip clubs, and occultic activity out of Memphis. Do a work of revival in Memphis that can only be explained by Your presence and power and do it all for Your glory. Call Your people to fervent, united, visible, extraordinary prayer. May the latter glory of Your Kingdom in Memphis be greater than the former, and please grant Memphis Your peace. Do exceeding and abundantly beyond all that we can ask or think. In Jesus' name, Amen!

PRAY FOR CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

We have been commanded to pray, *“for kings and all who are in authority”* (1 Timothy 2:2).

Please pray God will give each of our officials wisdom on how to lead during these challenging times. Specific areas of prayer include:

- COVID-19
- Economic issues (helping businesses recover and prosper)
- Unity

Memphis/Shelby County Elected Officials

Mayor:

Jim Strickland

City Court Clerk:

Myron Lowery

Director of Police:

Michael Rallings

Shelby County Mayor:

Lee Harris

Director of Fire Services:

Gina Y. Sweat

Shelby County Sheriff:

Floyd Bonner, Jr.

City Council:

District 3:

Chairwoman Patrice Robinson

Super District 8-1:

JB Smiley, Jr.

District 1:

Rhonda Logan

Super District 8-2:

Cheyenne Johnson

District 2:

Vice Chair Frank Colvett, Jr.

Super District 8-3:

Martavius Jones

District 4:

Jamita Swearengen

Super District 9-1:

Chase Carlisle

District 5:

Worth Morgan

Super District 9-2:

J. Ford Canale

District 6:

Edmund Ford, Sr.

Super District 9-3:

Dr. Jeff Warren

District 7:

Michalyn Easter-Thomas

Shelby County Commissioners:

District 4:

Chairman Mark Billingsley

District 7:

Tami Sawyer

District 11:

**Chairman Pro Tempore
Eddie Jones**

District 8:

Mickell M. Lowery

District 1:

Amber Mills

District 9:

Edmund Ford, Jr.

District 2:

David C. Bradford

District 10:

Reginald Milton

District 3:

Mick Wright

District 12:

Van Turner

District 5:

Michael Whaley

District 13:

Brandon Morrison

District 6:

Willie F. Brooks, Jr.

“The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”
–Samuel Chadwick

