



Prayer
MINISTRY

Prayer Guide

3 February 2021

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

Tim Keller, in his marvelous book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, writes a section he entitles “Having a Heart to Pray.” Keller writes,

When David the king was at the height of his power, he decided to build a temple for God. God sent him a message through the prophet Nathan that he should not build the temple, but then he made David a promise: “*The Lord himself will establish a house for you...I will raise up your offspring to succeed you...He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*” (2 Samuel 7:11–13^{NIV}). David wanted to build God a house, but God said, “No, I will build you a house.”

David wanted to build God a place that displayed His glory. God said, in effect, that He had a counterproposal. He would establish David’s royal family line and it would ultimately reveal God’s glory in a more permanent, far-reaching, and universal way. In response to this gracious promise, David says: “*Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So, your servant has **found courage to pray** this prayer to you*” (2 Samuel 7:27^{NIV}). This reveals the pattern of how powerful prayer works.

David found **“courage to pray.”** The Word of God created within David the confidence to pray big, bold prayers. The principle is this—**God speaks to us in His Word, and we respond in prayer, entering into humble, but bold, communion with God.**

- It was an audacious thing for David to hear and believe that God would establish an eternal lineage for a man and to lay claim to that promise by believing prayer. However, that is what God did.
- It is a daring thought for you and I to believe that laying God's promises before Him will cause Him to act in situations (stopping a pandemic, giving jobs, creating peace) and in the lives of people you know and will probably never meet. Yet, that is what faith is and what prayer does.

Be like David, **“Find the courage, to pray.”** Things will never be the same if you do.

Bill Street

Minister, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Prayer

PRAY FOR PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

As Christians, we have a responsibility to pray for the leaders of our nation. Regardless of the president's political party or positions on various issues, we are to pray for them. Our first and highest allegiance is always to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and then to the words He gives us in the Bible, the Word of the Living God, regarding how to live.

The following is from Ronnie Floyd, Executive Director of the Southern Baptist Convention,

“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:1–2^{CSB}).

1. Acknowledge to God that He has placed these people in these specific positions of authority. Daniel 2:21^{NLT} says, *“God controls the course of world events; God removes kings and establishes kings.”*
2. Ask God to protect President Biden and his wife, as well as Vice President Harris and her husband, from the forces of evil that may desire to do them harm.

3. Appeal to God that He will provide His wisdom to President Biden and Vice President Harris, so they will see what God desires and be influenced by those around them who will give them the right counsel.
4. Ask God to empower them to make decisions that will protect our nation at all times, leading us to be able to live tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.
5. Appeal to God earnestly that President Biden, Vice President Harris, and all of their administration will find ways to work with both houses of Congress, bringing resolution to the most pressing needs facing America today.

I would add that the most important item we can pray for all our political leaders—if they do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior—is that they repent, believe, and receive. If they do know Him and have a personal relationship with Him, may they live and govern as people who will give an account to God. *“For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:11).

PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE TO BE GODLY PEOPLE

The greatest need in 2020 is the greatest need in 2021. The greatest need every day of every year is for Christians to be people who Love God, Love People, Share Jesus, and Make Disciples. Drawing a vivid picture of the power of prayer, Charles Spurgeon writes, “Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.” As Bro. Steve reminds us often, “There are some things that God will do just because He is God and it is His will. However, there are some things that He will not do unless we pray!”

- Pray God’s people (that is people at Bellevue but also all Christ followers—God will bring churches and people to mind as you ask Him) will love Him and love other people. Jesus said, *“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets”* (Matthew 22:37–40).
 - o Pray this love for God and others will be deep and absorbing. *“A woman came to Him [Jesus] with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, ‘Why this waste? ‘For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.’ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you bother the woman?”*

For she has done a good deed to Me. "For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me. "For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. "Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her." (Matthew 26:7–13).

- Pray God's people will Share Jesus and Make Disciples. *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18–20).*
 - Pray God's people will passionately share the Gospel. *"Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessing" (1 Corinthians 9:19–23^{NLT}).*
 - Pray God's People will devotedly multiply disciple makers. *"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).*

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, 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 the vaccines for COVID-19 will be distributed quickly and efficiently. *“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).

PRAY FOR GOD TO BLESS THE ECONOMY

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt across the state and the nation. Pray God will provide all that is necessary for a prosperous economy: jobs, safe places to work, and robust earnings and wages.

“Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments” (Psalm 112:1).

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 gives 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 2:

Chairman, Frank Colvertt, Jr.

Super District 8-1:

JB Smiley, Jr.

District 1:

Rhonda Logan

Super District 8-2:

Cheyenne Johnson

District 3:

Patrice J. Robinson

Super District 8-3:

Martavius Jones

District 4:

Vice Chair 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 11:
Chairman Eddie Jones

District 13:
**Pro Tempore
Brandon Morrison**

District 1:
Amber Mills

District 2:
David C. Bradford

District 3:
Mick Wright

District 4:
Mark Billingsley

District 5:
Michael Whaley

District 6:
Willie F. Brooks, Jr.

District 7:
Tami Sawyer

District 8:
Mickell M. Lowery

District 9:
Edmund Ford, Jr.

District 10:
Reginald Milton

District 12:
Van Turner

**“Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers
which cannot be refused.”
— Charles Spurgeon**

