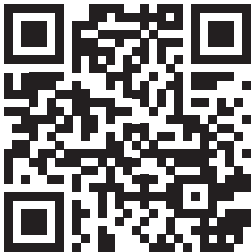


**Our vision is to ignite a movement of authentic followers of Christ by reaching 1000 people with the gospel and releasing 200 equipped leaders from the next generation for Church leadership by 2028.**

**For more information about Ignite and our path for sustaining, growing, and expanding our church's ability to impact the world with the gospel, please visit [WhitesburgBaptist.org/Ignite](http://WhitesburgBaptist.org/Ignite).**



## Day 1: Pursuing God

**“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.”  
Psalm 63:1 (NASB95)**

When Shirley Temple threatened to “hold my breath till I turn blue” to get her way, audiences laughed. But if your 2-year-old tries the same thing, it can be a frightening experience. The air we breathe is essential for life, in the same way, prayer is essential for the Christian life: without it, we die. King David was a “man after God’s own heart.” David teaches that a person who seeks to know the God’s heart must learn to listen for God’s voice. Although a man of many flaws, David made prayer a priority in his life. From David’s prayer life, we learn that prayer intensifies your love for God! Thomas Watson said that prayer is “the soul’s breathing itself into the lap of its heavenly Father.” Your love for God will become more intense when you actively pursue God in prayer! Psalm 63 probably refers to Absalom’s rebellion (2 Samuel 15:23, 28; & 16:2). David expresses an earnest desire for God’s favor and a confident expectation of his deliverance and the ruin of his enemies. In *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer said, “A little knowledge of God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge about Him.” To know Him intimately, we must learn to practice the great privilege of daily prayer. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I desire a deeper and closer relationship with God?
- Is my desire to know Him and to please Him growing?
- Do I recognize that hearing God’s voice is an important part of fellowship with God?
- Am I willing for God to touch my heart so that Jesus is my first love, and I will follow Him however and wherever He may lead me?

**•Scripture Reading:** Psalm 42:1-2; 63; 84:1-2; & 1 Chronicles 22:19

**•Prayer Focus:** Ask God for our church to be permeated with a culture of prayer. Ask God to give you a passion for pursuing Him in prayer.

## Day 2: Waiting on God in Prayer

**“My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.”  
Psalm 62:1 (NASB95)**

From the time of birth until death, whether brief or extensive, we often find ourselves waiting for things (events, conditions, etc). A major topic of Applied Mathematics called the Queuing Theory deals with this phenomenon of waiting. The word “queue” is more common in British than American English and means “a line up” or “to form a line.” The problem is that for most of us, we don’t like to wait for anything! Yet, the psalmist tells us that waiting on God is an important spiritual discipline. The idea of waiting for God here is that of digging ourselves in to God. In his book *The Praying Christ*, James G. S. S. Thomson makes this statement: “Stillness of heart is an important and essential factor in our waiting before the Lord in prayer.”

“Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given.”  
-G. Campbell Morgan

To wait on God in prayer requires disciplined stillness and silence. You can demonstrate the ability to wait on God by:

- Recognizing “only God”
- Resisting self-reliance
- Resting in Him
- Reflecting on His goodness

**•Scripture Reading:** Psalm 25:3; 27:14; 40:1; 62; & Micah 7:7

**•Prayer Focus:** As we anticipate our season of fasting and prayer as a church (August 20-27), ask God to burden our church family to “wait on the Lord.” Ask God to teach you the discipline of waiting on Him in prayer.

## Day 3: Walking with God

**“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!”  
Psalm 32:1 (NASB95)**

Does staying healthy interest you? Did you know that even a moderate level of physical activity, such as walking 30 minutes a day, can lengthen life by 1.3 years and add 1.1 more years without cardiovascular disease? Are you aware that walking with God in prayer is important to your spiritual health? Adam and Eve enjoyed walking with God until they sinned. It was their sin that prevented them from staying in a healthy relationship with God. When God came to the garden for a walk with Adam and Eve, they hid themselves. When we sin we cannot have a healthy relationship with God. In Psalms 32 and 51, David recognized that his intimacy with God could only be maintained through prayers of confession and repentance. Prayer maintains your intimacy with God, specifically prayers of confession and repentance. Psalm 32:5 tells us that when you confess your sin, there is a right way to approach God.

You should approach God:

- Honestly – “I acknowledge”
- Openly – “I did not hide”
- Intentionally – “I will confess”

Any person that desires to have an intimate relationship with God will make a priority of prayer, specifically prayers of confession and repentance. God loves you and wants to walk and talk with you each day. Your spiritual heart only stays healthy when you walk with Him in prayer.

**•Scripture Reading:** Psalm 32 & 51

**•Prayer Focus:** Ask God to show you any areas of disobedience and experience His amazing grace and love!

## Day 4: Asking of God

“Hear the voice of my supplications  
when I cry to You for help,  
When I lift up my hands toward Your  
holy sanctuary.”  
Psalm 28:2 (NASB95)

Several years ago, the Associated Press gave the following report: “Police aren’t sure how else to explain it. But when an officer walked into an apartment Thursday night to answer a 911 call, an orange-and-tan striped cat was lying by a telephone on the living room floor. The cat’s owner, Gary Rosheisen, was on the ground near his bed having fallen out of his wheelchair. Rosheisen said his cat, Tommy, must have hit the right buttons to call 911. ... Rosheisen got the cat three years ago to help lower his blood pressure. He tried to train him to call 911, unsure if the training ever stuck.”

I’m glad that we aren’t dependent on anyone else (even a cat) when we need to cry out to God for His help. In Psalm 28, “to call” means to “summon His aid.” “Supplications” is in the plural and shows the number, continuance, and variety of one’s prayers. Spurgeon said, “When God seems to close His ear, we must not therefore close our mouths, but rather cry more earnestly.” In this Psalm, we are reminded that we can always cry out to God. With God, all our sins are completely erased through the blood of Jesus; There is no record of even one transgression; Our names have been written in the Lamb’s book of life; Christ has prepared a place for us in heaven; The Father has promised to never leave us nor forsake us; God has given us the Holy Spirit and His Word; God has promised to supply all of our needs and hear us when we pray.

•**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 5:1-3; 28;  
Hebrews 11:6; & James 4:3

•**Prayer Focus:** Cry out to God and ask Him to help you with whatever you need. Ask Him to manifest His Spirit in the life and ministry of our church. Cry out for our Master Campus Plan Offering on September 10. Ask Him to glorify Himself through the generosity of His people!

## Day 5: Pleading with God

“From the end of the earth I call to You  
when my heart is faint; Lead me to the  
rock that is higher than I.”  
Psalm 61:2 (NASB95)

In times of distress, we turn to God and ask Him to fulfill His promises. We come with urgency and an attitude of humility and expectancy. We plead with Him! While we don’t dictate to God, we come boldly and reverently. Did you know that pleading is Biblical? Kevin DeYoung wrote:

“The Syrophenician woman does not hesitate to plead with Christ and she is rewarded with His merciful answer (Mark 7:24-30). Jeremiah cries out to the Lord, ‘Righteous are you, O Lord, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you’ (Jeremiah 12:1). Joshua pleads the case of the Israelites and the disgrace their annihilation would bring upon the name of God (Joshua 7:6-9); and God responds with His grace. Hezekiah pleads for his own life, ‘For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living, he thanks you’ (Isaiah 38:18-19); and God grants him extended life. Our Lord tells the parable of the persistent widow and ends with the question, ‘And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night?’ (Luke 18:7). This is just a small sampling. Passionate pleading occupies a real place in our prayer lives.”

Other examples are Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-28), the Leper (Mark 1:40), and a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28).

•**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 61; Luke 11:5-8;  
& Daniel 9:2-3

•**Prayer Focus:** Use the following outline as a guide to praying Psalm 61 back to the Lord:  
•I Plead (vs. 1-2)  
•I Remember (vs. 3-4)  
•I Believe (vs. 5-7)  
•I Praise (v. 8)



**PRAYER GUIDE**  
by Pastor Darryl Craft  
July 17-21, 2023

**WHITESBURG**  
BAPTIST CHURCH