

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR THE BODY OF SAN TAN BIBLE CHURCH

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

February 12, 2018

Specific Prayer Requests:

Dennis Chancellor: Please continue to pray for Dennis as he has been struggling with ongoing pain. Pray for Bonnie to be able to care for him and their needs. They have expressed continued thanks to the Lord for His deep and personal care for them in this battle.

Jim & Marilyn Hersey: Jim has been experiencing some medical challenges that keep them from attending Church. Pray for quick healing and peace in the midst of their storm.

San Tan Bible Family Life

*Prayer for widows who grieve the loss of a spouse; that the Lord would give strength, courage and hope in their present circumstances.

*Pray for those who have experienced divorce causing parents to relinquish time with their children; that the Lord would protect the children from confusion, heartbreak and rebellion.

*Pray for parents whose children are estranged or who have turned aside from the Faith; that the Lord might use believers throughout the world to witness to them and love them into a vibrant relationship with Christ.

*Pray for those in marriages that are unequally yoked that the Lord would draw them to a personal relationship with Christ and that the believing spouse might represent the Lord well in their relationship.

Other:

*Pray for President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, as well as all the men and women who govern our country. Pray they would seek godly wisdom in decisions they make that affect not just our country but the world. Pray for the Lord's protection on our country and for our leaders to seek God's guidance on all policies and procedures.

*Pray for those who serve in our military that they might be protected; pray for those who profess faith in Christ to remain strong and those who need Christ to have their hearts bent to knowing the Savior.

The Need for Prayer

By Jonathan Leeman (Ligonier Ministries, R. C. Sproul)

Prayer is the measure of a man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is," J.I. Packer said. Our prayers reveal what our hearts want. They reveal how we regard God and His power. They reveal the quality and measure of faith. Do we pray often and carefully, or not much at all? For churches, too, prayers are revealing. They reveal what a church values and where it places its hope.

Belief as mental assent seldom prays. Belief as "I know New Zealand exists but it makes no difference in my life" seldom prays. Nominal Christianity seldom prays. A person sitting on God's throne does not pray. Thus, a failure to pray much may suggest something about who we think we are.

Genuine faith prays. Holy Spirit-given trust prays. Leaning-on-God-like-sitting-on-a-chair prays. I-need-God-like-my-lungs-need-air prays.

Prayer is to faith as breathing is to a body. It's what the thing does to survive. So, examining your own prayer life, what do you see? And in the corporate prayers of your church?

The book of Acts shows how much the early church prayed together: "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer" (1:14, 24); "And they devoted themselves to . . . the prayers (2:42); "and when they had prayed" (4:31); "but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church" (12:5); "many were gathered together and were praying" (v. 12); "after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off" (13:3); "he knelt down and prayed with them all" (20:36).

It was not just groups or churches that prayed. Individuals prayed privately, too: the Apostles (6:4, 6); Peter (9:40; 10:9; 11:5); Cornelius (10:2, 4); Paul and Silas (16:25; 28:8).

Good prayers need not be long. "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God . . . let your words be few" (Eccl. 5:1–2). Think of the Lord's Prayer.

Good prayers should be honest and forthright, yet also humble and contrite. Think of the Psalms or Jesus in Gethsemane. Good prayers should begin and end, whenever possible, with thanksgiving and praise. Good prayers adhere to God's Word (Ps. 119). Good prayers always rely on the mediating blood of Christ (Heb. 4:16). Good prayers work.

If you're a church leader, lead your church to pray more. Every Sunday morning, my church devotes three to seven minutes to a prayer of confession, three to seven to praise, five to ten to intercession, one to two to thanksgiving. Then we spend another thirty minutes on Sunday evenings praying together. A church's public prayers teach the saints how to pray privately.

It's remarkable that we sometimes go through a day without prayer. What foolish self-sufficiency.

Yet, praise God, the blood of His Son cleanses us from all sin, and His Spirit intercedes for us (1 John 1:7; Rom. 8:26–27). Our confidence is not finally in our prayers but in Him. God be praised.

***“By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.” Psalm 42:8***