

AUGUST

Prayer Devotionals

JULY 30 - SEPTEMBER 2

DANIEL 10:12
THE FIGHT
THE YEAR OF PRAYER
TAFT AVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Monday, 7/30, Romans 5: Dear God, thank you for the free gift of salvation by your grace! Thank you for your love and generosity, and that access to your grace and justification is by faith alone. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Because of you, I rejoice in suffering, which produces endurance, character, and finally hope through God's love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. I pray that grace will reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord in each of our hearts and our church body.

Tuesday, 7/31, Romans 6: I pray that the Spirit will help me to walk in the newness of life in Christ. Reveal my sins to me, and help me to no longer be enslaved to sin. I am alive to God in Christ Jesus! Lord, use me as your instrument for righteousness. I will obey as you lead to increase your kingdom.

Wednesday, 8/1, Romans 7: Lord, thank you that I do not need to keep the law. You know I would be unable to keep it, and in your mercy you sent Jesus to provide a way for me to become your child. Jesus thank you for giving me life that the law could not provide. Holy Spirit please work within me to do good and not desire evil. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Thursday, 8/2, Romans 8: I fall on my knees before you Lord, praising you and thanking you for setting me free from sin and death. On my own I could not fulfill the righteousness required by the law. Thank you for giving your Spirit. I pray that your Spirit would ignite a passion in our church for reaching your lost. We are your children. Use us to spread your gospel and reveal your glory! Help us when we feel too weak to further your kingdom.

Friday, 8/3, Romans 9: The Lord, my God, I do not deserve to be

chosen as a vessel of mercy. Therefore, I am humbled to glimpse the riches of your glory. You alone are more awesome than I can know. Fill me with awe at who you are, so I cannot help but share your majesty with others.

Saturday, 8/4, Romans 10: My heart's desire and prayer to God is for my family, friends, and neighbors to be saved. Give me opportunities to share my faith with them, and help them to believe in Jesus.

Sunday, 8/5, Romans 11: God, thank you for bringing reconciliation to the whole world! I pray for the Jews. Help them to see Jesus as the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies. I pray that as many people as possible would repent and turn to you God. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Monday, 8/6, Romans 12: Lord, you created us in Your image so that we could reflect who You are, particularly Your love, to the world. Help us to always love You and love others in such a way that it is evident to all that we belong to You, and we seek to live to do Your good, pleasing and perfect will. Strengthen and encourage us to continue to strive to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and be constant in prayer as we serve You, Lord. Only in Your power through the help of the Holy Spirit is this even possible.

Tuesday, 8/7, Romans 13: We live in trying times politically, economically and socially. But this has been true throughout the history of mankind because of our own sin and disobedience. Lord, help us to recognize and rest in the fact that you are sovereignly in control of all things, on earth and in heaven. Remind us daily that it is your will for us to submit to the authorities you have put in place,

while also remembering that our true citizenship lies in Your kingdom – this world and its troubles are fleeting but Your kingdom is eternal.

Wednesday, 8/8, Romans 14: As fellow believers in Christ, we must show patience, love and mutual acceptance despite differences in opinion over issues that do not involve salvation. Lord, You know that we love to argue and even more love to be “right”. But quite often being “right” is not beneficial to unity in the faith, nor is it encouraging for building each other up in strong, well-rooted faith. Help us to not fall into the temptation to quarrel with weaker brothers and sisters, but only correct when it is necessary and beneficial for theologically sound belief in Christ, and may our words even then be gracious and kind.

Thursday, 8/9, Romans 15: May we abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, as the God of hope fills us with joy and peace in believing! Hundreds of years before Jesus came to God’s chosen people, Isaiah spoke of the coming of the Messiah, the root of Jesse, and of how in Him even the Gentiles would find hope. The Servant Savior not only confirmed the promises given to the Patriarchs, but also caused the Gentiles to glorify you, God, for Your great mercy to them. And today, we glorify and praise You for Your gift of salvation to all who believe.

Friday, 8/10, Romans 16: In chapter 16, Paul gives personal greetings to his fellow workers, kinsmen, scribes, hosts and hostesses – the folks he has worked closely with in spreading the gospel. It is obvious that he has grown to love these people very much. But he not only greets them himself, but he tells them to greet each other with a “holy kiss”. This was a customary greeting among Christians to show the warm affection they had for each other as members grafted into the same vine. Father, help us to show this same kind of warm affection for each other as we

labor, live and grow together as a church family.

Saturday, 8/11, 1 Corinthians 1: Paul starts off his first letter to the Corinthians with thankfulness to God that He has blessed them with speech, knowledge and spiritual gifts. But we know from the rest of the letter, not all is well in the church at Corinth. There were some serious divisions within the church as well as misuses of their knowledge and spiritual gifts. How wonderful and gracious though, that Paul started by commending them for what was right. Lord, help us to know how to be gracious and loving to each other, acknowledging what is right, even as we occasionally need to graciously correct that which is wrong.

Sunday, 8/12, 1 Corinthians 2: Thank You, God, for the gift of Your Spirit, that we might understand the things freely given to us by You! We know that only through the teaching and interpretation of the Spirit within us can we ever hope to understand Your thoughts as You present them to us in Your word. Help us to never be swayed by human wisdom and flowery speech, but to rest only in the true message of Your wisdom made clear through the power of Your Spirit.

Monday, 8/13, 1 Corinthians 3: Just like the Corinthians, TACC will be experiencing multiple teachers that will build on what Pastor Bob has taught us. Ultimately, the foundation is built on Christ and God is responsible for the growth. Share your excitement, praises, concerns, and uncertainty about learning from new leaders with God. Look for the Gospel and look for God to grow others and you in the coming months.

Tuesday, 8/14, 1 Corinthians 4: In v. 7, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not

receive it?" What do you boast or take comfort in? The Gospel? Your job? Your house? Your children? Seek humility as you consider that God gave you all of these things and give thanks to God for all of them!

Wednesday, 8/15, 1 Corinthians 5: Paul takes a hard stance: mingle with obvious sinners outside the church, but do not tolerate condoning sinful living within the church. Do you know someone who is sexually immoral, greedy, a swindler, or idolater (loves stuff more than God) who also proclaims to be a Christian? Ask God to reveal if you have condoned this behavior in a brother or sister through action or inaction. Resolve to address this with them.

Thursday, 8/16, 1 Corinthians 6: Paul continues to highlight ways to protect the holiness of the church so that the world can see Christ through us. He says not to take another believer to court and even forgo the process if you have been legitimately wronged. This goes against our Orange County-American culture! Ask God for the desire to protect the holiness of His church, that the desire may grow to this level in you.

Friday, 8/17, 1 Corinthians 7: No matter your situation: employee, business owner, married, single, rich or poor, serve God and keep his commandments. It is more important to live for God by obeying him and sharing the Gospel than to improve your situation. Pray for someone you know who needs to be encouraged to focus on these things instead of their situation. Examples of changes people may prioritize too highly: career change, single to married, married to adding kids, retiring, etc. Encourage them sometime today.

Saturday, 8/18, 1 Corinthians 8: For the sake of the holiness and development of other believers, we are to demonstrate love by

forgoing activities that could be misinterpreted, confusing, or tempt others to sin. Be aware of the things you choose to do. Take a minute to think about the believers you are around and if there are any activities you do that could overlap with weak areas they may have. Pray for wisdom on how to proceed or to have the Holy Spirit reveal and area to consider.

Sunday, 8/19, 1 Corinthians 9: Paul gives up his freedoms in Christ and beats his body so that others may hear the Good News, become saved, grow, and share the Gospel with others. Do you purposefully live your life for the benefit of other believers and to share the Gospel? This deep love for others and self-awareness can only come from God. Pray for a heart to love others this much!

Monday, 8/20, 1 Corinthians 10: Paul reminds the people of Corinth of their shared history of deliverance from slavery in Egypt and also reminds them of the sins their forefathers fell into: craving evil things, idolatry, immorality, testing God and grumbling! He is warning them not to do the same. Paul also tells them about the provision God makes when temptation strikes. Don't let the freedom you have in Christ lead you into license when it comes to sin, he says. Whatever you do, do to the glory of God.

Tuesday, 8/21, 1 Corinthians 11: Paul addresses some problems the church was having in the areas of public worship. Some of the instructions had to do with the local cultural customs but some are universal such as the different roles that men and women had in the church. Another problem was the abuse of the Lord's Supper. They were not observing it as solemn remembrance but as an excuse to party with friends. As a result factions were beginning within the church. Paul's advice is to examine their lives for sin and to partake of the supper as a unified body.

Wednesday, 8/22, 1 Corinthians 12: Paul addresses another problem in this young church which was their misuse and emphasis on certain spiritual gifts, specifically tongues. Some felt that the gift of tongues was more spiritual than the other gifts, so Paul lays out the correct viewpoint, that is, gifts are given by God for the common good. Secondly, that all gifts are to exalt Jesus Christ as Lord. In the analogy of the body, Paul says that all gifts are important and are to work together to glorify Jesus Christ.

Thursday, 8/23, 1 Corinthians 13: In this chapter Paul discusses the subject of true love. One of the Corinthian problems was self-love. They loved to elevate themselves and the gift that they thought brought glory to themselves. Paul points out the “Love does not seek its own” I Cor 13:5. In I Corinthians 13:8 Paul says that “Love never ends” although the spiritual gifts will come to an end. 1 Cor 13:10.

Friday, 8/24, 1 Corinthians 14: Paul continues to clarify and give instructions about the proper priority and use of the spiritual gifts. In verse 21-22 he says that speaking in tongues is a sign for unbelievers, but speaking the truth of the Gospel and the Word of God, clearly, is for believers. It would appear that some women were being disruptive, perhaps because of their newfound freedom in Christ and Paul reminds them, and us, that God is a God of order, not a God of confusion.

Saturday, 8/25, 1 Corinthians 15: Some of the Corinthians were denying that there was going to be a resurrection of the dead. Paul points out that if their viewpoint was true, they would be most miserable of all people because it would mean the denial of Christ’s resurrection as well as their own salvation. Paul says that Christ was raised and is actually the first fruits of those who have “fallen asleep”

as death was called then. Even though others had been raised from the dead, Christ was the first to be raised to a life that knows no death.

Sunday, 8/26, 1 Corinthians 16: In this chapter, Paul takes care of some business concerning the church such as collecting money for the church in Jerusalem as well as reminding them that he intends to return. With all the divisions, this was a church that was difficult to guide. I sometimes call this the “Teen-age Church”. They had problems with pride, emphasis on social status, abuse of Christian liberty and over-emphasis of the spiritual gifts. Paul emphasizes the need for love for others which is incompatible with pride and should be the guiding principle of the church.

Monday, 8/27, 2 Corinthians 1: Paul explains the afflictions that they encountered during their journeys but also the comfort they received from God. He further explains how his afflictions and comfort received from God allow him to help comfort those around him who suffer afflictions. Look around you and find people who have been afflicted by similar issues you might have endured. If you get the chance, share God’s comfort with them and explain to them how God’s comfort has helped you through these afflictions. Pray also for those around you who are suffering and pray for God’s comfort for them. Pray that God would lead someone who is afflicted who may not know Jesus so that you can share with them the love of God.

Tuesday, 8/28, 2 Corinthians 2: Paul talks about people who sin against us and what we need to do. Many times, the sinner is punished which can cause that sinner to be overwhelmed with grief and sorrow. However, Jesus has commanded that we are to forgive one another for anything they have done to us. We are also to love our enemies, or those who have wronged us. Think of someone in

your life that you may not have forgiven and go to that person to forgive them. Pray to God that He gives you a spirit of love and forgiveness for everyone around us.

Wednesday, 8/29, 2 Corinthians 3: Christ's death and resurrection has allowed all who believe in Him to come and see and behold the Glory of God. The eyes of our hearts have been opened and we can see the wonderful Glory that God has bestowed upon us through His Son. Thank God for sending His Son to do the work on the cross so that we are transformed into Christ's image little by little.

Thursday, 8/30, 2 Corinthians 4: As believes in Christ, we are going to be afflicted throughout our life. However, Paul explains we cannot lose heart; although we have these afflictions, they are nothing compared to God's glory that we will see in the end. The afflictions help us to rely on God to help us through these sufferings. Pray that God will help you to persevere through your afflictions, to help you rely solely on God in these sufferings, knowing that they will strengthen our faith.

Friday, 8/31, 2 Corinthians 5: Paul explains that Jesus died for all of mankind; so that those who have accepted His gift of salvation no longer live for themselves, but we live for Jesus. Whatever we do is to have Jesus as the primary focus. When we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we are now living a new life. Pray that as followers of Jesus, we will live for Him, and through our actions and words to others, we can bring others to know Him as well.

Saturday, 9/1, 2 Corinthians 6: Paul provides an example of the ways he has endured hardships, and despite this, provides testimony to the truthfulness of the gospel that he ministers. He also describes having

the weapons of righteousness needed to proclaim the gospel. When Paul ministered, he was fully equipped with the Word of God. Pray that God would strengthen you in the knowledge of His Word to be used for presenting the Gospel to others who have not heard of Jesus; but also to encourage and strengthen those who may be new believers.

Sunday, 9/2, 2 Corinthians 7: Paul talks about godly grief. The letter he wrote brought godly grief to the Corinthians which is a good thing. This can be related to the second beatitude, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted'. The grief and mourning is for our sins that we committed but more importantly produces repentance that leads to salvation. We need to honor God and remember what He did for us, which truly shows we belong to God. Pray to God, thanking Him for sending His Son to die for us; ask for forgiveness of sins; and ask for strength to continue ministering to others the wonderful news of the gift of salvation.

