



## The "Secret Ingredient" Missing from Our Lives

By Dan Jenkins

## Focus 2026

Over the years, I have been part of conversations where people talked about just how good their mother/grandmother cooked a particular part of a meal. Or it may have been a friend who gave them a recipe of her specialty, but part of the conversation said something like, "I have tried and tried to prepare it like she did, but there must be some 'secret ingredient' she used and just don't know what it might be."

There is a parallel to this in the lives of far too many of us as we try to follow the Bible. We look at other Christians and wish that we could be what they are and wonder what "special ingredient" they have that we may have overlooked. If you have ever felt this way, keep reading the rest of this article to learn more about this secret.

Obviously, as we try to duplicate in our lives what we see in theirs, we need to understand these ingredients of maturing as a Christian. Some are so obvious—reading the Bible, studying the Bible, attending worship regularly, trying to share what we know with those around us. Yet, sometimes we wonder if there is a "secret ingredient" we have missed.

The Jewish leaders in Jesus' day certainly understood much of what God had said for them to do. They made lists of the commandments and spent time discussing which of the 613 commands they had listed in the Bible was the most important. They were so devoted to "following the recipe" that they made sure they kept the Sabbath in not traveling more than a sabbath's day journey. They washed their hands before eating, thinking this was part of what God wanted them to do. They literally strained the water they drank to get rid of any insect that might have fallen into that water. God gave them food laws and just maybe that insect might be one they should not eat. Read Jesus' words to them as He talked about how they knew the law, but there was some part of it they had overlooked. Keep reading if you want to learn this "secret ingredient."

They saw His miracles, and they understood these miracles were real. They ate loaves and fish that He miraculously gave to them. They knew His sinless life. Yet, they killed Him because they left something out of the recipe He tried to give them.

Is it possible we are making the same mistake? What was missing? The Bible clearly defines it in the book of Hebrews. Meditate on this Divine truth. "The word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those that heard it" (Heb. 4:2). It's not enough to read, to study, to worship, to try to teach others. Make sure you mix faith with knowledge. Heaven's ingredient we overlook is personal faith!

**Sunday:** Worship 10:30am & Class 5:00pm

**Tuesday:** Benevolence 9:00-10:00am & Young at Heart Class 10:30am

**Wednesday:** Class 6:30pm

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## All In or Checked Out?

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Character: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contrast Jonah & God:

Concerned with \_\_\_\_\_

Concerned with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Reluctantly

\_\_\_\_\_ Mercifully

Angry at \_\_\_\_\_

Overflowing with \_\_\_\_\_

Focused on \_\_\_\_\_

Focused on the \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Ways to Renew Our Hearts:

1. Adopt God's \_\_\_\_\_  
From "What benefits \_\_\_\_\_?"  
To "What breaks \_\_\_\_\_ heart?"

2. Meet Confusion with

\_\_\_\_\_

From frustration with people's

\_\_\_\_\_ with their need  
To \_\_\_\_\_ for guidance

3. Allow God's \_\_\_\_\_ to Preside  
From "They shouldn't get \_\_\_\_\_"  
To "I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ this either"

4. Shift from obligation to

\_\_\_\_\_

From "I'll do what You \_\_\_\_\_"

To "Teach me to \_\_\_\_\_ the way You  
care"

## ¿Todo incluido o retirado?

Configuración: \_\_\_\_\_

Personaje bíblico: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contraste entre Jonás y Dios:

Preocupado por \_\_\_\_\_

Preocupado por \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ De mala gana

\_\_\_\_\_ Piadosamente

Enojado con \_\_\_\_\_

Rebosante de \_\_\_\_\_

Centrado en \_\_\_\_\_

Centrado en el \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 maneras de renovar nuestros corazones:

la \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios

De "¿Qué beneficia a \_\_\_\_\_?"

a "¿Qué le rompe el corazón a \_\_\_\_\_?"

Conoce a Confusion con \_\_\_\_\_

De la frustración con la \_\_\_\_\_ de las  
personas

a \_\_\_\_\_ con su necesidad de  
orientación

el \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios presida

De "No deberían \_\_\_\_\_"

a "Yo tampoco \_\_\_\_\_ esto"

Pasar de la obligación a \_\_\_\_\_

De "Haré lo que Tú \_\_\_\_\_"

a "Enséñame a \_\_\_\_\_ como Tú me cuidas"

**WOW Ladies' Retreat**  
Jan 30–31, 2026

w/ speaker:  
Lindsay Olsen

*You  
can  
do hard  
things*

WOW 2026

**Friday**

Check-in beginning at 3:00 pm  
Dinner on your own  
First lesson will start at 7:00 pm

**Saturday**

Breakfast included with hotel stay  
First lesson will start at 8:30 am

## Church Leadership & Westhill Works

**Deacons**

David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057  
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055  
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645  
Casey Hendrix - 817.307.2127  
Michael Jones - 430.236.2244  
Matt Newman - 972.935.5789  
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406  
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032  
David Shastid - 903.257.6464  
Jose Sosa - 903.872.0535  
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052  
Mike Wylie - 214.837.3848  
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

**Shepherds**

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133  
Percell Milton - 214.803.2644  
Rusty Owens - 903.229.3650  
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

**Ministers**

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)  
Brandon Watson - 903.771.6359 (Family)

**Staff**

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

**Community Outreach**

Addiction [Recovery](#) Counseling  
Benevolence Program

Food for Fitness

Forever His

**Local Missions**

Bear Valley - Wayne Jones  
Cherokee Children's Home  
Disaster Relief  
The Jenkins Institute  
Knoxville School of Preaching  
Memphis School of Preaching  
WVBS [school.wvbs.org](http://school.wvbs.org)

**U.S. Mission Points**

Tilton, NH & Mesa, AZ

**Foreign Missions**

Cameroon Preacher Training  
India Preacher Training

# Prayer Needs:

**Don Ewing** — Cancer has returned; will see his doctor for treatment options.

**Martha Dowdle** — Began chemotherapy for spots on her liver.

**David Mahoney** — Recovering at home after treatment for a bone infection.

**Joel and Eli Haden** — On an extended work trip for six weeks; prayers for safety.

**Ron Haker** (Sandra McCullough's brother-in-law) — Health improving; has returned home.

**Tiffany Smith** (Tanya Rowden's daughter) — Health improving; no further surgery needed.

**Randy** (Vikki Ivy's brother) — Hospitalized with a brain bleed.

**Paula Gentry** (Angus community) — Lost her home in a fire; prayers for comfort and provision.

**Continue to remember:** Bronny & Ruth Watson, Dan & Rita Dominy, Eula Henry, Louie & Patty Williams, Nick Tooley, Bill & Beverly Abercrombie, Beverly Heathcote, David Mahoney, Millard & Martha Dowdle, Carol Barham, Judi Olsen, Tangie Anderson, & Jim Milam

**Staffed nursery** available for babies up to 2 yr old. **Nursery Attendant** this week: **Rachel Williams**

## This Week's Birthdays

January 25 - Brent Stewart & Paul Wells

January 28 - Garnette Russell

January 29 - Abigail Smith & Louie Williams

January 30 - Dianne Stewart

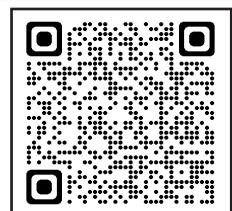
January 31 - Janet Earles

## Records for January 18, 2025

AM Worship.....	187
Contribution .....	\$6,416

## Visitor Form

Thank you for joining us for worship! We would love to follow-up with you...



## Privileged to Serve

### AM Song Leader

Zach Drain

### AM Opening Prayer

Frizzell Henry

### Scripture Reading

Michael Jones

### Communion Leader

Scott Barham

### Communion Servers

Owen Warnes

Joshua Haden

Colton Gowan

Jeremiah Parrish

Cash Hendrix

Frizzell Henry

James Horn

Colton Nicholson

Paul Wells

Jose Sosa

### AM Closing Prayer

David Shastid

### PM Song Leader

Zach Drain

### PM Opening Prayer

Carson Barham

### PM Devo

Brandon Watson

### PM Closing Prayer

Jeremiah Parrish

### Wed. Song Leader

Joshua Haden

### Wed. Invitation

Matt Newman

### Jan. Worship Coord.

Michael Jones & Casey Hendrix

### Jan. Elder of Month

Scott Barham

# Announcements:

### WOW Ladies' Retreat - Jan 30-31, 2026

Theme: "You Can Do Hard Things" w/ speaker Lindsay Olsen.

### Baby Shower for Claire Gowen

- Sun. Feb 1 @ 3pm in the Parlor.

<https://my.babylist.com/claire-gowan>

**Galentine's Party** - Sat. Feb. 7 for Jr High HS @ Audra Jennings home.

### Sweetheart Banquet - Feb. 9

Youth Group will serve the Young at Heart group.

### T-3 (Teach the Truth) - Feb 13-14

High School age will go to Lewisville church of Christ.

**Friends & Family Day** - Save the Date: Sun. Feb. 22

**Westhill ARC** (Addiction Recovery Counseling) meets weekly - contact Jay Mahoney