



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000
May - November 2026 - \$256,008

Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Paul's Second Prayer for the Church | Ephesians 3:14-21 8.9.26

Big Idea: The two vital spiritual disciplines are Bible study and prayer. Without Bible study, we would not know how to pray. Without prayer, our Bible study would only make it to our minds. Prayer invites God to take Bible information to the next level of heart transformation. It takes what we *know* about God and His Word and changes how we *feel* about God and His Word. Our desires also change as a result of prayer; they become less self-focused and more Christ-centered. Only the Holy Spirit's ministry can produce God-honoring, Christ-treasuring transformation. ***That's why we pray.*** Adapted from John Piper

Grace Mission Statement:

Encouraging believers to pursue a personal journey into the heart of GOD, through sincere **Bible study** and **prayer** resulting in a passion for GOD and compassion for others.

Ephesians 3:14 *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

It's not the only purpose, but the primary purpose of prayer is to praise GOD and pursue His will. Re: **Matthew 6:9-13**

Matthew 6:9-13 *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

ACTS of Prayer...

- **Adoration/Praise:** This focuses on who God is; His attributes.
- **Confession:** Admitting our sin against GOD.
- **Thanksgiving:** Gratitude is evidence of spiritual maturity.
- **Supplication/Intercession:** Sharing our needs and the needs of others with GOD.

Proverbs 28:13-14 *He who **covers** his sins will not prosper, But whoever **confesses** and forsakes them will have mercy.*

¹⁴*Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.*

Ephesians 3:15-19 *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶**that** He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷**that** Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; **that** you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; **that** you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

- Why do some believers have a deeper sense of who GOD is and a more meaningful relationship with Him? The problem lies not with GOD; for some, when the Holy Spirit prompts them to pursue GOD, they do something about it.
--Adapted from AW Tozer

- **Count the Cost**
- **Pay the Price**
- **Reap the Reward**

When we take loving GOD seriously....

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| 1. He will expose our pride. | 5. He will expand our comfort zones. |
| 2. He will confront our traditions. | 6. He will challenge our friendships. |
| 3. He will counter our consumerism. | 7. He will dismantle our personal agendas. |
| 4. He will reveal our prejudices. | |

God desires to reveal Himself to us in a way that surpasses human knowledge; He wants us to experience Jesus' promise of abundant life.

→ **The reward is knowing GOD in a greater and more meaningful way.**

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the **inner** man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now **to Him** who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ **to Him** be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

→ **Note the progression**... Now to Him = who is able = to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask = or think = according to the power that works in us...

"Father, I want to know Thee, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long, and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival." – A.W. Tozer

→ Guests are encouraged to contact Pastor Jerry with any questions or comments: jpelfrey@gbcmason.org

→ **Parenting Conference** - Pastor Tim Pasma, lead pastor at LaRue Baptist Church in LaRue, Ohio, will lead a parenting conference on Saturday, September 12, from 8:30am-12:30pm. Sign-up with the QR code. He will also be preaching on August 16 at 9:15am & 10:30am.

