

July 4th, 2021 “Praying for America the Beautiful this Independence Day.” *Partners in Prayer*

Dear Partners in Prayer Team,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might... praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Ephesians 6:10, 18 (NKJV)

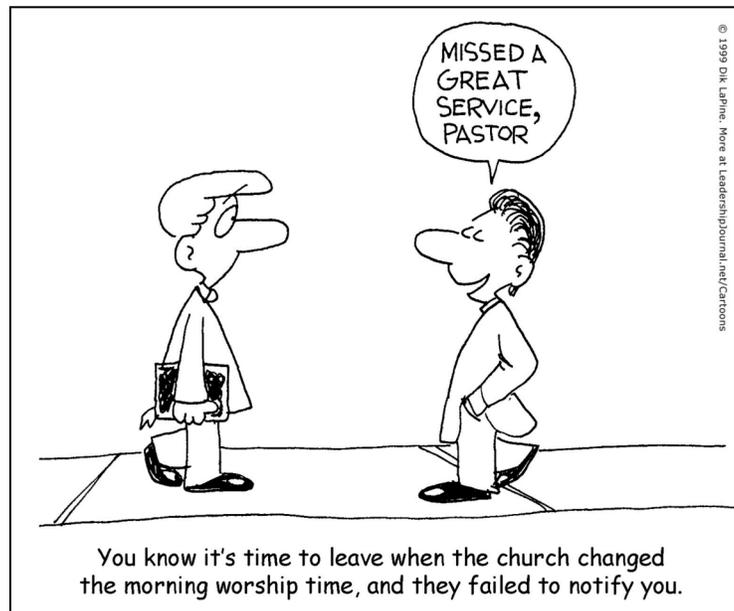
Did you remember our new time change? I found a cute illustration of a pastor who missed church because of the time change. (Include Cartoon).

If there is one thing that we certainly can't miss, it's prayer! We are all called to prayer.

Author and prayer warrior E. M. Bounds reminds us of the importance of prayer in his chapter “Call to Pray”: *“Men today have quit praying. They are too busy to pray. Time and strength and every faculty are laid under tribute to money, to business, to the affairs of the world. Few men and women lay themselves out to great praying. The great business of praying is hurried, petty, starved, beggarly business with most.”* (E. M. Bounds, *Purpose in Prayer*, pg. 57).

He is reminding us that our prayers need to be our priority. We need to pray more. Praying men, women, and children are invaluable to God. If we are not praying, there will be a great loss of power in the church. There will be a great breach and depreciation in what God is doing. We must keep praying or there will be a paralysis in the energy of the gospel. He said this one more thing to encourage us to the call of prayer: *“Put people to praying, then politics will be cleansed, business will be thriftier, the church will be holier, and the home will be sweeter!”* (E. M. Bounds, pg. 57). I just love that line. Can you imagine our politics of today being cleansed? Can you see our business world and our jobs thriftier? Can you see our church being holier and our families being sweeter in the atmosphere?

Last week I searched some scriptures and wanted to give you ten reminders from the Bible to pray faithfully. I shared half of them last week in the Partners in Prayer. I have saved the last five for this week. Be encouraged



today when you reflect on these five reminders from the Bible to pray faithfully, simply and confidently:

1. Gain perspective with adoration. When we adore God, it requires that we look up to Him and acknowledge Him for who He is – the Creator of two hundred billion stars in the Milky Way but also our perfect and loving Father.

I've found that if our view of God is that He is one who is big and powerful, then our problems will seem small. Conversely, if our view of God is small, our problems will be big. Feeling stuck when praying? Dial God's phone number which I call: Jeremiah 33:3- *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* Every time we call we are dialing to God live in prayer.

2. Live according to His will as you pray. When we're operating how we were created to operate — remembering our Creator and our place in His world — the doors of communication with our Father are wide open. This invitation straight from the Bible should inspire us to pray expectantly! We know that God does not listen to sinners. *"He listens to the godly person who does His will"* (John 9:31).

3. Expect fruit. Do you actually go through your day expecting to see the fruit from your prayers? The God who made us wants us to live fruitfully. While it can be difficult to discern His will in the day-to-day decisions, do you know what is always His will? The fruits of the Spirit in our lives are always within God's will: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). I hope you memorize the following verse. I've often closed prayer meeting time with it. I encourage you to memorize it, because it is a confidence building verse. Here it is: *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us"* 1 John 5:14). It will change your world when you walk through your day asking and expecting God to answer prayer with great confidence. Lori and I commit each day to pray at breakfast for our day and for our families. Each day when we come home, we sometimes have to hold back because we are so eager to share how God answered prayers. We all know we should pray. But this will build excitement.

4. Reflect on God's generosity. This reminder from the Bible to pray points to a Good Father who wants to give generously to each of us. Come to Him in belief and ask for Him to share His wisdom with you. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you"* (James 1:5).

5. Request God to do great things! Ask God to reveal your motives. Ask that He would give you sincere and genuine desires, and then for great faith to experience His fruit in your life. Prayer is relational, promise-centered, simple and powerful. Through it, we can experience God in ways beyond what most of us have ever dreamed of. *"You do not have because you do not ask God. When*

you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:2b-3).

Sam James was a missionary in war ravaged Vietnam. One of his worst moments occurred when his wife, Rachel, made a trip into the mountains on an old DC-3 propeller passenger plane belonging to Air Vietnam. When Sam went to the airport for her arrival, he learned the plane was delayed. Sam kept asking questions, and he finally learned the plane was missing! As the hours passed, Sam felt an anguish he'd never experience. "I made my way out of the terminal to a quiet spot under some trees... I knelt and prayed as earnestly as I ever had prayed." About 11:30 pm., the plane landed. It has been delayed by a flat tire, but the news hadn't been reported on to the airport or conveyed. "Seldom had I felt such tremendous, overwhelming love for my wife, but oh, I firmly believe that God has something to teach us when we seriously pray" he later wrote (Sam Jones, *Servant on the Edge of History*, pg. 133-134).

When we face turmoil, we always have direct access to heaven through prayer. When we're afraid of the outcome, we can pour out our soul to God, knowing He hears every plea, knows every cry, and cares for the need of every frightening moment. I hope these reminders from the Bible to pray confidently and faithfully — with verses straight from the Scriptures — will encourage a continual conversation with your Creator.

Pray with me,

“Father, we thank You for our freedom and protection, not just as believers under Your care, but as American citizens born in this wonderful country of the United States. As we celebrate our Independence Day, keep our hearts and minds remembering our freedom from sin which we have in Christ. Help us not take for granted all we have. Help make us a church of prayer warriors! Help us see and live out before others what a great country in which we live, and a great Savior who has given us life! Holy Spirit, lead us back to revival as a nation. Help us be used and blessed by You as a church. Transform hearts here, and keep us enraptured by a God who loved us first. Clear our spiritual vision, we pray, that we might see our souls as hidden with Christ on high, our Savior and our God. In His name we come, amen.”

**Praying with fervency,
Pastor Corvin <><**

Quote: “God has more ways of providing for us than we can possibly imagine!” ... Thomas Watson (1620- 1686)

Hymn: “America! America! God shed His grace on thee, till selfish gain no longer stain the banner of the free!” ... (Chorus from verse seven of *America the Beautiful*. The song's music and lyrics were conceived in the 19th century by two people who never met: Katharine Lee Bates, whose words formed the poem “Pikes Peak”, and organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward, who composed the music at his church in New Jersey in 1893).