

40

DAYS OF PRAYER

JUNE 17 - JULY 26

“I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me** and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **If you abide in me**, and my words abide in you, **ask whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” - John 15:5-8

The following 40 days are an invitation for the faith family at First Baptist Church of West Albuquerque to join together to abide in the person and presence of Christ.

As we celebrate 30 years in ministry together, we also recognize that we have not come this far in our own efforts, but by the grace of God. We desperately need his continued grace, direction, and empowering for the work of ministry in the future. Pastor George Buttrick said, **“Prayer is not a vain attempt to change God's will . . . [but the] desire to learn God's will and to share it. Prayer is not a substitute for work: it is the secret spring and indispensable ally of all true work.”**

The significance of 40 days parallels the amount of time that individuals in scripture committed themselves to pursuing God's will and direction.

- Noah waited on God 40 days in the ark (Gen. 8:6).
- Moses met with God 40 days atop Mount Sinai (Ex 24:18).
- Jesus spent 40 days in fasting and prayer in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry (Mk 1:13).

Practically, this is a length of time that tests the devotion of the one who is seeking God, and, if maintained, will lead to lasting patterns of praying.

Our pattern for praying will be simple. Each day we will focus on one of the five functions of the church described in Acts 2:42-47 (evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship) with the additions of rest and seeking the glory of God. These 40 days are meant to seek God's will and direction for our church as we move forward in ministry.

Daily prayer should be preceded by meditating or contemplating on the Scripture that you are already reading as part of your daily time in the Bible. Slow down to consider what God is revealing to you about himself in Scripture to prepare for praying.

We will conclude our 40 days of prayer together as part of our regularly scheduled monthly evening worship and Quarterly Members' Meeting on the evening of July 26th.

May God direct our prayers, answer them according to his will, and glorify himself in his church as we pray together!

**Enter into prayer each day by silently meditating
on your regular daily Bible reading.
Ask God to reveal himself to you through
Scripture.**

Tuesdays: Discipleship

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 11:1

Pray: “Lord, who would you have me help
to follow Jesus more closely?”

Thursdays: Fellowship

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love,
a tender heart, and a humble mind.” - 1 Peter 3:8

Pray: “Lord, how would you have me serve the unity, love,
and partnership in the gospel among my church family?”

Saturdays: Rest

“I lay down and slept; I woke again,
for the LORD sustained me.” - Psalm 3:5

Pray: “Lord, teach me to rest in your care and provision.
Help me to rely on you for all things.”

Mondays: Evangelism

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for
them is that they may be saved.” - Romans 10:1

Pray: “Lord, lay on my heart and set before me this week someone
to whom I can proclaim the way of salvation.”

Wednesdays: Ministry

“The greatest among you shall be your servant.” - Matthew 23:11

Pray: “Lord, show us the needs of those in our community
that we can meet in Jesus’ name.”

Fridays: Worship

“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and he is to be feared above all gods.” - 1 Chronicles 16:25

Pray: “Lord, help me worship you today for who you are.
Prepare my heart for corporate worship Sunday morning.”

Sundays: God’s Glory

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!” - Psalm 57:5

Pray: “Reveal yourself to us God! Give us a passion
to pursue your glory in all the earth!”

As you pray, you may want to follow this structure:

- P** - Praise God for his attributes shown to you in Scripture
- R** - Repent of known sins you have confessed to God; ask him to reveal hidden or unknown sins in your life
- A** - Ask God to answer the daily prayers above according to his will; pray that he would change your will to match his
- Y** - Yield your spirit to listen to God that you may obey his direction

“PRAYER IS LISTENING AS WELL AS
SPEAKING, RECEIVING AS WELL AS
ASKING; AND ITS DEEPEST MOOD IS
FRIENDSHIP HELD IN REVERENCE. SO
THE DAILY PRAYER SHOULD END AS IT
BEGINS - IN ADORATION.”
- GEORGE BUTTRICK