

OCTOBER 11TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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HOW TO PRAY DEEPLY

Chris Willcut

A preacher once said that when a Christian comes to him for counsel, he would always ask them the same two questions, "How often do you read your Bible," and "How often do you pray?" Typically, the answer to one of those would begin to identify some deficiency of a struggling Christian. Our growth and maturity as a Christian is directly linked to our prayer life. Therefore, if we want to grow and mature, we must make deepening our prayers a priority. In our desire to pray deeply, let's note some lessons we can identify within Scripture.

First, we must make time to pray alone. Consider the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and His prayers. Yes, Jesus prayed with His disciples for the meal (John 6:11), but we also find Jesus often removing Himself to a solitary place to pray. Jesus would rise early in the morning before the sun rose to pray alone (Mark 1:35). Jesus would send His disciples ahead of Him so He could pray alone on a mountain (Matt. 14:22, 23). It is a wonderful thing to pray communally with fellow Christians, but if we want our prayers to become deeper, we must make time to pray in our closets as well (Matt. 6:6). Praying alone gives us the opportunity to pray about specific needs in our lives, bring our sins before God in confession, and truly pour out our soul to God (1 Sam. 1:15).

Second, our prayers will deepen by praying through Scripture. We might read through the Psalms and take note of how often the author is praying to God. We find moments when David cries out in distress, "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?" (Ps. 13:1) in addition to praising God for hearing His prayers (Ps. 28:6). We might look to the prayers of men like Daniel or Paul and see how they can shape our prayers. As we read through the Bible and learn what God is teaching us, we can use what we are reading to help guide our thoughts in prayer. Praying through Scripture gives us the ability to confess the truth of God's Word as it is applied to our lives.

Third, in order to deepen our prayers, we must deepen our relationship with God. Praying deeply does not mean praying elaborately or simply knowing the right things to say. Praying deeply is a result of a growing and deepening relationship with the one to whom we address. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18), what we pray and how we pray should grow as well. The more we set our mind on things above (Col. 3:2), the more spiritual our prayers should become. The more we understand the love shown in Jesus' death on the cross (Rom. 5:8), the more we might pray like the tax collector who said, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Luke 18:13). As our relationship with God deepens, our prayer life will deepen and flourish accordingly.

If we are to grow and mature as Christians, we must be growing in prayer. We cannot afford to neglect such an important aspect of our spiritual walk with God. When we dedicate time to pray personally with God, use Scripture to guide our prayers, and make the growth of our relationship with God a priority, our prayers to God will deepen as a result. As we strive to imitate Christ in all areas of our lives, let's consider every day how we can pray more deeply like our Lord.

Fall Quarter Bible Classes

October 4th – December 30th

SUNDAY MORNING

ADULT (Auditorium) – Mark Teske/Chris Tice – Exodus & Archaeology

This class will examine the historical reliability of the Exodus account in light of archaeological discovery. This study will focus on evidence from Egypt and the ancient Near East that supports the Bible's record of Israel's bondage, deliverance, and journey to the Promised Land.

PLEASE NOTE: This class will be taught to the High School class next quarter, so if you are a parent of high school student, we would like to encourage you to attend this class so you can have conversations with your child as they learn it.

ADULT (Fellowship Hall) – Larry Everson – The Book of 1 Corinthians

This class will look at Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth – a congregation struggling to live as God's people in a worldly city. This study will focus on Paul's inspired instruction on division, morality, worship, and the resurrection, and how it still guides the church today.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS – Josh Walker – The Book of Daniel

This class will look at the life and prophecies of Daniel – a faithful servant of God living in exile in Babylon. This study will focus on Daniel's unwavering devotion and his inspired visions of the coming kingdoms, which affirm that God rules over the nations and fulfills His Word.

HIGH SCHOOL – Robert Jefferies – Why?

his class will look at why what one believes truly matters – because a right relationship with God has always rested on His revealed Word. This study will focus on understanding the reasons behind God's truth, so that we may know it, respect it, and be drawn closer to Him (John 8:32).

Middle School – Allen Roberts – Stand Fast

This class will look at the call to "stand fast in the faith" (1 Cor. 16:13) – holding firmly to the truths of Christianity in a time of challenge. This study will focus on serious issues facing the church today, from biblical illiteracy and drifting to liberalism and worldliness, and how each must be answered with Scripture.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Adult (Auditorium) – Robert Jefferies – The Book of Deuteronomy (Pt. 2)

This class will look at Moses' final words to Israel on the plains of Moab – a call to remember the Lord and obey His law before entering the Promised Land. This study will focus on God's covenant faithfulness and His charge to love Him with all the heart, soul, and might (Deut. 6:5), a message that still calls God's people to wholehearted devotion today.

ADULT (Fellowship Hall) – Josh Walker – The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

This class will look at Peter's two letters to Christians facing suffering from without and false teaching from within. This study will focus on Peter's inspired call to stand firm in the living hope we have in Christ, to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18), and to remain faithful until His return.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS – Brian Briscoe – The Epistles to Thessalonica

This class will look at Paul's two letters to the young church at Thessalonica – a faithful congregation enduring persecution and seeking clarity about the Lord's return. This study will focus on Paul's inspired encouragement to live holy lives, comfort one another with the hope of Christ's coming (1 Thess. 4:18), and stand fast in the teachings they had received.

HIGH SCHOOL – Andy Young – My Stuff & I

This class will look at a subject seldom covered in Bible study – money, material possessions, and the Christian. This study will focus on what Scripture teaches about stewardship, spending, saving, debt, covetousness, and benevolence, so that we may honor God with all that He has entrusted to us.

Middle School – Michael Gahagan – Construction in Progress

This class will look at the Christian's lifelong call to grow – a process that begins at our spiritual birth and continues until we pass from this life (Phil. 2:12). This study will focus on putting away worldliness to make room for Christ, so that the gospel may do its work in us and conform us to His example.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHURCH?

Matt Wallin

(House To House)

A lot of us are searching for a church. Some people want a place that feels like family. Others look for strong preaching, uplifting singing, or programs for children. These are good things-but the most important question is: Is it the church of the Bible?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build My church." Notice-He did not promise to build churches (plural), but His church (singular). The church belongs to Him. It bears His name, follows His teaching, and exists for His glory. When we read the book of Acts, we see what that church looked like in its beginning-devoted to the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42).

The Bible never describes Christians as joining a church of their choice. Instead, those who were saved were "added to the church" by the Lord Himself (Acts 2:47). The same thing happens today when we obey the gospel.

The church is more than a building or a Sunday routine-it is a family, a body, a kingdom. Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Each member matters. Each one has a place.

If you are looking for the church that belongs to Christ, open your Bible and look for the one that teaches what the first Christians taught, worships how they worshiped, and lives how they lived. That is where you will find the church of the Bible.

We are not perfect, but we are striving to follow the perfect Savior and His perfect Word, and we are striving to be that church.

Are you looking for a church? We are looking for you. Let's open God's Word together and grow closer to Him-and to each other.

Sunday Sermons

No Detours (AM)

To Be Determined (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God
(Romans 10:17).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Dale Shull is making improvements at home following a recent stay in the hospital. If you plan to visit, please go to Tommy & Peggy's door.

James Mason, father of Jennifer Christian, continues to take therapy at a hospital in Chicago.

Karen Oglesby is receiving treatment at Lakeside at this time.

Sarah Hechavarria is taking chemotherapy.

Joyce Valentine is on Hospice Care.

Dennis Hawkins, father of Clint & Blake Hawkins, will be having outpatient surgery on October 19 at Baptist Collierville.

David Chadwick has an abdominal aneurysm. He is scheduled to have surgery on October 27,

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, continues to receive wound care.

Julia Ross, mother of Annette Prater, is gradually improving. She is taking physical therapy at St. Bernards Hospital in Jonesboro.

Gina Hall Allen, sister of Karen Oglesby, suffered a heart attack on Monday. She is recovering in the hospital.

Eric Hall, brother of Karen Oglesby, is in the hospital.

Please continue to remember the following: **Erika Stuckey**, **Jerry Baird**, **Betty Culbreath**, **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Don Sykes**, **Meredith Peek**, **Barbara Day**, **Alan & Linda Stone**, **Debbie Shull**, **Pat Pierce**, **Beverly Parnell**, **Jean Jones**, **Dorothy Butler**, & **Rannie Butler** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone**; **Pam Eaton**; **Charlene Farris**; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry & Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh**

Free, great granddaughter of Alan & Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; **Debbie Shull**; **Beverly Parnell**; **Pam Eaton**; **Phyllis Smith**, The Gold-ton at Southaven Room #116.

SYMPATHY

Conrad Hall, brother of **Karen Oglesby**, passed away on Monday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

RESPONSES

Kelcey Bryant, was baptized into Christ on Sunday. Please be sure to welcome him to the body of Christ.

MEN TO SERVE - October 11th, 2026

Preside: Larry Everson

Serve: Kellen Christian Sr, Walter Warren, TJ Johnson, Jarrett Roberts, John S. Stubblefield, Reed Rister, Jerry Mitchell, Colin Iglinsky

AM Opening Prayer: Bruce Dunaway

AM Closing Prayer: Perkins Cochran

PM Opening Prayer: Con Lambert

PM Closing Prayer: Duane McCrory

Wed. Opening Prayer: Joel White

Wed. Closing Prayer: Robert Chamberlain

Announcements: Robert Jefferies

Song Leader: David Rister

Scripture Reading: Dustin Rowe

Security: TJ Johnson

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18: Bridal Shower for Jasmine Cole. She is registered at Amazon.

October 10: Youth Day @ Looxahoma

October 11-14: Gospel Meeting @ Looxahoma

October 18-21: Gospel Meeting at Nesbit with Anthony Flunder. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

October 24, 5pm: Trunk or treat, potluck, and family game night at Southaven.

OCTOBER FOOD TEAM

Captain: Ann Chilton

Mina Lambert, Jeannie Woody, Veronica Rapp, Becky Harville

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	203
A.M. Worship	270
P.M. Worship	146
P.M. Wed. Worship	175
Contribution	\$



SOUTHAVEN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker