



# prayer

PERSONAL • PASTOR • PEOPLE

21 DAYS OF PRAYER  
FOR OUR NEW PASTOR

# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

## IN PREPARATION FOR OUR NEW PASTOR

Shortly after Danny made his announcement of retirement in January 2021, a team was created to give leadership for involving the church in prayer during the days of the search for and transition to a new pastor. The objective was simple: every aspect of transition to a new pastor was to be guided by the Spirit. The template for praying was built around 4 P's:

**Pastors** – That Danny would continue to be protected and empowered as he led Shades in his final months as pastor and that the new pastor would be sensitive to the Spirit as he was called to eventually join us.

**Process** – That the Shades Mountain Pastor Search Team as well as the Vanderbloemen Search Group would be led by the Holy Spirit as they vetted candidates, interviewed, and discerned their recommendations to the church.

**Personnel** – That the staff and leaders of Shades Mountain would continue to faithfully carry out their responsibilities while trusting God to bring the next pastor for Shades.

**People** – That the church would stay submitted to the Spirit through the process, unified as family, and be excited to receive the next pastor and follow his leadership.

Several experiences and aids were created to involve the church in prayer which included: a daily reminder to pray at 8:15; prayer resources of bookmarks and table tents; monthly prayer gatherings; focused prayer reminders through the Sunday Schools; a weeklong prayer chain; blogs; and social media prayer prompts.

The last step to the Pastor Transition Prayer process is outlined in the following pages. As we seek to align our hearts and prayers together leading up to Pastor George's first sermon on September 12, 2021, our hope is that these devotions will continue to prepare you personally, our pastor, and our people for the days ahead. The verse that has served as the foundation for our team and mission comes from Jeremiah 33:3,

*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and mighty things that you do not know.”*

May we continue to be a people who “call to Him” believing that He will do “great and mighty things” for His glory and our good!

**Pastor Transition Prayer Team:** Charlotte Autrey, Anna Brown, Victor Brown, David Cost, Edwina Forstman, Anna Foyt, Garrett Franks, Jamieson Matthews, Buddy Seay, Tim Wheat

# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

*August 23 - September 12, 2021*

## WEEK 1

*Focus is on Personal Preparation for the days under new leadership*

1. August 23 - The Gospel
2. August 24 - Sensitivity to the Spirit
3. August 25 - Repentance
4. August 26 - Revival
5. August 27 - Words That Encourage
6. August 28 - Renewing Our Minds
7. August 29 - Standing Strong in our Faith

## WEEK 2

*Focus is on the Pastor's Needs in this time of transition*

8. August 30 - Vision
9. August 31 - Humility
10. September 1 - Protection
11. September 2 - Family Needs
12. September 3 - Relationships in their Children's Schools
13. September 4 - Relationships in the Community
14. September 5 - Relationships in the Church

## WEEK 3

*Focus is on People's Hearts as we embrace new leadership*

15. September 6 - Unity
16. September 7 - Love
17. September 8 - Courage
18. September 9 - Patience
19. September 10 - Surrender
20. September 11 - Obedience
21. September 12 - Growth as the People of God

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

Do you believe the gospel is for you? Really and truly, for you.

You who have done all the “right” things but still don’t know what it feels like to let the relief roll off of your shoulders that the truth of the gospel does not depend on how well you live up to your idea of the perfect Christian life. Or you who carries the weight of an outcast life — where you believe that if the people of the church knew what your day in day out life looked like — you would be found a fraud, or you would never belong.

No matter who we are, we are all qualified recipients of the gospel. Our only requirement to be a candidate of the gospel of grace is to be a sinner.

So do not let the very thing that makes you a candidate for the gospel keep you from the gospel. Whether that sin looks like self-justification or self-destruction, it is from that sin where we can meet Christ. The gospel is true, and it’s true for you.

It is the greatest gift to be able to offer the gospel to all, knowing there is no other prerequisite but to be a sinner. I can sit across from any client that walks in the door at Sav a Life, and while ministering to their very real physical needs, also offer them the same hope I have received: when I had nothing to offer Christ but the sin to my name, He chose me then. He has met my greatest need and will be faithful to walk with me through my every need.

-Anna Foyt-

## Prayer

---

*As we look to the next phase of the life of our church, pray that we are a people with hearts transformed by the hope of Jesus. By truly believing the truth of the gospel in our own lives, we as a church will be spurred to share the same hope with others.*

*"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*

In school I was taught to answer the informative questions of "who, what, where, when, how and why." Just to get us all on the same page:

**Who:** Holy Spirit. The 3rd person of the Holy Trinity, the Resurrection Power, the Deposit, Guarantee, Seal, Comforter, Counselor, Guide, Instructor, Teacher, Reminder of the Holy Word, Helper, Truth; Ruach Elohim (Spirit of God), Rauch YHWA (Spirit of Yahweh), Pauch Hakidesh (Holy Spirit), Omniscient.

**What:** He is the life force. The breath; the power; the love, joy, peace, presence of God here on this earth now. Omnipotent.

**Where/When:** He has always been. Old Testament. New Testament. Today. Tomorrow. God will call Him heavenward before the return of Jesus. He occupies each follower of Jesus. Omnipresent.

**How:** Ask for an increased personal sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.

- Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend.
- Spend time quietly and daily in prayer, Bible reading, keeping your mind focused on Jesus.
- Empty yourself of self and selfish desires.
- Ask Him to use you in His service.
- Stop to listen.
- Be obedient unto His leading, as is always compatible with scripture.

**Why:** To be aware of God's working (through calling Pastor George to Shades) and join in what God is doing. Pastor George stated in his first sermon at Shades, "The power of the Holy Spirit calls us to leverage our lives for the sake of the mission."

-Edwina Forstman-

## Prayer

*Father, fill me today with your Holy Spirit to serve you and bring you glory as we prepare for our new pastor. Holy Spirit, help me to always stay close to you. Amen.*

*“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.” Revelation 2:4-5b*

Ever lost your way? It's frustrating. Ever lost anyone? That's a different set of emotions! Some years ago, in our BC days (Before Children) we had a very happy, energetic, socially excitable Beagle. One evening, Barney, got outside his “protective” boundaries, our fenced-in backyard, without our permission or awareness. When we realized his absence, we searched, we walked, then we drove the neighborhood calling out his name, but to no avail. Late into the night we went out again. This time we heard his faint, familiar voice, calling from a neighbor's house.

Melody scaled a fence, scooped him up, and brought him home. It was a joyful and tearful reunion. Barney had made a choice to leave us, for whatever reason, and soon found he was so far away he could not hear our voice. That can happen to us as well. We can take off in our own direction, doing our own thing, and put distance between us and the Father's voice. If that describes you, I want you to know that the Father is in pursuit of you.

Repentance means “changing your direction/thinking.” Today, if you find yourself distant from God, would you turn back to Him so He may do all He desires to do in you, through you, and through our church as we prepare for our new pastor!

-Tim Wheat-

## Prayer

---

*If there is anything separating you from the Father, would you acknowledge it and then turn towards Him and “come home.”*



*“and my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 (CSB)*

In 1734, a young pastor in North Hampton, Massachusetts struggled in his church. Finally, after months of fruitless labor, 5 people accepted Christ. Within six months, 300 people were saved in a town of 1100. News spread across colonial America and it was estimated over 900,000 people heard the good news.

In 1857, the North Dutch Church in New York City hired a lay missionary named Jeremiah Lanphier. After diligent prayer, he decided to open the church one day a week at noon for a businessmen’s prayer meeting. Six attended the first week, 20 the next and 40 the next. Then the bank panic of 1857 started. Soon the church reached capacity. The prayer meetings became daily, and other churches began to hold prayer meetings. It quickly spread across the United States and world. From 1857-1858, it is estimated 1,000,000 people were added to church rolls and many existing church members were energized for God.

After World War II, two men came on the scene. In 1949, Bill Bright started Campus Crusade for Christ reaching countless college students for God. Shortly after, Billy Graham Crusades exploded in America and around the world. An estimated 180,000,000 people attended his nearly 400 crusades and millions more viewed on television. These evangelistic organizations continue today.

Great revivals for God have one thing in common, they all began in the heart of one person praying for revival. With God leading Shades Mountain Baptist Church in a pastor’s transition and maybe in new directions, could this be an opportunity for another great awakening?

-David Cost-

## Prayer

---

***All revivals start with one person and that one person is me and each individual member of our church. Please pray 2 Chronicles 7:14 in this fashion: I know I am a Christian. The Lord has promised that if I will humble myself, pray and seek His face and turn from my wicked ways, He will hear my prayer, forgive my sins and heal my land.***

*"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6*

The first verse I remember memorizing as a child was Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath but grievous words stir up anger." Clearly my siblings and I needed a little guidance because our parents had us learn it! Fast forward to when I became a parent — my husband, Walt, had our kids learn a short version of Ephesians 4:32, "Be ye kind one to one another."

With over 100 verses in Scripture about the power of the tongue, it seems clear that the Lord knew we would need help with how we speak to each other! Years ago I came across the idea of filtering my words through the sieve of "Is it kind? Is it true? and Is it necessary?"

Pretty quickly I realized that when I slow down and filter my words through His leading, what comes out of my mouth is more likely to be uplifting and encouraging to others! As we continue in this season of transition in our church family, let us all activate our "kind/true/necessary words" filter so that we are a faith family that builds up and encourages each other with our words!

-Charlotte Autrey-

## Prayer

---

*Pray that the Lord will make your words kind, gracious, and always uplifting in support of our pastor and to honor our Father.*



*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing, you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2*

*“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”  
Colossians 3:2*

In this day of multimedia influence, we have to make a number of decisions regarding what we put into our minds and our hearts. It seems that we are inundated with messages that want to lead us to live a life contrary to the ways of God. When we do, there are far-reaching consequences on our family and in our nation. To help us make the right choices:

- God gave us his Son, Jesus! John 3:16
- God gave us the Bible, His “guidebook for life.” II Timothy 3:16-17
- God gave us the Holy Spirit that speaks truth into our lives. John 16:13.

What do you put into your mind? Today, would you renew your mind! Give yourself to Jesus, put God’s Word in your heart, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you that you will have hope through salvation in Jesus, encouragement, wisdom and discernment against the lies of the enemy. Psalm 119:11, “I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

-Edwina Forstman-

## Prayer

---

*Please, Lord, renew my mind today from your Word. Help me to apply your instruction in every place and for every person you bring in my path today. Help me in these days of new leadership to be submitted to you, follow your Word, and let the Holy Spirit guide me in all truth!*

*“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:10-18*

Often, we feel our enemies are things or people of this world. We can get lost in our circumstances, hurt by people, and distracted from walking with the Lord. We shouldn't be surprised when attacks come our way. 1 Peter 5:8 says, *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

It's no secret that the enemy of God is Satan. He is jealous for God's glory and will stop at nothing to try to thwart God's plans and discourage God's people. However, as believers in the risen Christ, we know the ultimate victory is God's. God is sovereign over all. There is hope in Jesus!!

In preparation for the days ahead with a new fresh vision and leadership, let's live as people who are ready to stand strong against attacks of the enemy, knowing that the battle belongs to the Lord. As believers we are to take an active role in readying ourselves for attacks from the enemy by putting on the full armor of God.

-Anna Brown-

## Prayer

---

***Pray that God will help you stand strong against temptation and the schemes of Satan through the power of the Holy Spirit and by putting on the full armor of God.***

*“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3*

Look on any list of desired leadership characteristics today and “vision” will most assuredly be a critical factor. The Oxford Dictionary defines vision as the ability “to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom.” That vision is often further explained through the picture of a mission, followed by the strategies and plans identified to accomplish that vision. Articulating that vision is a gift as it inspires those responsible for achieving the related goals and illuminates the direction to the specific steps one should take in that process.

The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Colossians, kept things simple. His vision for them was about “having the riches of complete understanding” that come with truly knowing Christ. The principles embodied in that statement have guided our church and its mission--“to send transformed people to influence their world for Christ.” The guidance of our church for the last 50 years has reflected these words. Likewise, the actions of George Wright in previous leadership roles indicate his ability to develop and implement a vision, and rally people to that direction.

-Buddy Seay-

## Prayer

---

***Let's ask God to continue pouring in to George the thoughts and ideas that will form that firm foundation and vision for our church, bolstering that with wisdom, good judgment and a perceptive nature. Our prayers should be to encourage and support him as he brings that vision to light and fruition as our pastor.***

*“In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, cloth yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but always shows favor to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5b*

Humility can best be understood by understanding its opposites, pride and self-confidence. The world constantly tells us to be self-confident, to have faith in ourselves, for what we can do. Our self-worth is based on our achievements, measured by the awards and diplomas hanging on our walls, and the praise of others. We rely on the mind set of “I can do this because I am strong and talented.” We may not say this, but we think this in our hearts.

Eventually, the Lord in His goodness and graciousness lets us fall on our faces to correct us. Phil. 1:6 tells us that good works come from not a confidence in self, but rather a confidence in the faithfulness and power of God.

-David Cost-

## Prayer

---

*In these days of pastor transition, please pray that we, the people of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, will humbly accept and support changes in leadership styles and ministry directions that God has planned for our church.*

*“He that dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1 (ESV)*

Life brings many experiences that will place us in need of the cover of shelter. Our pastor and his family are no exception to this fact. As Pastor George provides cover for us, leading to great confidence and trust that we will receive protection from God, the entire Wright family will also need the protection of the Lord. In their journey, attacks from the enemy may come.

The storms of life, along with all of the dangers, toils and snares that may arise, create a need for the protection that only God can provide. This scripture makes it clear that those who abide in Christ are rooted in the shelter of God Almighty! God's word tells us to abide in Him. The shelter of the Lord keeps the enemy at bay. It is fitting then that we who are of the family of faith constantly seek God's protection, and that we intercede on behalf of our pastor for his protection, and for that same protection, shelter and cover for his entire family.

-Victor Brown-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for God to place a hedge of protection around Pastor George and his family. Pray that he remains firmly rooted in Christ daily. Pray with confidence that the Lord will provide shelter in the storms of life for the entire family, from now until eternity.*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”  
Philippians 4:6*

God created the physical family unit as a way to have community, support, accountability, and encouragement. In His kindness, He also provides for us a spiritual family through the body of believers worldwide and within the local church. As a family, we walk through the joys and struggles of life together. Because we are family, we support each other, pray with one another, and celebrate together. Whether it's your physical family or spiritual family, when one member of your family is walking through difficulty, the entire family experiences the pain and is stirred to help carry the burden.

Every family goes through times of need. A pastor's family is no different! Praise be to God who sent His son Jesus to meet our spiritual need of overcoming our debt to sin and reconciled us back to our Heavenly Father. By access to God through Jesus we now have the benefit and honor of going straight to the Father in prayer. Praise be to God who puts us in spiritual families too so that we can encourage, pray for, and offer support when others need it. As you follow this prayer guide, may you consider how you might not only pray for any needs that arise but how you may help meet those needs.

-Anna Brown-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for the Wright family as family needs arise regarding school, community, and transition to a new city and church.*

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a difficult time."  
Proverbs 17:17 (CSB)*

School is in full swing now and in the midst of students finding their way to new classrooms and new subjects, they are also finding their way through relationships. Everyone needs friends!

Think back for a moment to your school days. For some that seems like an eternity ago and for others that was just last week. There are a variety of friends that come to mind but who was "that" friend...you know the one that had your back; the one who seemed to know just when to call or come by; the one who may even have set you straight a few times!

Everyone needs friends, but everyone needs those friends that are the "gifts" from God. Regardless of how old or young, consider reaching out to a school friend and be that kind of friend today.

-Tim Wheat-

## Prayer

---

*Thank God for the friends that He has sent your way! Pray for Pastor George and Megan and the Wright children (McKenna, Brody, Anna-Beth, Everett) as they begin new schools, to find Godly classmates, build new friendships, and emotionally navigate through all their relationships.*



*“Do everything in love.” I Corinthians 16:14*

Connecting with others is at the core of our objective and mission as followers of Christ. Going outside the walls of our church to spread the good news of our faith is a key factor in that behavior. Likewise, taking the time to understand those with whom we may be connecting, their needs and realities, is paramount to providing the right message and specifics for their situation.

While our goal is, ultimately, to share our faith and advance His kingdom, this is most often reflected in the example we set and the way we deal with everyday challenges as we live and labor in our community. Patience with an overwhelmed salesclerk, a kind gesture to a struggling business owner, words of encouragement to a first responder, and a hot meal to those with limited means are often the first step to letting others see the love, mercy and grace that is at the heart of Christ’s message. Just as important—it is the right thing to do. Fortunately, our church has been blessed with the resources to assist our community with the challenges that often emerge, and with the willing spirit of our members to respond to these critical and often unexpected situations. Allowing “love” to fuel that fire should always be our goal.

-Buddy Seay-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for our new pastor, asking for clarity and direction as we continue as a body of Christ to find opportunities and respond as would be pleasing to Him. Similarly, pray for our pastor as he inspires us to “live in the presence of Christ’s love” every day and display that to all in our daily walk.*

*“Share with the Lord’s people in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

Do you remember what it feels like to walk into a new church as a visitor? Or to return to church after a time away? The expectation of people welcoming you or the fear that they won’t. We all want to belong. And we especially want to feel like we belong in our church, the reflection of the body of Christ.

But we know, sometimes from painful experiences, that the church is still a hospital for the sick. As much as we would love for Christians to never hurt one another or say the wrong thing, we know this is not true. We are still a congregation of the broken, seeking to look more like Christ.

So even when you are unsure if you belong, please do not give up on your church. The church needs you. We need your story and your struggle, your unique gifts and talents, to show us who Jesus is to you. You are welcome here.

And we welcome the Wright family here. For a minute, we can try and put ourselves in the shoes of our new pastor and his family. We can look at the sacrifice they are each individually making to be a part of this body. The relationships that they are leaving behind and the comfort of being known. We, as a church, trust God’s plan for Shades and for the Wright family. And we strive to offer all who walk through our doors the same radical hospitality we have found in Christ.

-Anna Foyt-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for the Wright family to develop a strong foundation of support within the church. For their family to build quick and meaningful bonds with members.*

*"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement." 1 Corinthians 1:10*

Paul was addressing the early church in Corinth which had several problems, one of which was division within the church. Three prominent teachers made a positive impact on the congregation. Paul, Apollos, and Cephas (Peter) each provided great leadership and instruction. However, the people began to take sides on which leader was the best and which one was worth following. The situation turned into a rivalry between the disciples of each teacher. Each side dug their heels in the ground so to speak and refused to appreciate and grow from the teachings of the other leaders. Paul responded in his letter to the Corinthians that the church was to be centered around Jesus not a specific pastor or leader.

Even today we can be tempted to subscribe to only one person's teaching and discredit other perspectives. This creates unnecessary conflict and division within the church. It is fine to have different preferences or giftings. In fact, scripture speaks to the beauty of the diversity in the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Paul describes how the many parts of the church work together for the good of the whole. We should be reminded to not let differences get in our way of seeing how Jesus is working in other people's lives. Jesus is the one who unifies our differences.

-Jamieson Matthews-

## Prayer

---

*Pray that we can celebrate the diversity in the body of Christ while still being unified under the authority of Jesus as Lord. Pray that Shades will be unified around the new leadership of Pastor George who is encouraging us to follow Jesus.*

*“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love.” 1 John 4:18*

During the Fall of 2020 my Shades College Sunday school class went over the book of Exodus. Throughout the book it detailed the Israelites' escape of Egyptian slavery and their subsequent travels throughout the desert. During their time of wandering all around the wilderness I couldn't help but cringe at many of the Israelites actions. One day they are worshiping God and giving thanks for his provision, the next day they are erecting a statue of a golden bull to worship. I quickly came to realize that it's so exhausting to love humans.

Thankfully our God is a loving father who loves us and washes us clean of our sin; but that could not have been easy to love the Israelites during that time. When we take a step back I think we can all see ourselves in the Israelites. We're super hard to love. The game changer though is that God's love for us is beyond our comprehension; our goal should be to share that perfect love God poured out for us on the cross. How can we do that? By loving and befriending our current neighbors and welcoming new ones with open arms. That also includes our new pastor, George Wright, and his family!

Let us be the hands and feet of Christ and overwhelm the Wright family with love and acceptance. Let's use this season of transition and newness to love one another during this time. Maybe text a friend you haven't seen come to church in a while, tell them about the exciting changes that are coming to Shades!

-Garrett Franks-

## Prayer

---

*Let us pray for love amongst our congregation and toward our new Pastor and his family.*

*“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”  
I Corinthians 16:13*

If we were to take a poll, I think the overwhelming opinion would be that people do not like change. We like what we like and we want what we are used to! Recently, I was praying about the potential upcoming changes with the arrival of a new pastor.

I prayed that we would not hold on to any sacred cows and would keep our hearts and minds open to the Lord's leading through Pastor George. But I followed that prayer with “But please don't let him take away such and such!” (Surely, singing Silent Night on Christmas Eve with candles CAN'T be a sacred cow!!)

Immediately, the Spirit spoke to my heart that my attitude needed some work. Just as the Israelites needed courage to step into the unknown territory that was the Promised Land, we need to be courageous as we move into this new season at Shades.

May we be a people who continue to trust the Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and have our hands open to both give and receive whatever He asks. May we be a people of courage!

-Charlotte Autrey-

## Prayer

---

*As we enter the days of new leadership, ask the Lord to work in your heart to make you strong and courageous, knowing the Lord is always with you!*

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”  
Romans 12:12 (ESV)*

Waiting is hard. It seems unnatural in our fast-paced society of two-day package deliveries, restaurant drive thrus, and theme park fast passes. We tend to desire instant gratification and can't stand having to wait for what we want.

We all know that patience is a virtue, but let's take a look at what Paul describes in Romans 12:12 as marks of a true Christian. He lists three attributes that we are to model in our lives. First, we are to rejoice in the hope we have as Christ followers. Our current hope is that we are redeemed in sight of the Father and our future hope is that we will be unified with Him in heaven one day. We have cause for celebration! Second, we are to be patient in tribulation. In other words, when things do not go the way we expect them or as soon as we expect them, we are to have faith and trust in God's timing and methods. Third, we are to be constant in prayer. He already knows our inner desires, but he wants us to humble ourselves and seek him in these moments. God wants a relationship with us in ways that prayer provides.

As we transition to a new pastor, the timing and development of circumstances may not be how we envision them, but be encouraged that God is sovereign through this whole process. Our command is to be patient and seek God in prayer.

-Jamieson Matthews-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for the church body to be patient with Pastor George as he becomes acclimated to Shades and begins to build his ministry serving the Lord through our church.*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

Ever played “what if”? What if I win Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes or what if I make that investment? It’s fun looking out ahead and thinking, what if! Looking back, we can sometimes have mixed emotions...what if I had stayed there, what if I had said no or yes to whatever, what if I had gone to a different college, etc. In that perspective, we sometimes wonder how life would be different.

I wonder if the Israelites ever looked back and asked, “what if we had said, ‘let’s go into the ‘Promised Land’?” Things would have been different. Instead, they held on to their fears, their preferences, and their desires. The result is that a generation of people missed the “Promised Land.”

May we be a people willing to surrender our fears, our preferences, and desires and trust God with our lives, our future, and our church. If you are holding on to something a little too tightly, would you surrender that over and trust God today?

-Tim Wheat-

## Prayer

---

***Thank God for His faithfulness and guidance! Pray for our church to be a people that fully trusts the Lord and lives a surrendered life to all that He desires to do in the days ahead.***



*“Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.” Deuteronomy 5:33*

One of my favorite ways we can glorify God in our lives is being obedient. Throughout the Bible there are multiple examples of people showing obedience to God, even amid uncertainty. A personal favorite of mine is Abraham’s obedience to sacrifice his son Isaac.

For context, Abraham and his wife Rebekah couldn’t have children. When Abraham and Rebekah were nearly one hundred years old God promised them a child; that child was Isaac. While Isaac was young, God told Abraham to take him and offer him as a burnt sacrifice. Right before Abraham was about to sacrifice his only child God sent an angel which gave him a ram to sacrifice.

Abraham showed obedience and faithfulness that, quite frankly, I would struggle to show. I’m sure that whole walk up the mountain Abraham was so confused and scared about the uncertainty of what he was going to do. I feel many of us have this same feeling with Pastor Danny leaving.

Uncertainty and change is scary but I argue that’s when God can do the most in our lives. In this time of transition, let us seek God with humility and an obedient heart.

-Garrett Franks-

## Prayer

---

*Let us be obedient to God in all that he commands of us. Pray that we would show humility in obedience during this time of change.*

*“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”*

*Jeremiah 29:12-13*

It is important for God's people to know God. Solomon's father David knew God. David was “a man after God's own heart.” Solomon was profoundly impacted by the life and legacy of his father. That's why Solomon sought wisdom rather than riches. As God's people we should also choose the wisdom of God rather than the foolishness of selfishness. We should place our trust and faith in God. Let us not just speak the words. Let us live the life! Let us choose the wisdom that will lead us to focus directly on the heart of God. It's important for us to ask the Lord for knowledge that He will not withhold from us.

In Bible Study Fellowship, there is a review at the end of each lesson that includes A.S.K.—“Ask...Seek...Knock.” As we pursue the heart of God, we should ask Him to give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. The result is continued spiritual growth.

Today Pastor George will preach his first sermon as our pastor! Let us fervently pray for God to anoint him and the teaching of His word to give us knowledge, wisdom and understanding, for our growth as a people and as a church. As we pray with this heart of God in mind, for His wisdom, we can surely anticipate life change, transformation, and growth.

-Victor Brown-

## Prayer

---

*Pray for Pastor George and our congregation to grow in wisdom that will lead to knowledge and understanding.*



Written and produced by: Shades Mountain Baptist Church  
2017 Columbiana Road, Birmingham, AL 35216  
©2021