

Praying for our Church

(If you would like to find all the prayer guides for the summer, or more ideas for praying you do so at www.victorbaptist.org/Prayer.html)

Pray that we realize that our inheritance and hope as a church family is in God's incomparable and incredible great power which is available to us ("¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength," - Eph. 1:18-19; Phil. 3:10; Gal. 1:12).

Pray that our Church, Leadership and Pastoral Staff becomes more surrendered and poured out to Christ, so they can have spiritual breakthroughs by seeking the fear of God and the mind of Christ and the Spirit's leading ("⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings" – Phil 3:8-10; 1 Cor. 2:16; Gal. 2:20-21).

Pray that your Church and Pastor have and continue to take hold a growing, consistent walk with Christ with a devotional life and prayer that is steadfast. Pray that they realize and allow Christ to work and use them as they grow closer in their faith, spiritual formation, maturity and love ("⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love." - 2 Pet. 1:5-7; Psalm 16:8-11; 73:28; Rom. 8:31).

Pray that all of the leadership exhibit good Christian character and integrity with all of their relationships and dealings in life ("He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8).

Pray for discernment in exposing any plans of the enemy against our Church or attacking our pastors and staff. Ask Christ to protect us as we wage spiritual warfare against the enemy on behalf of our Church ("For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." - Eph. 6:11-12, 16; Col. 2:6-8; 1 Pet. 3:12).

Pray for the willingness and ability to authentically confess and repent of any wrong doing, false dependencies, misplaced ideas and loss of spiritual passion (“*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*” – Prov. 28:13; Luke 13:1-3; Acts 2:38-39; Rev. 2:5-6).

Pray that you and your church commits to follow the biblical mandate to support and encourage the leadership of the church (“¹¹ *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*” - Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Pet. 5:1-2).

Pray against gossip, negative criticism, false expectations, unhealthy burdens, strife and weariness that will seek to invade our church family (“³¹ *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*” - Eph. 4: 17, 32-5:1; Psalm 91:5-6, 11; Luke 10:19).

Pray that your church be a community of grace and forgiveness. That your church has an atmosphere of encouragement by being grateful for Christ's work in them that enables the congregation to be inspired to give genuine hospitality to all who comes through your doors (“⁵ *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” - Rom. 15:4-6; 2 Thess. 2:16-17).

Pray that your church commits to a healthy understanding, wisdom and accounting and handling of its stewardship and Finances to better receive God's blessings (“⁹ *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*” - Prov. 3:9-10; 1 Cor. 9:15-18).

Pray that your Church and Pastor will have the strength and endurance that they need to serve with excellence by the power of the Spirit and the support of the congregation (“¹⁹ *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*” – Eph. 6:19-20; Phil. 4:13).

Pray for healing, forgiveness and reconciliation for any misplaced expectations, criticism, ungrateful attitudes, flawed thinking, grief, hurts, and abuse (“¹² *Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive*

whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." – Col. 3:12-14; Isa. 61:3; Mark 11:22-24, 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 4:32-5:1; Phil. 4:19).

Pray that your church would receive God's direction and vision. That the congregation gets nourished from the substance of His Word and the needs of the congregation are met ("⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹² Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees." - Psalm 119:9-12; Matt. 18:20).

Pray that our church becomes real authentic disciples of Christ who are learning, growing and making Fruit and in turn making more disciples ("¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matt. 28:18-20; Prov. 19:23; Mal. 3:11; John. 15:16; Gal. 5:22-23)

Pray that our church commits to place our focus on the Supremacy of Christ and be dependent upon Him ("¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church;" - Col. 1: 15-17; Gal. 6:14)

Pray that God protects our Church, Leadership and Pastoral Staff from sin and misdirection and they have the wiliness and boldness to flee and confront sin ("The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble." - Prov. 19:23; 1 Pet. 1:16).

Pray that our church community commits to pray for our church, pastors, staff, missionaries, those in need, community and issues powerfully every day ("² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." - Col. 4:2-4; Acts 1:14; 16:16; 1 Thess. 5:17).