



# 6:33

Seek first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things  
will be added to you.

MATTHEW 6:33



**BUILDING  
A GREATER**



**GRACE**



Matthew 6:33 states, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” The purpose of the **6:33 Prayer Initiative** is to encourage individual and corporate prayer. We hope to have our entire congregation praying at similar times each day.

James 5:16b tells us, “the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” As a Church Body, let’s plan to take a few moments to pray @ 6:33 AM & 6:33 PM each day for the month of March, praying for God’s work in our hearts and lives as we anticipate great and mighty things from Him.

In this prayer guide you will find devotionals and prayer challenges designed around the Four Pillars (or Goals) of Grace Baptist Church: **Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Evangelism**. Each Pillar has a devotional for the beginning of the week, followed by daily Scripture passages and a challenge for prayer.

We trust this guide and time of prayer is a help and encouragement to all as we commit to pray together.

# Worship

God created us to worship; that's why we are natural born worshipers. As someone has said, "The problem is that a lot of us have really bad gods." That's a problem because God created us to worship Him -- nothing and no one else. Our knack for worshiping things other than God is due to the other things we place value on. It's no surprise then that we give attention to what we value. Whatever has supreme worth in our lives is what we worship. We don't have to think about it, we just do it. If we were to take a slice from our lives and let someone examine it, they just might be able to tell what we value, and ultimately worship.

David Matson wrote, "So many times God's people do not worship in a manner that recognizes God as He has revealed Himself to be in His Word." We sometimes worship in a manner that we like and which suits us, and then try to make our theology support what we do. Our manner of worship should not contradict the character of God, the content of His Word, or the proper response to either.

Several years ago I was challenged by two questions that gave clarity to my worship of God. The first question was, "Is Jesus on your priority list?" As a believer, I was able to respond confidently in the affirmative. The second question was the clincher. "Where is He on your priority list?"

Because of how God made us, we are natural born worshipers. Where God is on our priority list determines how well we do it.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1).

(Shared by Steve Faulkner)

Monday

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## Reverence (Psalm 33:1-9)

Defined as “a deep respect for God”, sometimes referred to as a “fear of the Lord”. After reading the passage above, pray and ask God for a heart that seeks to worship Him with great passion and a deep respect for His majesty and holiness.

Tuesday

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## Submission (Romans 12:1-2; James 4:6b-8)

Today, as you come before God with a humble and pure heart, pray that He would lead and guide you in your work, relationships & conversations that they may be pleasing to Him.

Wednesday

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## Adoration (Psalm 95:1-7)

Take some time to think through the attributes of God (majesty, holiness, mercy, love, etc.), praising Him for Who He IS and not just for what He has done.

Thursday

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## Thanksgiving/Gratitude (Ps. 100:1-5; Col. 3:16-17)

As believers, we should be living our lives from a constant heart of gratitude. Pray words of thankfulness for ways God has shown Himself faithful to you in recent days.

Friday

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## Confession (Ps. 51:1-19; 1 John 1:9)

Read David’s prayer of confession in this Psalm. Pray and repent of unconfessed sin, knowing that God forgives us, cleanses us and restores us with the joy of salvation that we have received through Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Saturday

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## Obedience (John 14:15-17; Acts 5:27-32; James 1:22-25)

The Bible tells us that “we must follow God rather than men.” Following God and His commands show our love and trust in Him. Pray that God would give you the strength and power to resist sin and obey Him fully.

# Discipleship

## PRAYER: DISCIPLINE OF DEVOTED DISCIPLES

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Lk. 11:1)

In another passage, Jesus would later tell the disciples, or at least the 12, “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” (Jn. 13:15), and in another, just hours later, Jesus prayed, not only for them, but for all of us who have followed, would follow, in faith since then (Jn. 17:6-19, 20-26). The point? In Luke 11 and John 17, Jesus is the living example of prayer, of what disciples should do, and His disciples...those who would follow Him, those who would do as He had done...ask Him to teach them to pray (Lk. 11:1).

Again, in one of His darkest hours, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, and encouraged His disciples to pray, lest they fall into temptation. Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Lk. 22:40); “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.” (Lk. 22:46).

What is a disciple? A disciple is one who follows, observes, learns, adopts, imitates, and exemplifies the character and conduct of one’s teacher! And what is prayer? Primarily, prayer is coming to God on His terms to ask God what He says one needs; i.e. as stated in Scripture.

The oneness of John 17 is a oneness of “character”, and Jesus’ prayer was that all His disciples have godly character...in Luke 22 that they not fall into temptation, not compromise godly character...back in Luke 11:13 that they ask, seek, and knock...to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, expressing His fruit, His character (Eph. 5:18b; Gal. 5:22).

And the outcome? Joy! “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (Jn. 16:24). Ask in His name, His character...and...joy!

So pray, disciple, pray with dependency-desperate dependency, for discernment, to willingly, wisely sacrifice when needed, to imitate/exemplify the Savior...and a promise of joy awaits. And pray...the greatest need...to love, love God and neighbor! (Matt. 22:35-40).

(Shared by Greg Stephens)

## Monday

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### **Dependence** (Prov. 3:5-6; John 15:4-5)

Ask the Lord to help you trust in His character and power and not to rely on your own strength.

## Tuesday

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### **Discernment** (Prov. 2:1-15; James 1:5-8)

Someone has said, "Don't let the world pour you into its mold." As you read God's Word, pray that He would reveal to you daily what is right, good and acceptable in His sight and that you would be obedient to His Word.

## Wednesday

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### **Sacrifice** (Matt. 16:24-25; Gal. 2:20-21; Phil. 3:7-11)

Sacrificing something is not always easy, but the concept of sacrificing one's life for Christ is a central theme of Christian discipleship. Pray now that God would give you a heart of surrender as you seek His plan and purpose for you today.

## Thursday

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### **Imitation** (1 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:21)

Take a moment to think of areas such as your character, your words & your actions that can best imitate Christ. Pray you would have Gospel opportunities to share your faith today.

## Friday

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### **Joy** (Ps. 16:7-11; Phil. 4:4-7; Rom. 15:13)

Dwelling in God's presence brings such joy to the believer. Meditate on these passages and rejoice in God's greatness and goodness in your life.

## Saturday

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### **Love** (John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-13)

Loving God is the greatest commandment and loving others is proof of our love for God. Pray for a special friend that might need a word of encouragement. Seek ways to serve them and show your love to them in the coming days.

# Friendship, Fellowship, & Hebrews 10:24-25

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to “consider how to stimulate one another unto love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the habit of some is, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (NASB)

An often overlooked point in this passage is that Christians are to assemble together of their own accord. Not because of a mandate, but because they want to and have a God-ordained purpose: to encourage one another unto love and good works.

Sunday mornings at Grace, members are given the opportunity to attend three services: the worship service, Sunday School or electives, and the Hebrews 10:24-25 service. While some may think of that being “the coffee and doughnuts hour,” it actually may be the most important service of the three. For it is there that friendships are developed, fellowship is deepened, and members have the opportunity to bind together for the strengthening of the church, both the local congregation and the church universal.

You may be asking “What is the difference between friendship and fellowship?” A simple definition is that “Friendship says, ‘I like you,’ while Fellowship says, ‘I am committed to walk with you toward something greater than both of us.’” Friendship adds warmth to fellowship, and fellowship adds depth and durability to friendship. The New Testament illustrates this both in the interactions between Jesus and His disciples, and later among believers after His ascension into heaven.

Friendship is what sometimes happens in work situations, where fellow workers are friendly toward one-another, but that friendship ends when work is over – both at the end of the day and at retirement. Fellowship is more like a family reunion where members eagerly look forward to that reunion, and tears are shed when they depart.

Fellowship comes from the Greek word *koinonia*, which means “sharing, participation, partnership, or communion.” It is a committed sharing of life, faith, resources, and purpose among people united by a common allegiance – to Christ, to fellow believers, and for the benefit of many. Its goal is to transform a group of individuals (our congregation) into a unified force for good, focused on encouraging and caring for one-another, joint efforts in sharing the gospel with the lost (including through the Academy and the Hispanic Ministry), and demonstrating what Christianity in action is.

If you have been looking at the 10:45 AM hour as “coffee and doughnuts” only, we encourage you to see it for what it really is, the “Hebrews 10:24-25 Service.” It will deepen your faith and vitality as a believer!

‘How sweet, how heavenly is the sight, when those who love the Lord,  
in one another’s tears delight, and thus fulfill the word.

Love is the golden chain that binds the happy souls above;  
and he’s an heir of heaven who finds his bosom glow with love.’

Joseph Swain

(Shared by Carman Wolf)

## Monday

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### **Unity/Communion** (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-31)

Scripture tells us that the Body of Christ is comprised of many and diverse parts. Let's pray together for unity as we continue to serve with one another in the various ministries of GBC.

## Tuesday

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### **Encouragement** (Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Thess. 5:14-16)

Pray for ways that you can encourage someone today. Speak words of kindness or let your actions express your love to them.

## Wednesday

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### **Care/Generosity** (Ps. 112:5-7; Luke 6:37-38)

"God loves a cheerful giver." Pray for a heart that is generous in giving, loving and serving.

## Thursday

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### **Accountability** (Prov. 27:17; Gal. 6:1-5; Col. 3:12-17)

Fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ involves encouraging and keeping one another accountable in their devotion to Christ. Pray that God would use someone to keep you 'sharp' and accountable in your relationship with Him.

## Friday

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### **Hospitality** (Heb. 13:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:7-11)

When you show hospitality to one another it reveals your heart to serve Christ. Ask God for ways you can bless those in your church and community.

## Saturday

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### **Intercession** (1 Tim. 2:1-6; 1 John 2:1-3)

Praying for one another is vital in the area of Fellowship. What are some areas that you can lift up other believers by praying for them? Pray now!

# Evangelism

Evangelism is communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

Do you remember when you first accepted Christ as your Savior? For the first time in your life, you knew your sins had been forgiven and you were in a right standing with our Lord. The emotion, the joy, the freedom! Immediately, our Lord began to put people on your heart and you wanted them to know that freedom you now felt and for them to go to Heaven with you! With the passing of time and the course of daily life, we seem to lose that same urgency to share and tell others the good news of Jesus Christ! How long has it been since you prayed and wept over someone who was lost?

“He that winneth souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30b) This passage reminds us to love, care and share. Remember our Lord’s promise in Psalm 126:6... “He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” When we ask our Lord to put a burden on our heart for the lost and faithfully witness for HIM, we will come again rejoicing.

We are to be a Spirit-filled witness. “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.” (John 15: 26-27) Our Lord also promises to give you the words to say, at the moment you need them.

You do not have to know the answer to every question or know your entire Bible, you just need to be willing to be used by our Lord, speak up and share how you were saved and what our Lord has done for you. Love people enough to care and share the only answer to forgiveness of sins and an eternal life with God in Heaven!

(Shared by Bill Fortner)

## Monday

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### **Compassion** (Ps. 145:8-9; Lam. 3:22-23; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12)

We've all experienced the compassion and kindness of God. In turn, we should seek to spread the Good News with the same spirit. Pray for one another for opportunities to show these attributes today.

## Tuesday

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### **Clarity** (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:14-16; James 1:5-8)

God's Word is powerful! Pray that the Holy Spirit would go before you as you share the Gospel with the lost and that your words would be clear and understandable.

## Wednesday

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### **Courage** (Ps. 62:5-8; Acts 2:42-47)

Being bold and courageous is not always easy when we share our faith. Pray for God's power and boldness in your witness as you interact with people today.

## Thursday

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### **Conviction** (Heb. 4:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:8-9)

We have a good and patient God who is "not wishing that any should perish." Pray that God would open the eyes of the lost and use you to share the wonderful news of salvation.

## Friday

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### **Connection** (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8)

Pray for Grace Baptist here in our community and for missionaries around the world that we would make connections with the lost and lead them to Christ.

## Saturday

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### **Consistency** (Josh 1:8-9; Acts 4:1-4; Eph. 6:10-20)

Perseverance in every area of our Christian walk is important. Pray for consistency in reflecting Christ in your home, workplace and community.

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## **OUR MISSION**

Glorifying God by delighting in and declaring  
the person and work of Jesus Christ

## **OUR VISION**

Christ-like believers growing in grace  
and displaying the Gospel

## **OUR GOALS**

### **Worship:**

Exalting God because of the Lord Jesus Christ

### **Discipleship:**

Edifying and Equipping those who are believers in Christ

### **Fellowship:**

Enriching one another to serve Christ

### **Evangelism:**

Endeavoring to reach those who still need Christ