



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

Aug 22, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Things for Which We Must Pray

It's a simple enough title and concept, but for each season and busy opportunity in our lives, there ought to be a reminder, "*this is something for which I MUST pray*" (**Ps. 55:7; Zech. 8:21; 1 Thess. 5:17**). Here are some things God's people need to be lifting up and praying about NOW:

Pray for our country (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Our nation is in rapid decline. As a whole, our rulers, leaders, and educators are invested in calling evil good and good evil (**Isaiah 5:20**). They are interested in dividing us. Though our nation may never turn to God as the answer (more and more, He and His absolute will are the enemy), what will preserve this nation far more will be the intercessory prayer of the righteous people of God (that's you and me!). We need to be praying for our rulers and, as much as faithful Christians can, be subjecting ourselves to our authorities (**Titus 3:1-8**). We MUST pray for our country!

Pray for our congregation and our outward influence (Colossians 4:2-6). Have you been praying for our Vacation Bible School? Have you been praying for our evangelism efforts? Have you been praying for open doors for our neighbors and friends to come learn about Jesus here? Have you put feet to your faith in asking for God for these things and then asking your neighbors for these things? We MUST pray about our influence.

Pray for our congregation and our inward strength (Phil. 1:9). Pray for our growth in spirituality and maturity as men and women who serve our King. Pray for our elders to have wisdom and godly judgment to help make the best decisions for the church here. Pray for our families to make the choices that glorify God consistently. Again, put feet to your faith and do something that contributes to the strength of the church here. Help with VBS, encourage an elder, volunteer to teach. Have a family devotional. Remember, faith (in God) without works (that are in obedience to His will) is dead. We MUST pray about our inward strength.

With just these three things, we have more than enough to take before the throne of God and beg His help and providence in our country and in our congregation. Shall we pray?

Andy Baker
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What Can I Do?

“I do not feel as close to the Lord as I once did. I know that I do not study and pray as I once did. I want to be close to God again. What can I do?” We have all felt this way! We have awakened to find ourselves adrift from God. We become concerned and begin searching. *“What can I do to be close to the Lord again? What has caused me to drift? If I can find out why I have drifted away, maybe I can reverse the process and more easily find my way back to God. What can I do?”*

When a brother or sister has shared this concern with me, I have noticed that it was almost always accompanied with this admission: *“I know that I do not study and pray the way I once did.”* Are we overlooking the obvious? I know that when I neglect Bible study and prayer I begin to slip spiritually. Is not the same true of your life?

The key to communion is communication! If I would be nearer to God, I must let Him talk to me and I must talk to Him. He talks to me through His Word. I talk to Him through prayer. The shortfall of personal study and prayer is not only an indication of drifting away from God, but a cause! We need to reverse the process, we can draw closer to God by being more consistent and intense in our personal devotional lives.

Our faith is strengthened by the study of God’s Word (**Romans 10:17**). God’s Word is able to build us up (**Acts 20:32**). The Word of God, stored in our hearts, can keep us from sin (Psalm 119:11). Bottom line: We need to study God’s Word every day! Every day! We need to be like the noble Bereans *“who received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily”* (**Acts 17:11**).

How important is prayer to our daily walk with God? The Master taught that *“men always ought to pray and not lose heart”* (**Luke 18:1**). He further admonished, *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is Weak”* (**Matthew 26:41**). Our teachers have often reminded us that *“our Savior was a praying Savior.”* Praying Master – praying disciple! Like Him, every aspect of our lives should be (must be) bathed in prayer. Prayer is inviting God into our lives! *“Pray Without ceasing”* (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**). Don’t go it alone! Go to God! *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”* (**James 5:16**).

“What can I do? How can I get closer to God?” Do not overlook the obvious! The key to relationship is relating! I must study and pray, pray and study! Upon this foundation I can add a double portion to my devotional life! How? By worshipping God regularly, being involved in His work, and serving Him with gladness! This we can do!

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