

Preparing to pray

Throughout the ages people have approached God in many different ways (Acts 17:23). As Christ followers we approach God our Father through Jesus Christ His Son, and God's Word in Matthew 6 gives guidance and instruction. Prayer is about spending time with our Father, trusting Him, and acknowledging His greatness and our need of Him; focusing our thoughts and glorifying our Father as we pray before going through specific, targeted prayer requests.

CONFESSION

Means admit – and agree with God about the sin in our lives; admitting it, confessing it, and turning away from any and all things that dishonor and displease God.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7 ESV)

ADORATION

Means worship – recognizing and acknowledging God for who He is.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! (Psalm 99:5 ESV)

THANKSGIVING

Means thankful – spending time with God and thanking Him for the forgiveness of sins, and the blessing of being His child, and the privilege of serving Him; thanking Him and naming the blessings one by one.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV)

SUPPLICATION

Means request – making requests to God on behalf of others, praying for God's will in the lives of family, extended family and friends, people in your sphere of influence: school, workplace and neighborhood, as well as people around the world.

Then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause. (1 Kings 8:49 ESV)

1. Pray for upcoming February Starting Points

In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple. In the Lord. (Ephesian 2:21 ESV)

- Arden, East, Español, Franklin, Hendersonville, and West

2. Pray for Pastor Bruce as he begins the new preaching series “Reset the Table”

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28 ESV)

- Pray that God's people will allow their families to be radically changed for the kingdom.
- Boldness and clarity as he preaches and proclaims the truth of God's Word.
- Wisdom, strength, and protection for Pastor Bruce and his family.

3. Pray for the REACH Initiative

Thank me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (Psalm 143:10 ESV)

- Thanking God for answered prayer with our permanent facilities.
- Provision, consistency and accountability with pledges made for the facilities.
- Weather and safety during construction at the Franklin and the East facilities.
- That by the power of the Holy Spirit even more lives will be changed at every Biltmore Church location as we share Christ's love with the lost.

4. Pray for our mission and ministry opportunities

If anyone serve me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will be my servant also. If anyone serve me, the Father will honor him. (John 12:26 ESV)

- Biltmore Church en Español as they minister in their communities
- Prison Ministry and Vertical
- Wednesday activities kick-off January 16

5. Pray for Ecuador/Compassion; South Asia and Church Plants

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

- Ecuador, and the three church plants in the cities of Tena, El Coca, and Archidona - Child Development Centers and continued CI child sponsorships.
- South Asia, as we continue to identify and develop leaders and seek to plant 50 plus churches over the next several years.
- Brooklyn and London church plants.

6. Pray for Connect Groups

But the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 12:24 ESV)

- Wisdom for those teaching and discipling.
- Fresh, strong desire of commitment to attend a group.
- Encouragement for those getting connected to grow in their faith and develop Biblical friendships.

7. Pray for our continuing Foster Care initiative

To you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless. (Psalm 10:14b ESV)

- Wisdom and discernment as the recruiting and training of families interested in the Foster Care Ministry continues to grow.
- For the children in Foster Care to know they are loved.

8. Pray for the Biltmore Church staff

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:17 ESV)

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PRAYER GUIDE

JANUARY 2019

THANKSGIVING FOR AND CLAIMING ANSWERED PRAYERS

Take the time to go back through the 8 major requests, articulating by faith, asking God to answer our prayers according to His divine will and purpose. Thank Him for hearing and answering our prayers, and for the continued blessings over Biltmore Church.

"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!" (Psalm 50:23 ESV)

