



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935**

Volume 12

Number 28

July 13, 2025

PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Of all of the blessings that God has given to us, prayer is one of the most used and misused of all of those blessings. With many, prayer is an act of desperation, a “court of last resort”. For them, prayer is where you go when you have nowhere to go.

Yet, if the depth of desperation were the only place from which prayer is applicable and expedient, prayer would still be a powerful force. Praying always, instantly, without ceasing is precious and it is the practical privilege of every Christian.

To be sure, when you read the sermon on the Mount, you come away impressed. There are responsibilities of far reaching consequence that are discussed. Jesus knew we would need help to meet those responsibilities. Therefore, twice he mentions prayer. In the first part, he teaches the simple direct approach. He contrasts it with the much speaking of the scribes.

In the latter part, Jesus emphasizes that prayer changes things. The great tragedy of our lives is that we are often confused about what prayer is. There are some folks who think of religion as something they can use. Some even believe prayer is a form of “white magic”. This in their mind enables man to use the forces of good for his benefit.

However, prayer is not magic. Prayer is within the laws of the universe. The spiritual laws are as certain as the physical. Physical and spiritual laws work together and are never in conflict. Prayer, you see, is supernatural but it is not anti-natural.

Do you remember Elijah’s prayer for rain in the long ago. Had the rain come from a clear sky, that is anti-natural. Yet, if you remember your Old Testament history, a cloud came up over the sea. The cloud moved over the land and the rain came. It was not “anti-natural”.

To be sure, prayer is never a substitute for effort. Prayer however is need finding a voice and embarrassment seeking relief. Prayer is a friend in search of a friend. Prayer is knocking on a barred door. Prayer is reaching out into the darkness. Prayer is speaking, or thinking, or feeling with the belief that there is somebody who heard and who cared and who will respond. Prayer is a means of contact with God. It is actually opening our lives to the purposes of God.

In all of our lives, there comes a time when we are at the end of our own resources. There comes a time when we have used our brains and training. We have used our skill and the die is cast. The events are in the hands of God and there we leave them.

One of the great needs of our day and time is that we recognize God in our lives and prayer does this as nothing else can. Prayer is reporting for duty, it is not, contrary to popular lore using God for our purposes. However, in order to recognize God we must see ourselves as we really are and we must recognize our needs.

We can be assured of the fact that God hears and answers prayer. Jesus said “Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened.” He then gives us an example of an earthly father and how he does what he thinks is best for his children. He next asks if we cannot expect God to do

(Continued On Page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



What Is Christianity?

For The Pantry. . .

July 13 – Canned Pasta

Offering – July 6, 2025 . . \$ 2,018.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Prayer Makes A Difference – continued from page 1

the same for His children.

Throughout the Bible there are dramatic examples of answer to prayer. There is the request for the sun and moon to stand still in Joshua 10:12-14; there is Elijah's prayer life recorded in I Kings and Jonah praying from the belly of the fish in Jonah chapter 2.

Yet, though God always hears and answers prayer, sometimes the answer is no. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that "this cup might pass from me" and yet, he still went to the cross to die for the sins of the world. Paul prayed three times for his thorn in the flesh to be removed. God did not remove the thorn in the flesh from Paul but He did give Paul the strength to bear his burden. God said "my grace is sufficient".

God hears our prayers, God answers our prayers, but God will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. We must always remember to live our lives within the will of God and remember what Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

tp

Let Your Better Self Appear

A famous sculptor once said that there is nothing to his art except cutting away the marble he doesn't want. That might sound easier than it really is but – that's actually the way it's done.

Why don't we practice that method in the art of living? Why can't we develop the skill of discarding the things we don't want in character?

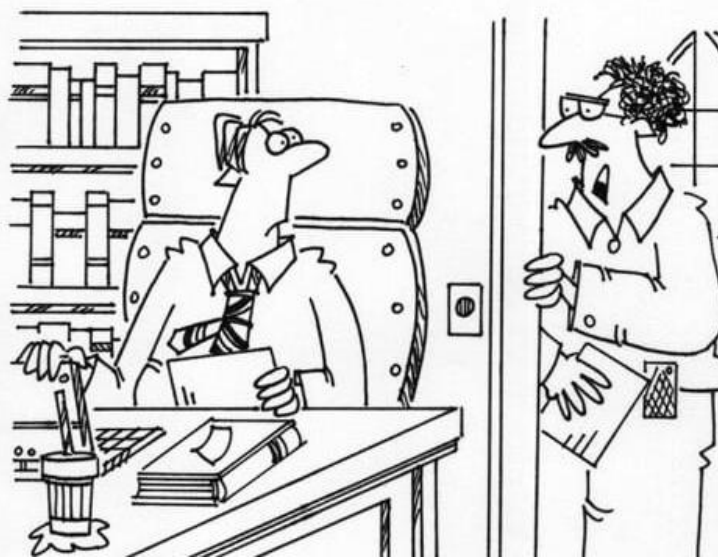
The skillful sculptor is not afraid that his marble when finished will not express his cherished idea. It's already there in the marble. His study and practice have taught him how to chip away the right pieces, the irregular and meaningless ones have no part in the symmetrical lines and beauty of his model.

We needn't doubt that underneath the sham and artificialities and selfishness that we often express, there really is the measure of the person we'd like to be. The daily round gives us plenty of chance to knock off little chips of discourtesy, unkindness, neglect as no part of our real selves.

In proportion as we knock off chunks of selfishness and impatience – the things we don't want (if we really don't), the form of a better self, in others as well as ourselves, will gradually appear.

-Just A Moment

On The Lighter Side. . .



"I need the audio recordings of sessions 3...7...9 and 13 of your sermon series on sporadic church attendance."



September 7, 2025

Put this date on your calendar, make your plans to be here and invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

* * * * *

Communion Preparation for July
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



We would like for you to plan to come and join us for our next Wednesday night fellowship meal on July 30th.

We would also like for everyone to join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 for our regular mid-week Bible Study. We hope you will come and be there.



Calvin Turner (Norma Perkins Uncle) is scheduled for heart by pass surgery in Tyler on July 14th.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Lane O'Brien (Mike and Jana's son) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

In a world such as ours, we are often appalled at man's inhumanity to man and the brokenness of life we see around us every day. We see broken homes, broken health, broken hearts and broken hopes. The Psalmist writes in Psalms 147:3 "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds".

Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus healing. He healed those who came to him blind and deaf. He healed the lame and he raised the dead. But we also see Jesus healing the brokenhearted. We see him healing those who were broken in spirit. There was an outcast woman at Jacob's well, a tax collector named Zacchaeus and an unnamed woman caught in adultery, just to name a few. You see, Jesus had a special place for those society had cast away. He did not choose the apostles from the cream of society. They were not highly educated and they were looked down on by society. Yet, Jesus chose them. He remade them. He used them to change the world.

No matter how broken our lives might be by sin, no life is too broken to be mended and used by Jesus. If we are suffering from the brokenness of life, we must submit our stubborn will to his will, obey his commands and live his kind of life. Then he will heal our broken hearts and bind up our wounds.

it's something to think about.....tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**