

## A Verse to Live by

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

### February Prayer Focus

This month, let us pray together for God to provide the funds we need to eliminate the deficit and meet the needs of our church. Pray that the ministries our church are involved in are in line with God's vision. And that funds are available to us when needed. Philipians 4:19 is a great verse to pray over our church, “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

### Life Application Challenge

I encourage each of you that are being blessed by the ministries of our church to ask Him what you should give as your offering. Let God reveal to you what he wants you to give in faith. God doesn't need your money; He cares more about your obedience and heart. But the maintaining of the building and current ministries cost money.

If we want these to continue we must contribute so there is no lack in God's house. Please share with each other personal testimonies of times God has blessed you after you have given your time, money or talents. These testimonies encourage us and help us remember God is faithful.

### Recommended Scripture Reading

#### 2 Corinthians 9

In this chapter we are encouraged to give generously but not reluctantly or under compulsion. If you give but then begrudge you did, that is an issue of the heart. Either you are giving for the wrong reasons or you are doing things God has not called you to do. God never calls us to give more than we are able to, or in a way that causes us harm. In this chapter we are reminded that the cheerful giver is blessed abundantly. There are countless testimonies of God blessing those who give cheerfully and generously.

# Church On Fire!

Eleventh Street Church of God | February 2020 Prayer Newsletter

As I prayed about what the focus of this month's prayer newsletter should be, the church budget and deficit kept coming to mind. The word deficit certainly conjures up feelings of uneasiness, and at times, even doubt. Yet we have an Almighty God who has promised to meet our needs: Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." And again we read in 2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." We also know that God reassures us in Matthew 6:33 that if we "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Jesus tells us a few verses before this, not to worry about our lives, what we will eat, drink and wear. He will provide for us.

What do we have to do to receive this blessing - the meeting of our needs? We read in Matthew we first must seek God and his righteousness, then all these things shall be added. Sure, there are times when we see some Christians going without necessities. And seeing that can cause us discouragement and doubt. There are a plethora of reasons Christians suffer that I cannot go into in this letter. But what does this verse mean for our church and us as individuals? I believe it means that God will give us everything we need to fulfill His will and be successful at that. Whatever education, food, health, financial means it takes to accomplish the ministries He wants us to do - He will be faithful to provide. But there is that condition we must be seeking His kingdom and His righteousness first - we must stay faithful to God's direction. His vision for our church must be the reason we start ministerial programs, but also the compass in how we run those programs.

So how do we seek His kingdom and His righteousness? The first foundational step to seeking His kingdom is to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). (If you have not taken this step and want to, please ask Pastor Randy, me, or someone in the church to pray with you.) We are made righteous through accepting Jesus as our Savior - we cannot make ourselves righteous (Rom. 5:1). But after this step we need to continue in a lifestyle of seeking His Kingdom and righteousness. Meaning we look inward to make sure we are keeping God first in our lives. We read in Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of

eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." So we need to live righteously, peacefully and joyfully in the Holy Spirit - only by His guidance can we do this.

We accomplish this by spending time in prayer each day. I find it best to do this at the start of my day, it is my spiritual "breakfast" to fuel my mind and spirit for what the day has in store. The important thing is to spend time praying for wisdom and guidance throughout each and every day. We are assured in Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." God does not ignore His children. He may not give us our answers right away, or the answer may be no, but He always answers prayer. But if we do not take the time to pray we miss out on opportunities to be blessed and hear from Him. We are told that "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16) Let's not put that power on the back burner!

We also need to spend time studying the Bible; that is our instruction manual on how to live righteously. Romans 1:17 tells us "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." We get to know God on a deeper level, as we spend time studying His Word because that is where we find out about who He is, His amazing love for us, and what righteous living looks like. In Matthew 5:6 we are assured that God will bless us if we seek His righteousness, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

God is a gracious God. He loves us and wants to meet our needs. His Word is full of promises to His children. When we call on God in our times of trouble, two very wonderful things happen: He delivers us, and we honor Him! Psalm 50:15 "and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." So let us start seeking God's direction, praying for His wisdom and living righteously through the power of His Spirit!

Watching God Work,

Carolyn Abel