

A Verse to Remember

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Galatians 5:25-26 (NIV)

January Prayer Focus

The week of January 18-25, Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship. Let us join in this worldwide prayer, adding a prayer for unity in our own church. As we move forward with the plans to relocate to the Faircrest property we need to pray for God's vision to be our guide and not our own ambitions. Please pray for our Board of Elders, that they are given wisdom as they seek to do God's will in not only the big goals but also in the day to day workings of our church.

Life Application Challenge

I challenge each of us this month to observe and listen to our church family. If you know someone is in need in some way reach out to them. If they are lonely invite them out to lunch or give them a call. If you notice someone is worn or tired, ask to pray with them or offer some help. If someone has a financial need and you can help in some small way, then do. We cannot do everything, but we all can do something. Becoming a church on fire will start in our hearts, and this often involves us getting out of our comfort zones and doing something for someone else.... Because love is an action.

Recommended Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4 & Romans 12

These two chapters remind us to live at peace with each other and to appreciate the talents each person brings to our church. We must never look down on a person's talents or make them feel as if their contributions are not significant or important.

Church On Fire!

Eleventh Street Church of God | January 2020 Prayer Newsletter

CHURCH ON FIRE!

What does a church on fire look like?

I think we all have an idea. It is an exciting church to be a part of. It is the kind of church that most hope to be or become, that pastors dream of leading and those seeking a new church hope to find. A church that seeks to glorify God and not themselves. Less worried about numbers and more concerned with loving “God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind,” and loving “your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:37 & 39) If we do that our church will grow; people are longing to be loved and accepted. How do I know this? Because I was one of them, and because of your unconditional love we stayed at this church. Originally we were only going to stay for a small period of time. But love does that, it spreads, it grows and it keeps people coming back for more.

In God’s Word fire represents Himself, His holy amazing power, His guidance, and His hatred of sin. Fire consumes, refines and it can destroy. In Hebrews 12:29 Paul refers to God as “a consuming fire”. Fire is associated with intensity and purifying. John the Baptist said about Jesus, “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matt. 3:11) While there are differing interpretations on this passage, fire in this context refers to a cleansing. A church on fire would be one led by the Most Holy God, continually growing and maturing in Christ, discipling each other and filled with a passion to reach the lost. So let us become that church, we already are in many ways. But there is always room for growing closer to Christ.

The purpose of a newsletter focused on prayer is to get each of us involved in praying for the needs and goals of our church. Each month you will receive this prayer newsletter along with the

church’s regular one. God loves it when His children call on Him in unity. Throughout the Bible we see communities, nations, and the early churches fasting and praying together. Praying together produces a closeness and bond God desires for His family. It gives us direction and a hope we can share together, as well as clarifying the goals in the ministries we offer. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. For if one falls down, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to help him up!” (Ecc. 4:10) We will become a healthier more vibrant congregation by praying together.

In each letter will be a prayer focus, recommended scripture reading, and a challenge for us to individually focus on for that month. I pray this letter unites us as one family, under the Almighty God, and leads us to love each other unconditionally.

I will close with a prayer poem inspired by the Holy Spirit during my prayer time.

***Lord let me be the church on fire,
Please hold me up when I tire,
Help me do Your heart’s desire,
As you lead me through this life’s mire,
To share your love and spark more fire.***

This is my prayer for each of us in this church. Let us be a church on fire for Jesus Christ! Let us be that church for this community!

Watching God Work,

Carolyn Abel