



First Baptist Church
NORTH AUGUSTA

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

Prayer and Fasting for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

A PRAYER GUIDE

**8 DAYS OF
CORPORATE
PRAYER ON
CAMPUS**

MARCH 13-20

6:30 - 8:00 am | Sanctuary

12:30 - 2:00 pm | Sanctuary*

**only on Weekdays*



THANK YOU

for joining our church family in 21 Days of Prayer!

Prayer and fasting are great tools the Lord gives us to achieve breakthrough in those stubborn areas of our lives.

Prayer is great and fasting is fantastic, but the discipline of using them can help us make life in a sinful world more bearable by connecting us to God and drawing on His power instead of our own.

“And when you pray, do not do like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”. Matthew 6:5-6

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:16-18

We challenge you to approach God about whether your heart is in the right place to practice prayer and fasting. And if God says yes, we challenge you to do it! You'll be amazed at what the Lord can accomplish in your heart and life if you choose to take this path.

HOW TO PRAY

MATTHEW 6:10-13

P

PRAISE

FOR WHO HE IS.

FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.

*Our father who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name.*

R

REPENT

OF SINS I HAVE COMMITTED.

OF COMMANDS I HAVE NEGLECTED.

*and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors*

A

ASK

FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

FOR MY NEEDS.

*Give us this day our daily bread.
And deliver us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

Y

YIELD

MY WILL TO GOD'S WILL

MY AGENDA TO GOD'S

AGENDA FOR ME.

*Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be
done on earth as it is in Heaven.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Renewal



"All of a Christian's life is one of repentance." - Martin Luther

There is no gospel, no heaven, and no Christianity without the call to repent. Repentance is not about your feelings or failures, and it's not so much about you. It's about God who loves you the most and calls you to follow Him. According to the Bible, true repentance is a transformation in thinking that leads to a change in action.

PRAY: I decree and declare I will not conform to the patterns of this world, but I will be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Then I will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

A term to describe the separation from normal use to be set apart and dedicated for Holy or sacred use. Is this a term you would use to describe yourself or your life, specifically since you were made aware and surrendered to Christ as Lord and Savior? Do you feel that your life has been crucified and Christ's life lives in its place? Have you intentionally devoted yourself daily to His Word and to be in a close relationship with Him? See the scripture below to explore further.

SCRIPTURE: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* Romans 12: 1-2

1 Timothy 4:5 also speaks to “consecrated by the Word of God and prayer.” More than what is spoken of as consecrated in these passages, isn't it interesting to focus on the how or by what and Whom?

PRAY: Lord, as you have honored me with faith and salvation, I ask for understanding of my place in you and the life you call me to live. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

JOURNAL:

Biblical fasting displays dedication, discipline, humility, and an effort to be obedient to our heavenly Father. It can be utilized as a weapon to disengage the enemy’s stronghold and strengthen the believers’ commitment and faith before God. Fasting has been shown throughout the Bible as an important way to communicate with God for protection, guidance, answered prayers, healings, bereavement, dedications, and holy victories, to name a few. It might be hard to believe that the humbleness and weakness that comes from fasting elevates, but it subdues the flesh while engaging your spirit and the Holy Spirit. Fasting is in union with purposeful prayer and dedicated Scripture reading/studying. Devote yourself to a time of prayer and fasting and begin to witness the mighty works of the Lord in your lives and others.

SCRIPTURE: *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23*

PRAY: Father God, I know that fasting and praying with a clean heart is imperative, so I confess my transgressions (speak out loud your transgressions) and thank You for Your Son’s holy blood that was shed and has covered me in your forgiveness and grace. I thank you for the strength of Your Spirit to enable me to fast and pray to You. Feed me with Your Spirit as I come boldly before Your throne with the denial of my flesh. As I dedicate this time to You, Your Word, and Your Spirit, I thank You in advance for answered prayers and allowing me to see the mighty works and signs that I will know are directly from You. In Jesus Christ’s name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

Recently I was on the beach observing a large youth group participating in a “tug of war” using a very long and large rope. The team that won had a leader who called time after time “pull,” “pull,” “pull.” They were focused on the mission of winning and following the leader.

Life is full of different parts and facets. It is very easy to get distracted. Christ has given us a two-fold command, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:37-39)

Loving God means we worship Him and faithfully serve Him by loving others as Christ loved us. Wow! Let us stay focused on the main thing, seeking to listen daily to our team leader, Christ, through the Word and the Holy Spirit’s guidance, pulling together to make an eternal difference in people’s lives.

SCRIPTURE: *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ... least you be disqualified.* (1 Cor. 9:24,26)

PRAY: Lord, Holy Sovereign, God, cleanse me of my sin so that I can be an obedient vessel to obey the Holy Spirit keeping the main thing the main thing, In Jesus name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

God is always doing a new thing in our lives, but we may not see or feel it. God gives us signs; we need to learn to discern these and prepare ourselves accordingly. Watch for signs that God sometimes uses:

- » Some doors close; others open
- » God gives you a repetitive message
- » You have a real desire for the new thing God is doing
- » God leads you in a new direction
- » God sifts your relationships

If you sense that God wants to do a new thing in your life, there are things you can do to prepare. First, and most important, pray about it and ask Him for a revelation and/or direction. Trust Him to give you wisdom. Also, dig into His Word. Ask God to bring clarity to your season through scripture. Remind yourself that God is always at work behind the scenes to bring things to pass in our lives. His timing is perfect, and His ways are higher than ours.

SCRIPTURE: *“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* Isaiah 43:19

PRAY: Father God, thank you for the things you are doing in my life, even when I do not see them. I know you are a God of renewal and redemption. Prepare me for what lies ahead as I continue to serve you faithfully.

JOURNAL:



Pursue
the Lord

If we are to take in what the Bible tells us, we must read the Word and meditate on it. Don't just read the Word, but absorb what God tells us.

SCRIPTURE: *"Then he said anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."* Mark 4:9; *My child, listen to me and do as I say. I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths. When you walk, you won't be held back. When you run, you won't stumble.* Proverbs 4:10-12

PRAY: God grant us guidance and understanding of your Word. We pray that you will open our minds and hearts to understand what you are teaching us and how we are to honor you from your Word and teachings.

JOURNAL:

Maybe I should say, 'listening prayer.' Listening prayer trains us to be hopeful and trusting rather than pessimistic and suspicious. When you go before the Lord in prayer, first we ask Him what's on His heart--what would He have you pray about? Listening prayer works well also as a follow-up to reading the Bible. Read it slowly. What stood out? What do we need to know from the passage about God's heart?

SCRIPTURE: *"Blessed is the man who listens to Me, watching daily at My doors, waiting at My doorway."* Proverbs 8:34

PRAY: I decree and declare I will not conform to the patterns of this world, but I will be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Then I will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

To obey needs no elaborate word study or detailed explanation. We all know what it means to obey our parents, the speed limit, or our conscience. The question is, as disciples of Jesus, what have we been called to obey? What are the implications if we choose not to obey? Does the importance of who He is and what He has done for you enable you to joyfully obey Him, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose?

SCRIPTURE: *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* John 14:15; *“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”* John 14:12-14

PRAY: Lord, I love You and believe in You. I ask that You lead me into an even deeper understanding of both. Place within me an insatiable thirst for Your Word and Your peace and joy that comes as a result. Search me and bring to my awareness where I am disobedient. Strengthen my resolve to confess, turn in repentance, and forgive me. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen.

JOURNAL:

God chose us before we were born for salvation, and that gift should keep us mindful to continue to seek His presence and direction in all matters of life. When we humble ourselves before the Lord by daily praise, prayer, confession, thanksgiving, and worship, and remember that His way and will is always that we look more and more like Jesus, we'll be able to act on His direction for our lives. His will always guides us towards discipleship to Jesus and away from being a follower of society's objectives.

God's path is always straight as well as upward: eyes up upon Him, hands up in worship, hearts wide open, and 'ears that can hear' perked for His Spirit's whisper rising. The course is; victory by prayer in a battle, love in the middle of chaos, worship in the storm, and praising through the pain.

SCRIPTURE: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* Proverbs 3:5-6

PRAY: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for going before me "in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show me by what way I should go." Deut 1:33. I count on Your Spirit to guide me. Thank You for the supernatural protection, guidance, and power You have given me, and the knowledge that if I'm choosing Your righteousness daily, You are in me and with me. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

An orchestra is composed of many instruments, each doing their part to make a complete whole. Similarly, the Church is the same way. God created us to be a part of something bigger than one individual. God created us to bring glory to Himself through the body of Christ, the Church.

Our mission and privilege is to bring an eternal message of salvation through our individual God-given gifts. When accepted by faith through Christ, this message can enable a person to live a life “filled with the Spirit” who will guide, protect, and allow us to be instruments of Christ’s grace and mercy.

As the Spirit leads, we can express our gifts for the building up of the body. The condition is that we must daily spend time with God, seeking His face and instructions through His Word. Then, He will be “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us.” (Eph. 3:20) Are you willing?.

SCRIPTURE: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.* I Corinthians 12:4

PRAY: Lord, gracious and merciful God, cleanse me of my sin. I willingly open my heart to hear your Holy Spirit leading me today to use the gifts you have given me for Your Honor. I want you to so work in me that You will be able to do far more abundantly than I can ask or think. I submit all I am and have to Your service. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

Living Water



Although we tend to complicate salvation, it is very simple. The Gospel of John tells us how to be saved – what we must do to be redeemed. BELIEVE in Christ....believe in Jesus...believe...believe...believe that Jesus was the only Son of God who died for our sins and gave us eternal life. “Believing” is all one has to do for salvation, which is a free gift from God to those who believe in Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*
Ephesians 2:8

PRAY: Father God, thank you that Jesus has done everything necessary for our salvation. We can do nothing to contribute to what you have already done. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you give us faith in Christ’s victory over sin. We are saved, forgiven, and free. Help us to follow Jesus with reckless abandon. Help us love others, serve them, and share the good news with those who desperately need to hear it. Amen.

JOURNAL:

We all seek healing at different times. We gain spiritual healing by reading God’s Word; this can also be for emotional healing. There are specific references in the Bible for physical healing. Christian Counselors are an excellent source for spiritual and emotional healing.

SCRIPTURE: *So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.* Mark 6:12-13

PRAY: Lord, heal bodies and souls. Remove those physical issues that prevent us from serving you and cleanse our souls. Father, be with us when doubts arise and open our hearts and minds to your guidance when issues arise that we feel are insurmountable.

JOURNAL:

When we think of communion, often, we limit it to the Lord's Supper. Although that's an essential part of a believer's life, there's so much more relationally. After first examining ourselves, standing in repentance, and having gratitude in our hearts, we can have communion with our Father. The Lord presents Himself to us, and with our proper response, He is glorified. All the while, our lives are being necessarily interwoven with our creator.

SCRIPTURE: *Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me to your Holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.* Psalm 43:3

PRAY: Father in Heaven, I seek you with all of my heart; I will not stray from your commands. Help me, Father, to stay aligned and focused on you. Forgive me when I'm not. May I always have a grateful heart, even in times of correction. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

Isn't it unfortunate that the world knows not of true love? The term love is wildly misunderstood, misused, and misplaced. There are the world's definitions of love, and then there is God's. We are called to understand love in His terms and apply His standard to our lives and to others, even our enemies. Reading the scripture below, is His Love in you and flowing from you to others?

SCRIPTURE: *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4:7-21*

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

PRAY: Lord, thank you for love. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for showing me what love is. I ask You to strengthen me to love others as You have loved me. Amen.

JOURNAL:

The Holy Spirit should be in you and flowing like living water out of your belly and out of your mouth so that you can pray in the Spirit as Paul discussed in Corinthians. His presence is our power. Our Lord said the Spirit's power is needed as the truth bearer and comforter. His voice might sound like a whispering in our spirit, like a thought popping in your head to pray for that friend, neighbor, colleague, or opponent; to apologize to someone, to cover someone's bill, to take time for the needy and persecuted in the global church. The true empowerment comes in when we heed the calling of the Spirit to share the gospel and our testimony (witness) with someone even when our heart is beating too fast, and our palms are sweaty. He is the Spirit that brings scripture to mind to slice through the lies of the devil attacking your mind and body. He is the power within you that you need to harness to conquer the deceitful thoughts of fears and failures the enemy has used against you, with just one precious name – JESUS. Say it out loud as a threat to the enemy and a salve for your spirit and soul.

SCRIPTURE: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8

PRAY: Jesus, I repent of all my offenses toward You. I give myself to you, my Lord and Savior – have Your way in my life. Holy Spirit, come, fill me afresh with Your Spirit; heal me fully and cleanse me. Empower me to speak with the personal language You gave me and be a vessel for the Spirit, the gospel, and the Great Commission. Thank you for being my comforter until I see Jesus face to face. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

Boldness



God made us so that we find the greatest satisfaction when we serve others. Ask our community servant Pat, who has poured her life into children for years. Some of these children have become successful adults, grateful for the encouragement and tutoring Mrs. Pat gave. We serve the Lord out of gratitude for who He is and what He has, is, and will continue to do in our lives. Listen for the Lord's directions, showing you a place to serve others through Him. The opportunities will often stretch you and be out of your comfort zone. Be bold. As you are obedient, more opportunities will come your way. "...Let u be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus, let us offer to God acceptable service, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29-30 ESV)

SCRIPTURE: *Serve the Lord with gladness.* Psalm 100:2

PRAY: Lord, Holy all-powerful God, cleanse me of my sin. I gratefully acknowledge Your blessings on my life. Today may I joyfully serve You being Your hands and feet to a hurting world. In Jesus' name, Amen

JOURNAL:

The word “testimony” is used in different ways. When a person is brought into a courtroom, placed under oath to tell or give witness to what they have personal knowledge of or experience with is one way. A “Christian Testimony” is given when Christians relate how we came to know the God of the Bible through the moving of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. We are sharing how we became Christians. It should not end with the conversion experience but should include the ways the Lord has worked in our lives to sanctify us for His service. A testimony should be public because its purpose is to tell others what has happened. We testify by our words and actions. If our lives are a testimony for Jesus Christ, then they should be reflections of Christ as we follow in His steps. A life dedicated to Christ is a powerful testimony in itself. It can encourage and inspire others and help point them to the gospel of Christ. Never be afraid to share your testimony with others. Pray that God gives you boldness to share your testimony.

SCRIPTURE: *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20*

PRAY: Father God, help us always to remember that we have a testimony because of your love, faithfulness, and grace. You gave us everything when you sent your Son to die for us on a cross. Help us live out our testimony every day and be bold in sharing that with others, especially non-believers. Amen.

JOURNAL:

The Great Commission is our guide to sharing the Gospel. We must remember the four corners of the earth also includes our local area.

SCRIPTURE: *Jesus came and told His disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of age.”* Matthew 28:18-20

PRAY: Father, help us to always remember that you gave us the commission to share the Gospel with everyone throughout the world. Help us not to be fearful when we have the chance to share the Gospel.

JOURNAL:

We use our nation's currency for natural goods and services, and we use Heaven's currency to access Heaven's treasures. Faith is Heaven's currency. When faith is released, Heaven enters the room, and we have access to God and possess His promises. When we're in the devil's backyard, faith gets us out and into God's glory. Faith also challenges adversity, and during an attack, it turns every negative situation around that does not line up with abundant life.

SCRIPTURE: *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

PRAY: Father, you are the author and perfecter of our faith. Keep me from faithless fears and worldly anxieties. Remind me that faith is Heaven's currency, and the stronger we are in Christ, the more currency we have in you.

JOURNAL:

Trust is defined as more of a concept based on experience. However, that definition may not cleanly align with our experience. For example, trust can be placed with no experience or contrary to it. Some think trust must be earned, and others believe it is given freely. A mountain of trust can be quickly eroded and forever threatened by being broken. Trust denotes confidence, reliance, or assurance. The strength or amount of trust is less important than the object or person you entrust or place your trust in. Isn't it great to stand on the trust that the Lord can uphold because He is faithful, just, and good in His very nature? He cannot be contrary to that by His very nature. There is nothing or no one greater or more capable or deserving of our trust.

SCRIPTURE: *This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."* Jeremiah 17:5

PRAY: Lord, in trust, the world is lacking by our own experience. Your Holy Word and Holy Spirit testify to Your trustworthiness. There is none greater nor more worthy of our hope, faith, and trust. Help me to lean not unto my understanding, nor the knowledge of the ungodly, but rely on You, Your Holy Word and Holy Spirit. I declare that I will always trust You, and I will have rest and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOURNAL:

God has commanded his believers to remain humble in spirit and fear His Word. In the “faith that God has assigned,” Rom 12:3, “as God’s chosen ones,” Col 3:12, we should recognize that humility is not timidity. Heartfelt compassion mixes with balanced boldness and helps us with ‘sober judgment,’ Rom 12:3, of ourselves and others. As we look to the Lord for true humility, we know that it employs great strength of character, including the boldness of spirit to turn the other cheek, wash our accuser’s feet, and pray that God forgives those that murder our brethren. When we endeavor to work with Christ-like humility, kindness, and patience, we as Christians set ourselves apart from a world that exalts antagonism. Yet through our meekness and petitions imbued with humbleness, we encounter the Spirit’s prayers of boldness which can transform strongholds, communities, and nations.

SCRIPTURE: *Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* Colossians 3:12

PRAY: Lord God, I pray that I have humility in my encounters with others and compassion and kindness for those lost in this toxic culture without the hope of Christ. I thank You for the boldness in Spirit to speak Your Word of saving grace, the Gospel of peace, to anyone. I thank You for the hardened hearts that will soften with my displays of Christ-like patience and testimony of God’s changing love of grace and compassion. In Jesus Christ’s name, Amen.

JOURNAL: