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Introduction

Each of us is gifted by God to accomplish his divine purpose for our life. As we move into 2024, we hope each of you will join us on the journey of "Building Godly Families Through the Power of Prayer". For 21 Days, we will pray scriptural prayers which guide us through the development of Godly earthly families into members of ONE Family of God.

Together, we will pray for:

- God's Plan for The Earthly Family To Multiply, Subdue, and Rule
- Developing as Members of God's Family Members of One Family in Christ
- One God. One Family. Godly Family Values
- A Family Who Emulates Christ The Change God Requires; The Change We Need

Please pray every day and follow the prayer guide that contains a prayer focus and scripture references for each day.

The Vision

During 2024, our church would like to: Continue to reach people who are far removed from God; lead community revitalization to see the West End Community transformed; and work toward completing capital project goals. We thank God for all the blessings he has provided us. Our vision includes the ability to pay off all associated capital project debt. In order to realize this new vision, it is going to require us to demonstrate faith in God; engage in earnest intercessory prayer and commit to making consistent contributions in generous portions as God prospers us. We must maintain a spirit of unity among our church family and remain in the bond of peace. These projects are not human-sized, they are God-sized projects, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

- · Acquisition of property adjacent to the church
- Purchase additional church van or bus
- · Support Child Development Program by expanding playground area and providing monthly financial support
- · Partner with City of Birmingham to
 - provide critical repairs to 40 homes
 - replace or refurbish 2 homes within the West End Community
- Adopt two churches and provide them leadership and financial support
- Debt Elimination
- Fundraising Projects for church
 - 2024 Church Calendar
 - Brick Payer Project
 - Memorial Wall of Fame

My Commitment to Pray

During these 21 Days we will pray together for the Vision of the church, our membership, and our spiritual family (the body of Christ), and for our earthly families. You are asked to make a commitment to pray daily and consistently using the scriptures in the Prayer Guide. Together through corporate prayer, we are believing God for restoration, deliverance, and GOD-SIZED blessings.	
I, commit to pray without ceasing over these next 21 Days (print name)	
along with my church membership and others. I give God thanks for what He has already done for us, and I will faithfully pray for Him to bless us with our 2024 vision and capital goals. I will pray that God will open the windows of Heaven and pour down his spirit of love, faith, and steadfastness upon us during these next 21 Days.	
(sign your name) Signed this 2 nd Day of January 2024	

Week 1: January 2nd – 7th

<u>Prayer Focus and Scriptures – God's Plan for The Earthly Family</u>

Jan 2: God's purpose for the family was clear in Genesis. God intended for man to multiply, subdue, and rule the earth.

"God blessed them and said to them "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." "(Genesis 1:28)

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." (Isa 40:11)

Jan 3: God's Plan for Fathers. God intends for Fathers to be leaders of their families.

"....But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Josh 24:15)

"...There you saw how your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." (Deut 1:29-31)

Jan 4: God's Plan for Mothers. God calls mothers to be teachers to train up their children and to display God's love for His children.

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Prov 1:8)

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;" (Isa 66:13)

Jan 5: God's Plan for Grandparents. God gifts grandparents as teachers of his Word for generations to come.

"Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (Deut 4:9b)

"A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children....." (Prov 13:22a)

Jan 6: God's Plan for Children. God commands children to honor, obey, listen to, and love their parents.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." (Ex 20:12)

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." (Col 3:20)

"A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother." (Prov 15:20)

Jan 7: Pray for Growth as a Member of God's Family. As Christians, we are adopted into the family of God.

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." (Rom 8:16-17)

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1Jn 3:1)

Week 2: January 8th – 14th

Prayer Focus and Scriptures - Developing as Members of God's Family - Members of One Family in Christ

Jan 8: We Are Members of One Body in Christ. As members of the Body of Christ, we should walk in unity with each other.

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." (Eph 1:22)

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; (Eph 4:1-4)

Jan 9: Members Working Together: As with a physical body, all members work together for the good of the whole in Christ's Spiritual body, the church.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (I Cor 12:27)

"But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit." (I Cor 6:17)

Jan 10: Using our Gifts to Serve the Body: Each Spiritual Gift has a place in the body of Christ.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Rom 12:4-8)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (I Pet 4:10)

Jan 11: We Use Our Gifts to Help our Families Grow in Obedience to God: We obey God by listening to him and following his direction, which leads to a blessed life.

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (I Sam 15:22)

"He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; (Ps 46:10a)

"If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;" (Is 1:19)

Jan 12: Spiritual Gifts are age-defying: God blesses all his children with gifts in the body of Christ.

"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you." (I Tim 4:14)

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph 4:11-13)

Jan 13: Members Care About Each Other: We should treat each other as family in the body of Christ.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)

"....But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (I Cor 12:24-26)

Jan 14: Members of God's Family Grow in Love and Godly Character: Members of the Body of Christ show love to those within the Body.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (Jn 13:35)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Eph 4:32)

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (I Cor 11:1)

Week 3: January 15th – January 21st

Prayer Focus and Scriptures – One God. One Family. - Godly Family Values

Jan 15: The family is Christ-Centered: Jesus is the Head of the Body, and every member is connected to him; and everything done is to glorify him.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (Jn 17:20-21)

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Cor 5:14-15)

Jan 16: Members Encourage Each Other: As brothers and sisters in Christ, we support each other.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Phil 2:3-4)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb 10:24-25)

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." (Heb 3:13)

Jan 17: Joy Prevails Through the Toughest Situations: During trials, the Body of Christ takes joy in having Christ as the head.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (Jam 1:2-3)

"For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." (Ps 30:5)

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:2)

Jan 18: Members Extend Grace to Each Other: God desires that we grow by giving grace to others, just as he extended grace to us through Jesus Christ.

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Col 3:13)

"...Freely you have received; freely give." (Matt 10:8b)

"But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matt 5:15)

Jan 19: Each Member Supports the Whole: The blessings of the family depend upon the actions of each individual member.... if one hurts, they all hurt.

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." (I Cor 1:10)

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." (I Cor 12:13-14)

"Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Ps 139:16)

Jan 20: Members Love, Respect, and Forgive Each Other: Members of the Body of Christ, as with our earthly families, display fruit of the Spirit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Gal 5:22-23)

Jan 21: Members seek God and his Righteousness: As members of one body and one family, we recognize that we are helpless without God.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Cor 12:9)

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:4-5)

Week 4: January 22nd – January 26th

Prayer Focus and Scriptures - A Family Who Emulates Christ - The Change God Requires; The Change We Need

Jan 22: Show Love to Each Other: Love is the supreme virtue we have as members of Christ's body.

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Col 3:14)

"Do everything in love." (1 Cor 16:14)

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Rom 12:10)

Jan 23: Serve the Community Together: As one body in Christ, we should desire collectively to help those in need in our communities.

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."" (Mk 9:35)

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." (Lk 3:10-11)

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free." (Eph 6:7-8)

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Mat 25:40)

Jan 24: Attend Church Together: As one body in Christ and as a physical family, we choose to worship God regardless of what others may or may not do.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb 10:24-25)

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Phil 4:8-9)

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." (Gen 18:19)

Jan 25: Pray Together: Praying together helps us know God and understand his love better in our spiritual and earthly families.

"God is Love" (1 Jn 4:8)

"pray continually" (1 Thes 5:17)

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Heb 4:14-16)

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

(Jam 5:13-16)

Jan 26: Witness for Christ and Be Christ-Like: God wants us to witness so we can have the benefits of those who receive Christ. We witness because we want to honor and obey Christ. Our lives as the body of Christ as well as examples in our families, should reflect the love of Christ.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"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 Cor 5:20)

"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe," (Ps 107:2)

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (Jn 15:12)

Closing Prayer (Jan 26th)

Jan 26: We are all members of God's Family: Let's Work Together to Build Christian Families Who Comprise the Body of Christ.

Lord! Our Abba Father. As Creator of the world, you created the earthly family. Through your Son Jesus, we have the one family united in the Body of Christ. We thank you for your unconditional love of us. When we fall short you are faithful to forgive us, and your Grace is sufficient to carry us through. We thank you for our pastor whom you have blessed our family with to lead us and show us the way to Salvation. We thank you for the trials we encounter, for they make us stronger and show us how much we need you. Lord, help us to heed your Word and to love our neighbors better than we love ourselves, as Jesus taught us. Lord, we love you and are so blessed to be a part of the Body of Christ, where Christ is the head. Help us to use all our gifts, our hands, our eyes, our ears, our feet, our BODY to your service. Thank you for your never-ending love toward us. We are so unworthy. Thank you, Father. In Jesus' Holy name we pray and give thanks.

Amen.

"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important? "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)