

## 'SOAKING' in the Presence of God

### "How To Meditate on God's Word"

(Adapted from Awakening: 21 Days To Revolutionize Your Relationship With God, By Stovall Weems)

#### The SOAK method works like this:

- **S for Scripture.** The Scripture passage has been selected each day by the Devotional writer. Read it intentionally and prayerfully. Take notice of which verses in the passage catch your attention and mark it in your Bible. Reading the daily passage in a different Bible translation or paraphrase enhances understanding.
- **O for Observation.** Focusing on the passage, tune in and listen to what God is saying to you through His Word. What is it about this passage that specifically stands out? What does God want to reveal to you or teach you? Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide and show you what God is saying.
- **A for Application.** Read the Devotional 'nugget' prepared by the Devotional writer. This helps you apply the passage to your life right now. Ask God how He wants you to apply it, and to what areas in your life. Journal how this Scripture applies to you today.
- **K for Kneel in Prayer.** Wrap up your SOAK time in prayer. Talk to God about what you've just read. This can be as simple as thanking Him for revealing a truth from the Scripture. Then, **PRAY** concerning the "**Prayer Points**" for that designated day. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say.

That's it! SOAK, it's as simple or deep as you want it to be.

# Church of Christ (Holiness) USA

## 2019 NATIONAL DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER GUIDE

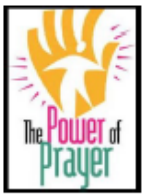


## "21 Days To Seek God's Face And His Hand!"

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 to  
Tuesday, July 16, 2019



*"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29: 12-13



**Our 2019  
National Devotional  
& Prayer Guide**

Welcome to this 2019 *National Devotional & Prayer Guide*. It is sponsored by the Board of Bishops, and is designed for *specifically* praying for the upcoming 122<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Lombard, IL. This year's theme is: *"21 Days to Seek God's Face and His Hand!"* The Word of God declares: *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

First, you will find daily **"Prayer Points"** to lift up to God in prayer. The aim is to seek God's hand to be upon those specific areas. We thank *National Prayer Coordinator*, Bishop Dale L. Cudjoe for identifying our *general and specific* prayer targets.

Second, are daily **"Devotional Nuggets"** to encourage you to seek God's face for the fullness of His spirit in your life. We praise God for nine (9) COCHUSA leaders who provided them. (Their respective *initials* will appear at the end of each devotional authored.) Our contributors are:

- Senior Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew (VEK)
- Bishop Joseph R. Campbell, Jr. (JRC)
- Bishop Lindsay E. Jones (LEJ)
- Elder Craig E. Hancock (CEH)
- Elder Ronald M. Bingham (RMB)
- Elder Joseph Pridgen (JP)
- Sis. Elma R. Smith (ERS)
- Sis. Monocia S. Connors (MSC)
- Sis. Rita M. McCray (RMM)

Third, on the back page is the **"SOAK"** method for spending time in the presence of God, as you daily use the *2019 National Devotional and Prayer Guide*.

'Thank you' for joining us for *"21 Days to Seek God's Face and His Hand!"*

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Lindsay E. Jones  
National President

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Genesis 5:21-24

### "Just A Closer Walk"

*"And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him"*  
Genesis 5:24

Our clocks, watches, and calendars measure out twenty-four hour intervals of what we define as days. As we live through these time periods, we are held accountable for our management or stewardship of time. In particular, how well do we use our daily allotment of time in service of GOD and his kingdom?

In Genesis 5:21-24, it's noted that Enoch 'walked' with GOD for three hundred years. A lifetime, intimate walk with God should be every believer's goal as we prepare to be with GOD for eternity.

**DAY 1**  
Wednesday, June 26, 2019

First, *Enoch walked to GOD* in establishing a relationship by salvation. Secondly, *he walked with GOD* in daily fellowship through GOD's spiritual presence in his life and grew closer. Thirdly, *Enoch walked for GOD* in doing his will and becoming more like GOD in acts and deeds. Ultimately, this spiritual progression led to Enoch being translated by GOD and not seeing death because his day to day life and lifestyle 'pleased GOD'.

How close is your walk with GOD? Are you growing closer each day by intimate time spent in GOD's presence? Or do you have a walk at all with GOD as your Father, Christ as your Savior, and the Holy Spirit as your Comforter? During this 21-day journey, pursue a closer walk with Him!"  
-VEK

### Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that God will send His Spirit upon the:*

- Board of Bishops

- National Parent Body Executive Board Meeting
- Boards and Auxiliaries Meetings
- Opening 'Togetherness Service'
- The Pre-Convention Evangelistic efforts.

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Psalm 84

## “Hungry For More!”

*“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs; yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord”* Psalm 84:1-2a

The venerable Bishop O. W. McInnis once said: *“we need more of the God we already have.”* Unfortunately, too often we have little appetite for more intimacy with God. Says A. W. Tozer: *“We are saved, but no longer hungry or thirsty after God.”* But for the Psalmist, he loved God’s presence so much that His whole being cried out for more of God. He wanted more of the God he already possessed.

**DAY 2**

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Tom Tenny defines it as the “restless remnant.” His term for people who want more from their relationship with God than mere ‘fire insurance’ or a ‘ticket to Heaven.’ Such people crave and ‘burn’ with an ever-increasing hunger for our Holy God.

It is God’s desire that we know Him ‘up-close’ and personal. Are you experiencing Him in such a way that your heart cries out for more? Or, are you running on empty, too busy to prioritize drawing closer to Him? During this 21-day journey, let’s seek God’s hand to be upon the 122<sup>nd</sup> National Convention. But most of all, let’s seek God’s face for more of Himself! -LEJ

*“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you!”*

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

**Pray that these Boards would be open to a supernatural move of God:**

- Nat’l Pensions & Benefits

- Nat’l Evangelism and Mission Board
- Nat’l Publishing Board
- World Mission Board
- Nat’l Evangelists

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Hebrews 4:14-16

## Prayer is the Key

*“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:16

We checked out of our hotel Greenwich, CT and called for our car. The valet helped us get everything loaded into the car, and we were on our way. But about two hours later, my wife and I pulled into a rest area to refuel and refresh. She left me at the pump as she went inside. When I attempted to start the car, I noticed that the valet had not returned my key fob. Apparently, I had driven a long distance without my key fob because she possessed one of her own. However, when she left the car, the vehicle was powerless.

**DAY 3**

Friday, June 28, 2019

As a child, I was blessed to have praying parents. For a while, it seemed like I journeyed through life on their keys. Thankfully, they taught me that I had to have my own relationship with the Lord. I needed my own key. The good news is that the Lord freely offers us the key to the Most Holy place. A personal relationship with Himself through salvation, and access to His presence through prayer. How consistently and effectively are you using the powerful key of prayer? -JP

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

**Pray for God’s power upon the:**

- National Brotherhood Ministries

- United Christian Women’s Ministries
- National Sunday School and Holiness Youth Ministries
- Daughters of Esther and Deacons Ministries

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** 1 Peter 5:5-11

## "Casting or Carrying?"

*"Casting all your care upon him: for He careth for you"*  
1 Peter 5:7

The loss of a loved one can be a difficult time for a believer or unbeliever. Grief is a universal human experience. Not a day passes that someone does not experience some type of grief. David, the man after God's own heart, experienced the full gamut of grief. He lost his children, a best friend and also a king. He even suffered the grief of betrayal by a best friend.

## DAY 4

Saturday, June 29, 2019

Job had faith, family, fortune, fame, and friends. But in one day he lost them all. Even Jesus, the perfect Man, was not immune to the pain of grief. He grieved over the death of his friend Lazarus.

COCHUSA has experienced some unexpected deaths this year. I have preached six eulogies and attended eight funerals alone. The question is how are we going to handle our grief? "Cast" or "Carry"?

Peter says, we can trust in the Lord ("casting") and not in ourselves ("carrying"). The Mighty hand of God reminds us of our impotence and insufficiency to handle life on our own. But our loving Father is best able to handle our shattered dreams, dashed hopes, disappointments, insecurities and grief. He invites you to do this, because "He cares for YOU." -CEH

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that miracles will be experienced in the finance ministries:*

- Budget Committee

- Finance Committee
- Registration Committee
- Nat'l Church Office
- and that offerings will exceed expectations throughout the Convention.

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray as we to minister in:*

- The Prayer Room Sessions

- Music Rehearsals
- As Praise Team Ministries, & Choirs, and Directors
- And that the Holy Spirit will take charge.

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** St. John 2:1-5

## "Submitting To His Will"

*"His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it"*  
St. John 2:5

Surrendering to God's will for our lives is not always easy. In 1994 I was serving as a bi-vocational pastor, and I believed that I was doing a good job in both assignments. But God said to me that I am to leave my secular vocation and become a full-time pastor. Naturally, my response was, "No God I cannot do that. Surely you know how much I need the paycheck and how I can help the church financially, if I continue to be bi-vocational." God clearly reminded me that, if I were to experience any measure of success, I would need to obey His will and plans for my life.

It was difficult to obey God's will at that time. But thankful I am in that today I can truly testify to blessing I experienced from obedience to His will.

As Mary said to the servants, "whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." Nike borrowed this from God's command, popularizing the phrase "Just Do It." As God speaks to you, no matter how hard or unpopular it may seem, do as He says. Experience the favor and blessings of obedience. -JRC

## DAY 5

Sunday, June 30, 2019

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** St. John 15:1-8

### “Remain in Me”

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in me.” St. John 15:4*

How wonderful it is that God created us to abide in Him. For Jesus says, in St. John 15:16: “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” In New Testament times, the culture was often that of farming and agriculture. Vines, branches and fruit were commonplace. The living vine connected to branches. But the branches must

**DAY 6**

Monday, July 1, 2019

remain or abide in the vine in order to produce fruit. The vine was the one and only source branches to bear fruit.

When it comes to intimacy with God, Jesus is the Vine that provides the strength to live a life that glorifies God. As Jesus abides in the Father, we must abide in Him to be and remain a part of this perfect union. The formula for maintaining “spiritual intimacy” in one’s walk with God:

- ◆ Allow God’s Word to guide your actions.
- ◆ Keep a constant intimate connection with Christ.
- ◆ Yield to the Holy Spirit’s directions,
- ◆ Be “fruit-bearers” that induce Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.  
–RMM

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

**Pray there will be blessings upon all who attend:**

- Dr. Rainer B. Wilson Fellowship Dinner
- Youth Activities
- Children’s Banquet
- Children’s Ministries

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

**Pray for the:**

- KJA Bowling for Scholarship

- KJA Scholarship Board Appeal & Offering
- COCHUSA Exercise Class led by Brother Joshua Bradley as God’s people give, and use their bodies be fit for His use.

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Psalm 24

### “Prettier When We’re Clean”

*“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart ...” Psalm 24:3-4a*

One day a man stopped to chat with a little girl who was making mud pies. Her face and dress had suffered in the process. The man said to her, “*You are pretty dirty, aren’t you?*” At which point she replied, “*But I’m prettier when I’m clean!*” I think that little girl was on to something when it comes to holiness.

A hallmark of Biblical holiness is not only that we sin “less and less,” but that we experience cleansing “more and more.” And as uncomfortable as it may be to our pride, victory comes only when we confess our sin, rather than try to cover it up.

What specific sin(s) do you need to confess and repent of today? Remember, in the presence of a Holy God, we are ‘prettier’ when we are clean. – *Anonymous*

**DAY 7**

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** James 2:1-4

## Change Your Perspective

*"Consider it pure joy...."* James 1:2a (NIV)

One day, I was taking my morning walk. I usually see Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, a husband and wife walking team. But that day, he was walking alone.

**DAY 8**

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

I asked, "How are you?" He replied, "It's the best day of my life!" I asked, "Why?" He responded, "Today is the best day of my life because I am still alive! My mother passed away recently, and losing her has been very difficult. Yet I know if I continue with God, I will see her again. That's why this day, and every day, is the best day of my life!"

Whenever we experience difficult times, God encourages us to "Consider it pure joy." We can be certain that difficulties will come, and our first reaction may not be joy. But, if we look at the difficulty as a teachable moment that brings spiritual growth, our perspective may change. Learn what God wants to teach as you go through trials. The next time you experience a difficult situation, change your perspective by calling things that are not, as if they were (Romans 4:17). Mr. Johnson did. And so can you! - ERS

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that God will show up in a special way in our:*

- Early Morning Prayer and Praise Services
- Healing Service

- Individuals will be delivered, strongholds broken, physical, mental, emotional, psychological and financial healing will happen.
- Safe travel to and from the National Convention.

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that His anointing will be poured out on all Parent Body & Nat'l Auxiliary Leaders:*

- Bishop Vernon Kennebrew

- Bishop Lindsay E. Jones
- Minister Daniel Kennebrew
- Sis. Portia Waynick
- Dr. Gregory Wilson

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** 1 Kings 3:5-14

*"See, I have given you a wise and understanding heart ... And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor ..."*

1 Kings 3:12b-13b

## Power of Developmental Prayer

Occasionally, I will engage one of my children in a question that I already know the answer. This approach helps me to assess his capacity to think through opportunities and challenges. And it also "develops" maturity and growth in him.

**DAY 9**

Thursday, July 4, 2019

One may ask "Why pray? After all, God already knows everything about me? Can't He just go ahead and bless, guide, forgive and provide without me having to be diligent in prayer?" Yes, God knows what we need before we ask, but 'developmental' prayer is the result of learning to pray in alignment with what God wants, rather than asking Him to align with what we want.

A young King Solomon revealed his heart was aligned with how God wanted to bless him. The result was God-given wisdom beyond compare. The most effective prayer is aligned with God's will. The more we seek Him, the more we discern and pray in alignment with Him. What characterizes your prayer life the most? Your will be done? Or, His will be done? - RMB

*"Have Thine own way Lord, Have thine own way,  
You are the potter, I am the clay  
Mold me and make me, after your will  
While I am yielded, humbly and still."*

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** 2 Corinthians: 4:7:18

## “Through It All”

*“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Corinthians 4:17*

**DAY 10**

Friday, July 5, 2019

As a teen-age, novice driver, I was fearful when being caught in a storm. But my beloved brother would say, “Don’t stop, keep going. Eventually you will get past the storm cloud, where the sun will be shining down the road.” If I keep going the storms will not last.

In the midst of a Christian’s life of trusting and following God, we will encounter difficulties and trials. But our trials will not last forever, especially if we do not stop trusting God. We are

to continually rely on the knowledge we have of Him, His Son, and Holy Spirit. We must not let trials impede us from continuing to grow in faith during these times. It is growth that produces endurance, and it should strengthen our faith.

Remember that through it all, *God will take care of you.* -MSC

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that God will be present in the:*

- Children’s Convention and their directors; Angela Hancock-Bryant;
- Youth Convention Jill Gilbert;
- COCHUSA Family Day;
- C.P. Jones Music Contest, Sis. Jessica Gant,
- Choral Festival, Brother Franklin Turner,
- All music presentations

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray for the presenters and attendees of these workshops:*

- “Technology: Fight Or Use It”
- “Teaching, But Not Reaching”
- “Get Ready, Get Set for
- “Youth Ministry Without Parental Support”
- “Serving Multi-Generations in the Church Today”
- “Ministering to the Under-aged but OVER-Exposed Generation”
- Presenters: Minister Siphon Mhlanga, Minister Darrell Hall, Dr. Andriana Taylor, Elder Leroy Divinity Jr., Elder Jeremy Anderson, Sis. Alisa Castilla.

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Colossians 1:9-14

## From Darkness To Light

*“He has delivered us from the power of darkness ...”*  
Colossians 1:13a

Some years ago my oldest son was infatuated by a small toy called a ‘transformer.’ He delighted in playing with this little gadget because of what he could make out of it. It could be manipulated into the image of man, an airplane, an animal or a car. It could be transformed into whatever he desired.

In Colossians 1, the Apostle Paul instructs us that GOD is also in the transformation business. For it was GOD who desired that we be ‘saints in light’ and ‘has delivered us from the power of darkness’. It is by the blood of the Son of GOD that ‘we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins’. GOD looked on us as *sinners* and desired to transform us into *saints*, so that we could eventually live for him on earth as *servants* and be with him heaven as sons and daughters.

GOD desires that believers ‘walk worthy, be pleasing, be fruitful and grow in our knowledge of Him. He alone will strengthen us to endure the struggles of being *light* in a *dark* world. Thank GOD for transforming us according to His perfect will. Now, let *your* light shine daily! -VEK

**DAY 11**

Saturday, July 6, 2019

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

First Read: Matthew 6:5-14

## "Pray About It"

"And when ye pray..." Matthew 6:5a

**DAY 12**

Sunday, July 7, 2019

God is a personal God. Jesus our Savior is "Emmanuel," -- God not far off, but God with us. Prayer is our direct link to our personal God. Praying to God is an act of worship. In prayer you are praising Him for who He is, for what He has done, and for what He promised to do in the future.

Prayer is also a relationship, in which we regularly worship and humbly communicate to God. Prayer does not make demands. While we can

Are you struggling with temptation? Pray About It.

Harboring bitterness in your heart? Pray About It.

Spouse, Children, Family Members, Neighbors, and

Co-Workers not saved? Pray About It.

Problems in your marriage or on the job? Pray About It.

Children acting crazy? Beat them with the rod and then Pray About It.

Can't find your keys? Pray About It.

PRAY -- BELIEVE -- DO -- REPEAT. *Pray About It.*" -CEH

*Pray God would be praised and His people blessed during the:*

- Young Adult Concert
- Saturday Evening Worship Service

Seeking the Hand of God  
for His Power

Seeking the Hand of God  
for His Power

*Pray for excellence and the participants in the:*

- M.R. Conic Oratorical Contest

- Dr. Maurice Bingham College Youth Of the Year Presentation
- Arts and Crafts Presentation
- Silent Auction
- C.C. Carhee Bible Quiz

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

First Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

## Locked and Loaded

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Locked and loaded!" Any gun enthusiast would recognize that as a call to be ready to fire. And when it comes to Christian living, "Pray without ceasing," is one of the shortest, but most powerful verses in the Bible. For it beckons us to consistently engage our most potent weapon – prayer!

**DAY 13**

Monday, July 8, 2019

When God calls us to "pray without ceasing," He isn't saying we are to walk around all the time talking to Him. Rather, as one commentator notes, "we are to leave the receiver off the hook, and be in an attitude of prayer, so that when needs arise throughout the day, we are to constantly be ready to call on His Name – whether it be loud or silently." We are to always be ready to launch into the kind of prayer that the enemy fears and the Lord awaits.

Remember, "the one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Prayer is our most powerful weapon. Are you always ready to 'launch' into prayer? Not only be "locked and loaded," but also regularly "firing!"  
-Anonymous



## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-12

### “When It Hurts The Most”

*And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

A. F. Harper, in *Holiness and High Country* observes that Paul was a sanctified (or holy) Christian. But in spite of this fact – or probably because of it – Paul experienced a painful thorn in the flesh. This troublesome hurt in the Apostle’s life was not because he had failed God. And God could have removed the pain, but He did not. Then says Harper, *“But when it hurt the worst, Paul heard God the clearest.”*

**DAY 14**

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Tommy Tenny makes a similar observation about Isaiah, when the prophet was “fresh from the funeral” of King Uzziah. God did not cause the pain in Isaiah’s life. But it was leveraged to create a dependence on God. Says the author, when *brokenness appears in our lives, openness appears in the heavens.*

Are you hurting right now? A physical ailment that won’t go away? A troubled relationship that’s unresolved? Grief and sorrow from the death of a loved one? A painful disappointment from a career setback? No matter what, may you find that His grace is sufficient for your weakness. When it *hurts the worst*, may Heaven open up to you *the clearest.* -LEJ

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that God will be in the midst of:*

- Praise and Worship leaders
- Contest Coordinators
- Host Diocese and Convention Coordinators
- Hosting Diocese Team
- Worship Leaders
- Contest Coordinators

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that these Business Sessions would bring God glory:*

- The Sunday School Business Session
- United Christian Women’s Ministry Business Session
- National Brotherhood Business Session

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Romans 8:28-39

### With Trials Deep and Sore

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...” Romans 8:28a*

I never saw it coming. “Joe, the job you had, no longer exists.” It was like being gut-punched! Until then, I felt like I was living a charmed life. I knew the love of three beautiful daughters and an adoring wife, who was expecting our fourth child – my son. Our modest house was a loving home. Faced with losing our source of income and medical insurance, and after evaluating my options, I accepted a demotion and an immediate cut in pay in order to remain employed. Nevertheless, I learned that all that I needed His hand provided. Hallelujah!

What appeared to be a setback, actually worked for my good. God, after a short time, redirected me from secular employment to full time ministry. That which certainly did not seem good at the time, God made it work together for my good. -JP

*“With an everlasting love I’ll love thee  
Though with trials deep and sore  
I’ll prove thee...”*

**DAY 15**

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Isaiah 59:1-10

### “Unexpected Results”

*“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened,  
That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it  
cannot hear. But your iniquities ... have hidden His  
face from you, So that He will not hear.”* Isaiah 59:1-2

**DAY 16**

Thursday, July 11, 2019

One day, I was using a particular computer application. The following message suddenly appeared: *“Do not use this app with older versions of the program. Doing so could lead to unexpected results.”* The warning was clear: proceeding in error could lead to undesirable outcomes.

Such a warning is also appropriate when it comes to the effects of unconfessed sin. For if there’s anything that will negatively affect the hand of God on our behalf – it’s unconfessed sin. It’s been said, “God never delights in sin, but He does delight in forgiving it.” So don’t allow unconfessed sin to short-circuit God *hearing your prayers or moving on your behalf.* Avoid “unexpected results.” Keep a short account with sin by regularly seeking forgiveness and cleansing in your life. - *Anonymous*

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray* for these Sunday School Classes, Teachers and Attendees:

- Adult Men Class- Elder George Terrell
- Adult Women’s Class- Sis. Carolyn Moore;
- Young Adults ages 18-25 Deaconess Shundra Fountain
- High School ages 15-17
- Dr. Jasmine Wise;
- Juniors ages 10-14 Brother Benjamin Moore
- Primary Ages, Sis. Kathy Nash
- Beginners Ages 6& Under Missionary Jamease Rayburn

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray* for grace to lead in worship as:

- Bishops
- Bishops Wives
- National Executive Board
- District Chairmen, Elders, Ministers and Evangelists
- Deacons, Deaconess and Missionaries

## Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

### “Stay Close!”

**First Read:** Hebrews 11: 4-6

*“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death. For He had this testimony that He pleased God.”* Hebrews 11:5

Staying close to God is important because our closeness allows us to develop an intimate relationship with Him. This intimacy must be nurtured, or it will grow cold. We must spend time, talk, and listen to Him. In other words, we are to “walk” closely with Him. It is during these times that He reveals our purpose and directs our paths to glorify Him. It pleases God when we walk closely with Him, because as we walk, it awakens within us spiritual desire, and births a passion to be more like Him.

Enoch, possessed a special spiritual connection with God. And the Scriptures reveal why his earthly journey ended so uniquely. You see Enoch stayed close, committed, walked faithfully, and no matter what happened, he trusted God. Hebrews 11, the *Faith Hall of Fame*, Enoch’s faith pleased God. As believers, we are to pursue a spiritually-intimate connection with God to please God.

Staying close has its reward both on earth and in heaven. Are you staying close with Him? -MSC

**DAY 17**

Friday, July 12, 2019

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Psalm 51:1-13

## “Slow Leaks”

*“Restore unto me the joy of my salvation”*

Psalm 51:12a

Recently, I filled up at a *Quik Trip*. No, it wasn't an empty gas tank, nor a growling stomach. It was a slowly-leaking tire. That reminds me: *“Failure in the life of a Christian is often the result of a slow leak, not a blow-out.”* Says Loren Lillestrand: “There is something about the human heart, even when we know the Lord, that can cause it to become desensitized to Him. We gradually get so wrapped up in other things that our hearts become encrusted, and we lose our responsiveness to Christ. We are dedicated churchgoers, we walk with Christ and we seek to serve God. But sometimes the outward symbols of our Christianity can mask our deep heart-need for personal renewal”

In Psalm 51, David may not have lost his salvation, but he certainly lost the joy, passion and fervor of his salvation. You may not have experienced a ‘blow-out’ as David. But are there slow leaks dissipating the joy of your salvation? Seek Him to ‘plug’ any slow leaks -- or even repair a spiritual ‘blow-out.’  
-LEJ

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray that the presence of God will be experienced in the:*

- Sunday Morning
- Evening Worship Service

- Monday Evening Worship Service
- Souls save, believers revived and encouraged
- Senior Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew and Bishop Lindsay E. Jones as they proclaim His Word.

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** Genesis 22:1-12

## “Obey Now, Not Later!”

*“... For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your ... only son from Me.”* Genesis 22:12b

Years ago, a particular National Congress Theme was, *“The Will of God: Nothing More, Nothing Else, Nothing Less”* – or something like that! Truly, a core commitment of a holy life is obeying God's will – no matter what.

A pilot was experiencing difficulty in landing his plane due to fog. The airport decided to guide him in by radar. As he began to receive directions from the ground, he suddenly remembered a tall pole may be in the flight path. So he appealed in panic to the control tower. But the reply came bluntly: *“You obey instructions, we'll take care of the obstructions.”*

Sometimes we allow what you see or fear “by sight,” to become an obstacle to obeying God “by faith.” Remember, God calls us to obey His “instructions.” Let Him take care of the “obstructions.” -Anonymous

*“Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey”*

**DAY 18**  
Saturday, July 13, 2019

**DAY 19**  
Sunday, July 14, 2019

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

*Pray for*

- Local church membership growth
- Local church attendance growth
- Local church finances growth

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

## “Nevertheless Moments”

**First Read:** St. Luke 22:39-46

*“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”* Luke 22:42.

### DAY 20

Monday, July 15, 2019

Have you had a ‘nevertheless’ moment? Well I have had a few; but the one that most fresh in my heart in occurred in December 2018. We had been praying for God to heal our daughter, whose condition by all appearances was continuing to deteriorate. As I was praying a few days before Christmas Day, it dawned on me that God may not desire to heal her. That was my ‘nevertheless’ moment! It was then that my prayer changed from not my will, but His will to be done.

I prayed that if He had determined not to heal her, not to let her linger and suffer. That was the hardest shift in prayer that I ever had to face. However, the shift gave us a clue as to how difficult it must have been for Jesus to say to his Father, “nevertheless not my will but thine.” He was faced with leaving His disciples and having His human side surrender to death.

When we are faced with our ‘nevertheless’ moments, we can find comfort in knowing that God’s plan is perfect; even though it may be painful and heart-breaking. He Himself will hold our hands as we grow in Him through the challenges of trusting Him for His grace. *JRC*

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

### Pray for:

- Monday’s “What’s Next For COCHUSA Part III” and the National Vision 2020 Task Force, Budget Revision Task Force and Program Restructuring Task Force
- Tuesday’s Final Parent Body Business Session
- Tuesday’s Closing Service Session
- Tuesday’s Post-National Convention Executive Board Session

## Seeking the Hand of God for His Power

### Pray for

- The National Education & Trustee Board as it seeks future direction
- Unity and oneness in the Body of Christ throughout the National Convention.

and guidance for 2019-2020 and beyond.

# Seeking the Face of God for His Presence

**First Read:** 1 Samuel 15:22-29

### Fire! Fire!

*“To obey is better than sacrifice....”* 1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

In the wee hours one morning, I was awakened to the sound of my smoke detector: “Fire, Fire!” I sprang out of bed to look around. I saw no “fire” or smelled smoke, but I did not shrug it off. I grabbed my cell phone, and went room to room to ensure there was no fire. Praise Jesus! There was no fire!

I discovered later the smoke detector was sending a warning to check the batteries. “What an inopportune time to sound the alarm,” I thought. But the intended results were achieved —check the batteries!

### DAY 21

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

God sends us warnings when we move away from His Will. Saul, Israel’s first king, and David, Saul’s successor, both strayed from God’s will at times. Both received warnings from God, but each responded differently. Saul continued to do things his way ignoring God’s warning; resulting in God removing His Spirit. But David heeded God’s warning. He repented, and God still deemed him “a man after God’s heart.” We -- and the body of Christ -- suffer when we are out of His Will. When God sends a warning, will you obey and be blessed? Or, disobey and be cursed? The choice is yours! *(ERS)*