

The background of the entire poster is a deep blue. In the upper half, there is a stylized sunburst with rays of light in shades of cyan and white, emanating from a point behind a range of dark blue mountains. To the left of the sunburst, there are jagged, triangular shapes in a vibrant red color, resembling a mountain range or perhaps a stylized 'X' mark.

GREATER THINGS

FOR GOD | FOR THE CHURCH | FOR OUR COMMUNITY

TEN DAY PRAYER JOURNEY

whoever
believes in
Me will do the
works I have
been doing,
and they will do
even ***greater
things*** than
these

John 14:12


Encouragement from Pastor Jim

God's power is required. One of the principles that becomes clear the longer we walk with the Lord is this: the work of God cannot be accomplished apart from the power of God! "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine." (John 15:4) Jesus spoke many times of special Kingdom concerns that would remain "undo-able" apart from supernatural empowerment from Heaven! He sought and found that power through prayer and calls us to do the same.

God's power is available. When Jesus was about to return to Heaven, leaving the pursuit of the Kingdom agenda in the hands of His disciples, He encouraged them with these words: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (John 15:7) The power of God was available to accomplish the call of God in their day and in ours!

We need God's power now. As our church family moves into another critical time of building up for God, for the church, and for our community we need to be clear on God's call and connected to God's power. We know that it is the Father's will for us to reach more people and lead more people to a life-changing connection with Jesus. Now is the time for us to connect with Him through prayer for clarity about our role in reaching those new people through *Greater Things*.

Thank you for joining with us in prayerful commitment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jim". The signature is written in a dark, possibly black or dark blue, ink. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'P' and 'J'.

Why a prayer guide?

We have created this prayer guide to help unify our church in prayer as we prepare for the *Greater Things* capital campaign. The daily readings are divided into four parts:

READ the selected Bible verse(s) several times. All Bible verses are printed in this booklet.

REFLECT by reading the thought that explains each day's chosen Bible passage. Ask yourself how the Bible passage applies to your life.

PRAY and communicate with God every day. Ask Him to reveal to you how He wants you to participate in the campaign.

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to me and I will answer you, and tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

How shall we respond to this invitation? Will you accept God’s invitation to pray? Here are some strategies designed to help you seek the Lord in prayer.

P.R.A.Y. The letters stand for Praise, Repent, Access, and Yield and capture the essence of prayer — which is to seek an audience with the King of the universe, the Holy One, who in the mystery of His character loves us and responds to our prayers.

Praise: We’re to enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise (see Psalm 100:4). Sit quietly and thank God for who He is and what He has done.

Repent: A sober reminder comes from Psalm 66:18: If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” A spiritual cleansing is needed in order to come nearer to the throne of God.

Access: We’re not telling God anything new — “All my longings lie open before you, O Lord: my sighing is not hidden from you” (Psalm 38:9). Even so, He gives us access to talk to Him about our needs and frustrations.

Yield: The fact that we have brought our prayer list before God indicates our trust that He will, in His time and in His way, show us the way we should go (see Psalm 143:8).

Will you get alone with God and pray today? Will you find a quiet place to get away and pray? Maybe you need to establish a “prayer closet.” Of course, you can pray anywhere. But you’ll find that a special intimacy with God can occur when you come aside with Him to your quiet place.

Spend Time in prayer today Praising God and Thanking Him for His goodness and Grace extended toward you. Repent of any sin that you are harboring and Yield to His leadership and guidance today.

Day 2: October 25 *The Promise of Answered Prayer*

Proverbs 15:8 “The prayer of the upright is His delight”

God wants his people to pray because it is prayer that strengthens the relationship. God in his creation of human beings, created people to enter into a genuine relationship with him, a relationship in which there is a give-and-take relationship so that the other partner in the relationship has a say in what God does in the world.

God answers prayers because God has established a special relationship with his people, and prayer is one of the many benefits that come out of this relationship. Because God honors this relationship, then when God's people pray their interaction with God is genuine conversation, not a one-way affair between human and God. In this relationship between God and the one who prays, God speaks and the human listens; then the human speaks (prays) and God listens. Because of the nature of this relationship, God speaks and the human responds; the human speaks and God responds.

In James 4:2 the Bible says, “you do not have because you do not ask God”. As a “second family” let's get on our face before God, believing by faith, that He will provide *Greater Things* for His glory!

Believing that God answers prayer, will you begin to pray for our *Greater Things* Emphasis? Will you pray that God will provide the necessary resources including people, money and other resources to make this vision a reality? Will you pray believing that God answers the prayers of His People?

Spend time in prayer today thanking God for hearing and answering our prayers. Thank Him for his willingness to be in a relationship with us and to listen as we pray. Then ask, knowing that He hears and will answer!

Day 3: October 26 *The Prescription for Proper Prayer*

Psalm 118:1 “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”

Essentially, prayer is about a living relationship with God. Maybe as a child you learned to pray with a long shopping list. Of course, God wants to hear what is on our hearts. But God desires much more than this from us. He wants us to know Him. We can gain a deeper understanding of God when we pray in this way: Adoration - Confession - Supplication. When we catch a glimpse of how magnificent and awesome God is, our hearts naturally turn to adoration. The Westminster Catechism states “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever”. As we worship something happens on the inside - the worries and cares of the day seem less important as we realize how amazing God is and how special is His love for us. Jesus affirms the importance of adoration in His teaching on prayer. His first line was “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”.

As we adore the living God, we become aware of our own frailty and sin. We have let others down, ourselves down, and mostly importantly, we have let God down. In confession we tell God about these things, and ask for His forgiveness and restoration.

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to offer prayers of supplication to God: “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”. (Eph 4:6, ESV) Supplication is requesting God to do something, either for you or on behalf of somebody else.

Spend time today in Adoration, Confession and Supplication. Take time to praise and adore God. Take time to confess and ask for forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:9). And, lastly, don’t be afraid to ask. Ask for God’s favor on your life, your family and on our church. Ask God to place His hand of protection and of provision upon our church as we seek to do *Greater Things* for Him, for His Church and for our community.

Psalm 51:1-4 “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.”

While Jesus Christ has forgiven Christians of all of their sins, no believer ever lives a perfect life. We all still commit sin. There are no exceptions to this. This sin needs to be acknowledged before God. Consequently prayer should often involve confession of our sin. We discover in Proverbs that confession, and the forsaking of sin, will cause the Lord will show His mercy. It says. Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy (Prov. 28:13).

We should not only pray for the sins we remember, but we also ought to pray for those sins that we do not remember. The psalmist asked the Lord to cleanse him from his hidden faults, those faults that were perhaps unknown to him (Ps. 19:12). This is certainly something important for us to remember. There is likely sin in our lives that we may be unaware of. We should ask the Lord to show us these hidden faults. The Lord has promised to forgive our sins when we confess them to Him. John wrote the following to the believers. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10).

Confession of sin helps us with our daily relationship with the Lord. All of us should want to walk worthy of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Confession of sin gets us back on to the straight and narrow way that the Lord has for each of us. Therefore, confession of sin, in our prayers, is essential.

Take time to ask God to show you any unconfessed sin in your life. Ask God to forgive you of any sin that you may be unaware of. Claim 1 John 1:9 and walk away from your prayer time knowing that you are fully clean.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 “And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

By means of trials, God seeks to help us see our need and dependence on Him. We absolutely must learn that life—both physical and spiritual—depends on what God supplies. Our reaction to the trials reveals what is in our heart, that is, what really motivates us? Humiliation proves what is really there. He puts us into distress to make us become aware of our needs. He wants to see whether we will live by faith, depending upon Him to supply those needs. He needs to see whether we will keep His commands, even when a need might be supplied by disobeying them.

Things happen to those of faith so that we might possess qualities of mind, character, and heart that would otherwise not be available to us. We can take these qualities through the grave and into the Kingdom of God. Jesus says in John 15:5, “Without Me you can do nothing.” The fruit of God’s Spirit can be produced through faith only in cooperation with God in His purpose as we proceed on our pilgrimage. All the right values and standards spin off from humility.

We have such a need of humility that God will go to seemingly extreme ends to make sure that we feel our dependence on Him. He will humble us. He will sweep away our money. He will take away our jobs, our health, and our possessions. He will do anything necessary in order to make us see our need—that every good gift flows from Him.

As you pray today, declare your utter dependence upon God for all that you need. Take time to declare our utter dependence upon Him for *Greater Things*.

Matthew 6: 31-33 “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or what shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

God is aware of our physical needs, and it is His delight to provide for His children. When we face times of need or we want increased funds for a specific project, we are to bring our petitions to God. By seeking Him first, we will be able to discern God’s direction and He will be glorified as He provides for us and directs us according to His will.

If we assume we know how God will provide for our needs, we can easily develop attitudes of presumption, impatience, and ungratefulness, along with a tendency to show favoritism to those who have much to give. When God does not provide in the ways we expect, our disappointment can breed resentment toward God and the people to whom we looked for assistance.

God wants our focus to remain on Him for all of our provisions. For this reason, He will often provide what we need through totally unexpected sources. His resources and frame of reference reach beyond what we can comprehend!

We can pray with a heart surrendered to God, trusting that He will do what is best for us and most glorifying to Him.

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4–7).

Ask God to provide for you and your family today. Ask for specific provision. Ask God to provide what is needed to fulfill the *Greater Things* vision – money, resources, people, plans, etc.

Luke 9:23, 62 “And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up the his cross daily and follow me.... Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

When you are only involved, just let something go wrong and, while you may not quit on the spot, you will begin to be less involved, you'll develop a wondering eye for some other organization, activity, or group, who can give YOU something else that you like or want.

When it comes to our relationship with God and serving in His church, we need to keep one thing in mind: JESUS NEVER CALLED ANYONE TO AN 'INVOLVEMENT ONLY' STATUS. Jesus does not ask for, He requires, “Commitment.” Commitment is entirely different.

Commitment is a promise, a vow, and an obligation. Commitment makes demands. Real commitment is “the pig providing ham for breakfast.” Commitment requires us to give all that we have and are.

Follow the Savior – Following Jesus, according to Jesus, is an all or nothing proposition. His steps do not lead to a rose garden of getting everything you want or your way. But following Him, leads to a work, which brings great rewards both now (in time) and beyond the grave (in eternity). Following the Savior requires your complete loyalty and commitment. Here's a danger: we try to give the Lord everything but one thing, and it turns out disastrous. Our most desperate need as Christians is to have every area of our lives committed to walking with Christ and accomplishing *Greater Things* for His glory!

Are you sold out, totally committed to Christ and his church? Or have you only been involved? Why not sell out today? Spend time praying for your own personal commitment to God and His Church. Pray for your commitment to our *Greater Things* vision and for the commitment of others in our church family. Let's pray that we will be committed to the vision that God has given us for *Greater Things*!

Ephesians 3:20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”

In biblical times a person's name was selected to reflect one of three things, their nature, their life's purpose, or their circumstances. Asking in Jesus' name means to ask according to His nature, His purpose and the circumstances. That is, if we ask for anything in our current circumstance that fits His purpose and that is according to His nature, He will do it. Of all the names for God in the Bible, this is my favorite: “Him who is Able to Do Immeasurably More.” Our God is the same God who parted the Red Sea and fed 5,000 on a green hillside with only a couple of sardine sandwiches. He longs to do more than we can ask or imagine! Unfortunately most of us haven't really given him much of a challenge with our wimpy dreams and shallow prayers. Let's dream big dreams for God. Let's ask big and then hang on for the ride that is more than we can even imagine! “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Luke 11: 9)

My Prayer...

Almighty and Awesome God, do in our day what you did in past days. Give us faith to believe, and then amaze us at how shortsighted our faith really was. Give us vision to see your plan and believe you long to do *Greater Things*. We ask this, not for our reputation, or ourselves but for your glory and the salvation of our world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

As you pray today, pray asking and believing in the future success of *Greater Things*. Pray believing that God can do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ever ask or even imagine. Ask Big!

Psalm 145:13b “The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.”

Are you confident today that God is always faithful? That He is exactly who He says He is? Aren't you glad He doesn't change His mind or gets moody or forgets His promises? Friends or family may let you down or even betray you. But not God. He is completely faithful throughout your entire life — not only to you, but also to all His children. “For I the Lord do not change” (Malachi 3:6).

Do you lack confidence today? The Bible says, “Faithful is He that called you, who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24). He will be your adequacy.

Are you fearful about something? He said, “I hem you in — behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me” (Psalm 139:5). He is watching over you — behind, in front, and overhead.

Are you facing an impossible task? Pray and discuss it with Him. “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

We just have to ask, and He will answer. “Lord, You have been faithful in the past and you are faithful today. You never change so we trust you with our future!” Through the faithfulness of God we are able to do *Greater Things* for the kingdom. We have an opportunity through the *Greater Things* campaign to leave a legacy for our community that will be here long after we are gone! Only eternity will reveal the impact this will have in God's kingdom.

As you pray today, pray thanking God for His faithfulness in the past, for His faithfulness today and for His faithfulness in the future. Pray with confidence in the complete faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. Ask Him to show Himself faithful to our community through *Greater Things*. Ask Him to make His name great in Houston County through Second Baptist Church!

Matthew 9:36 “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

Motivation is one of the most important things about the person whom God will use. If you don't have motivation, you are not going to do anything. When it comes to sharing our faith and reaching out to others with the gospel, we offer up a plethora of excuses as to why we cannot do it. But in all honesty, the reason Christians are not sharing their faith is we don't want to be bothered with it. We lack a simple, basic burden and concern.

Let's see what motivated Jesus when He saw the needs of the people: You can see this pattern of compassion throughout the ministry of Jesus. He saw the people's deepest need. He saw where they were hurting the most. He saw behind the façade. He saw the real cry of the heart. He saw them as sheep without a shepherd, and He had compassion on them. If God is going to use you in any capacity, you will have to develop compassion for the lost. Isn't it God's objective to conform us into the image of His own dear Son? The Bible says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). We should seek to imitate the Lord and have that compassion, too.

Through the *Greater Things* vision untold numbers will be presented the gospel. Our compassion and burden for them will be poured out in our sacrificial giving and serving. This will glorify our Lord, as we trust Him with the results!

Pray today realizing that as you continue to pray for *Greater Things* and for the lost in our community, you will develop a burden for them. When we pray fervently, and regularly for something, there is a supernatural burden that develops in our heart. Let these past 10 days of prayer be a springboard into a discipline of daily prayer. Pray earnestly and regularly for the *Greater Things* vision. Pray that our church family will be successful in impacting our community with the good news of Jesus using sports as a tool!

the challenge

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS
WE SEEK TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD,
BENEFIT THE CHURCH, AND IMPACT
OUR COMMUNITY. THIS IS A GREAT
TASK, BUT IF WE WILL ALL COMMIT
TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE
GREATER THINGS.

PRAY AND SURRENDER

“God, everything I have comes from You and belongs to You.” Thank you praying on this journey with us.

1

LISTEN TO GOD

“God, what would You have me do with the resources You have provided?”

2

OBEY

“Yes God – I will follow Your leading.” Plan to express your commitment on Commitment Sunday, November 6th.

3

Greater Things will challenge all of us with something that can be difficult – sacrifice. It will stretch our faith, but it will provide tremendous opportunities to see God move in amazing ways. While we can’t all give equal gifts, we can all sacrifice to give our best gift. Your commitment will enable us to have an even greater impact in our community.



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