



Praying *fasting*
and
HOPE *prayer*
2026

How to Use this Prayer Guide

Begin each day, as early in the day as possible or even the night before, read the prayer emphasis. Read the elaboration on the emphasis and meditate on the scripture. Ask God to incline your heart and open wonderful things to you in His law. God may bring to mind other aspects of the topic that may not be mentioned specifically or other scripture. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and empower your intercession.

Do not rush. Begin by fixing your mind on the person of God—his attributes and character as well as his mighty works, especially upon the cross and saving grace. Let your admiration and affection grow. Ask God to reveal beams in your own life that you are blind to; this is the beginning of the way to personal revival. Be quiet and listen. Repent from as much known and revealed sin as comes to mind. Ask him to cleanse you from any known and unknown sin that may hinder your prayers, and restore your relationship with him as much as possible. Pray for corporate repentance as well. Ask God to make our church pure and holy, a vessel fit for His use.

We are in a season of embracing and implementing the vision God has given us. Let us strive for revival in our own lives, but this year let us plea with God for a holy visitation on his church at Western Heights and for the mission and vision of HOPE to become reality.

Begin to pray for the emphasis topic. Allow the scripture to help you pray with precision. Understand that your brothers and sisters at Western Heights are joining with you in prayer all day long. Pray for the church as a whole that God will work the daily emphases into our lives and church. Plead with God on behalf of individuals that come to mind. Pray for as many aspects of the emphasis as you can. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move, then thank God in advance for what he will do. You might journal your thoughts throughout the month especially on days you fast.

You may accomplish your study and prayer in one sitting then continue to pray throughout the day, or it may better suit your schedule to break it up into several sittings throughout the day. Just constantly be renewing your mind to the shared prayer emphasis for the day. Let your hunger remind you to pray. Let it remind you that you need God more than his gifts—even life-sustaining food. Use the time you would eat for prayer.

Finally, let's put faith behind our prayer. Ask God to help our unbelief, and let's believe God for God-sized answers, even though they may not be the answers that we have asked for. Let's anticipate his hand and Spirit to move in an unusual way. Let us be willing to walk through the doors God opens. Let's believe that we will be a part of an outpouring and stirring that spreads. Please don't just go through the motions but actively, verbally believe that our prayers and our fasting and our church will elicit divine favor because of his mercy and his word, and he will explode upon us.

Thursday, January 1

People Who Need HOPE

MATTHEW 9:36-28

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

We live in a city, a county, a state, a country, a world that is in desperate need of hope. A confident Christian hope that helps them see Christ as their treasure so that they may face the brokenness they see and feel. Jesus had compassion on those who needed a shepherd, someone to protect, feed, lead, and care for them. He knew of the thousands and the millions beyond that, so he instructed us to pray. This month we will pray for many things. We will pray with a focus on Christ and His church, especially Western Heights. Let us use his heart as a launching point for 2026 as we fast and pray.

Ask God to give us the heart of Christ and the compassion he felt toward those who need hope. He must revive us and reinvigorate our passion to reach out to others with the gospel and provide the only hope that will last. Pray for our eyes to be opened to the harvest. Pray for laborers. Respond "here I am, Lord, send me." Pray that God would send out laborers with hope in their pockets and on their lips. This is what we are told to do. Pray that our church would rise up to be a beacon of hope in our community.

Friday, January 2

The HOPE Vision

COLOSSIANS 1:27-28

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The HOPE Vision is a strategy to intentionally multiply mature followers of Jesus. It's a helpful means for you and I to take the next step in our walk with Christ. We must all grow together stronger in relationship to Him if we are to impact our community together. Discipleship is a command from Jesus. Making disciples is a command from Jesus. We must obey in faith with joy. Honoring God's Plan, Opening Our Hearts, Pursuing Christlike Maturity, and Engaging in Outreach provides a pathway to loving Jesus more deeply, thereby advancing the kingdom together.

So today, begin our month with some examination. Make your prayer about laying bare your life before the Lord. Let him point out the areas where genuine growth can occur. Listen to him about your relationship with Him. Pray that we embrace the vision of HOPE as individuals and as a body. Pray that all of us have a desire created within us to pursue Christ at a much deeper level and commit to taking the action to do it. Pray that the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep in step with him and experience a unity of brothers and sisters at Western Heights like never before.

Saturday, January 3

A Year of Open Doors

REVELATION 3:7-8

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8 "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

For us at Western Heights, 2026 will be a year of open doors. It will be a year of transformation. It will be a year of change. Sometimes we think that we know what is behind doors that Jesus opens, but often we must walk through them by faith, trusting him when we can't see what's beyond the threshold. Change is hard for some of us, but sometimes Christ puts us in a position where major change is required. We must be ready for HOPE to change things.

Pray that our hearts are softened by the Spirit that we might receive with open arms his will not ours. Pray that we would be sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit during decision-making. Pray for our leadership. Pray for unity in the body. Pray for fresh eyes to see beyond what has been to what will be. We know that God has a purpose for our church to give hope, to make disciples, and to magnify the name of the Lord. Prepare your hearts for the transformation of ministry that HOPE requires and that those whom the Lord will bring will require. Pray for our determination to take the gospel to uncomfortable and new places as the doors are opened.

Sunday, January 4

HOPE – Honor God’s Plan

COLOSSIANS 1:27

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

To hope in God is to honor Him. Therefore, hope is a good thing, the best of things especially if it is God given. The Bible can be described as a book of prophecy, a book of history, a book of redemption and also a book of hope. It is in the bible that we find out what true hope is. Not to be confused with worldly or temporal hope described in a general sense as a mental focus or feeling of anticipation regarding a future outcome that can be sometimes misdirected or selfishly motivated, biblical hope is a sure and confident expectation of receiving what God has promised in the future. It is based solely on the promises of God. So, what does God promise us as believers? You can be sure that His promises are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments and because He is faithful (LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23) and cannot lie (NUMBERS 23:19), we as born-again believers have full assurance that what He has pledged will indeed be realized.

Here are just a few promises God has made: He promises that he is near the brokenhearted and will save them (PSALM 34:18); He promises salvation and entrance into heaven to all who believe and trust in Jesus (JOHN 3:16); He promises that all things will work out good for His children no matter what the circumstances are (ROMANS 8:28); and Jesus promises that we receive the Holy Spirit at salvation who will empower and guide us to live for Him.

Hope is one of three indispensable Christian virtues that Paul describes, faith, hope, and love (1 CORINTHIANS 13:13). You can depend on God. You can hope in Him with unwavering confidence.

Today, again, we pray that our church would be a beacon of true hope. Pray that those who are in this body would rest in hope. Pray that the promises of God provide hope and we cling to them. Pray for the “hopeless” that God rescues and sustains them.

Monday, January 5

Honor the Lord and Be Honored by Him

1 SAMUEL 2:30

Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'

To honor is to bestow respectful distinction upon a person due to a lifestyle of integrity and/or a high moral accomplishment. To be honored is to be recognized for an exceptional achievement or to be esteemed highly for moral goodness. So then, how do we honor God and how does God honor us?

Here's a scene in heaven described in REVELATION 4:10-11: "the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things, and by your will
they existed and were created."

Here we read how God is worthy of honor. We understand this because of His great knowledge (omniscience), His great power (omnipotence), and His great presence everywhere all the time (omnipresence). We praise Him and give Him the glory and honor due Him because He is the creator of everything known and unknown. We honor God by recognizing who He is according to His Word. The creator of the universe desires a relationship with us forever and always. We also honor God by righteous living, purity, acting unselfishly toward others and desire their benefit, a lifestyle of honesty, truthfulness, and good works. All these things honor Him and give Him glory.

Pray that our lives individually and as a church family honor Christ. Pray that our eyes are ever deepened to the person of God and by this our desire to honor Him grows. Pray that we keep our eyes on the future glory to come.

Tuesday, January 6

Faith Foundations

HEBREWS 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Faith is essential to Christianity. That is, the right kind of faith. This is the faith that is given to us from above. A faith that is required for our salvation, for by grace we are saved through faith (EPHESIANS 2:8-9). Once a person is saved, born again, destined for heaven, God's will for him is to live out the rest of his days being transformed more into the image of Jesus Christ (ROMANS 8:29).

I did not know this after I committed my life to Jesus. Without the help of a stronger, mentoring Christian, I mostly just continued to live as I had always lived, but maybe just a little bit better. One day, a stronger, mentoring Christian told me that God did not want me to remain a baby Christian, but His will for all believers is to grow up in all aspects unto Him (Jesus) (EPHESIANS 4:15). Otherwise, I would never experience the abundant life that Jesus promises to every growing believer (JOHN 10:10). God promises His success and His prosperity to all His children who read, study, meditate and do His Word. I believed this, and I began. That was nearly 50 years ago. Today, I can look back and clearly see that following the counsel of a stronger Christian led me to experience the abundant life that Jesus promised. The key was becoming a student of His Word and being a doer of it.

Pray that we help each other develop a hunger for the word. Pray for fruit that comes from a continual diet of biblical truth. Pray for a proliferation of increasing knowledge of the word. Pray for teachers and preachers among us to stay faithful to the faith.

Wednesday, January 7

Why Attend?

PSALM 122:1

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

As a young believer, I wasn't sold on the idea of regular church attendance or even becoming a member of a church. Once I got serious about my faith journey, the Holy Spirit began to persuade me of the importance and benefits of consistent attendance and joining a local church. Consider this: becoming a regular attender and church member fosters community and spiritual growth through the preaching of the word, bible study, and fellowship. Members hold each other accountable in their Christian walk, encouraging one another to live according to biblical principles. Church membership provides a sense of belonging and allows for supporting one another in times of need. Joining a local church is a covenant relationship where members make mutual promises to support and care for one another. There are over fifty "one another" verses in the Bible: love one another, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, and on. This valuable support only happens when believers are in the habit of assembling (HEBREWS 10:25).

It is very clear that the body of Christ, of which all believers are members, is organized into local churches all over the world. This can be seen as we look at the early church throughout the New Testament. God did not save a person to become the "lone Christian." He saved us and desires that we regularly attend worship with a body of like-minded believers. Why? So, we can serve others and be served and work together for the faith of the gospel in making disciples. Ultimately, God is glorified when His church is united.

Today, let's pray for membership commitment and the practice of love and care within the local body of Christ here at Western Heights. Pray for God to send new members. Pray for members who have fallen away and reach out to them with grace and love.

Thursday, January 8

Getting Wet

MATTHEW 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Why is baptism important? The answer is clear: Jesus commanded it. It is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church, the other being communion. He gave the church the responsibility to make disciples and baptize them.

The word, baptize, comes from a Greek word meaning “to submerge.” It was practiced by the Jews as a cleansing ritual before the founding of the church. John the Baptist, as he prepared the way for Jesus, baptized, signifying repentance. Today, believers in Jesus are commanded to experience Christian baptism, which has a deeper significance.

Baptism is not a requirement for salvation (EPHESIANS 2:8-9, 1 PETER 3:21), but is a matter of obedience. Simply put, water baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change that takes place in a believer’s life once they are born again (JOHN 3:3). At salvation, the believer is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. As soon as possible, the believer is to follow Christ in water baptism to demonstrate to others the person’s new life in Christ. Dramatically, Christian baptism illustrates the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 6:4 puts it this way: *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

Today we pray for baptisms. Desire and pray for people to come to know Christ in a saving way and be obedient to believers baptism. Pray for those who struggle with fears or doubts. Pray for the meaning of baptism to strengthen our faith and help unify the church.

Friday, January 9

Worship

JOHN 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

God, the Father, His son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are worthy of worship. These three are the God head. However, most of our worship, energized by the Holy Spirit, is directed toward God the Father and Jesus.

How then should we worship? Where? When? How? God's Word has the answers. In the gospel of John (4:24), Jesus says we are to worship God in spirit and truth. This is the best place to start in understanding the answers to the questions above.

Worship is an attitude of the spirit. It is both a way of life and a specific activity. Therefore, the answer to the "When" question is all the time. The way we live our lives, what we think and do, are acts of worship, everything! God's word says in 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31, So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Getting back to the first question, how do we worship? Worshipping God requires a mind centered on Him and renewed by truth. God's word is truth and knowing it, we find out how to worship Him. Paul urges us in ROMANS 12:1, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. What we do and how we treat our bodies is an act of worshipping God.

Christian, you were created to worship our benevolent God. He alone satisfies the heart of every believer. Our response to that divine satisfaction, comparable to the best food ever, is the fruit of our lips that sings God's praise (HEBREWS 13:15).

Pray that our lives reflect a posture of worship all the time, not only as individuals but as a church family. Pray for our Sunday gatherings. Pray that we would engage with God in truth and spirit. Pray for those helping to lead at many levels. Most of all, pray for passion and against routine and apathy in worship.

Saturday, January 10

Until the End

GALATIANS 6:9

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

There is something to be said about perseverance. Unless you persevere, you will never know the reward of it. Charles Swindoll says, Relax. Allow the Father to work out His perfect plan. Someone has said, "God is seldom early, but never late." His timing is impeccable. I've seen it over and over again, even through times of serious doubt. Wait on the Lord.

Perseverance is a biblical virtue. A virtue that all believers should seek when the opportunity presents itself. It can be defined as the ability to remain steadfast with unwavering determination in your faith and commitment, especially during difficult times. Tribulation, difficulties, and problems precede perseverance – these provide the impetus to persevere. God's Word says in Romans 5 that we should exult in our tribulations because it brings about perseverance. And perseverance, proven character, and hope. And hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts.

Our ultimate example is Jesus. His journey through the wilderness, facing our most powerful foe, the devil, gives us the blueprint for submitting ourselves to the Father and resisting the devil. His mission was to save those who would reject Him. Through his steadfastness and obedience to the Father, He embraced suffering with a heart full of love and anticipation for what lay beyond — the redemption of humanity.

God is worth the wait. Weld in your mind that His ways are perfect and designed with you exclusively in mind. Commit today, at this moment, that you will strive with God, the lover of your soul, persevering until the end, where faith will become reality!

Pray for those among us who are enduring suffering. Pray that Jesus himself would be our focus. Pray that we would encourage one another to endure well. Pray for those who labor in our church not to grow weary. Pray for us to take up the armor of God against the schemes that wear us down.

Sunday, January 11

The Importance of Fellowship

HEBREWS 10:23-25

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Many believe fellowship is optional, failing to see the vital role it plays in the life of believers. As the Day of the LORD approaches, the encouragement from each other becomes more and more essential as the world grows darker and the pressure on our hope increases. As we fellowship together, we are encouraged as the love we receive from others stirs up a response of love in ourselves leading to good works. Fellowship is much deeper than Sunday worship. It is true close association, partnership, and sharing life.

Ask the LORD to impress on the members of our fellowship the importance of meeting together. LORD, deliver us from the idea we can walk with You without our brothers and sisters in Christ. Crush the illusion of spiritually healthy autonomy and anonymity in the Christian faith.

Monday, January 12

Fellowship – A Priority in the Early Church

ACTS 2:42

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Bible study, communion, and prayer are generally recognized as key elements in the life of a healthy believer; however, many fail to realize the importance and necessity of fellowship. Fellowship provides the setting where Bible study, communion and prayer can naturally occur.

Pray that the members of Western Heights Baptist Church increase in their devotion to the fellowship. Pray we are open to each other on a more intimate level.

Tuesday, January 13

Sharing Our Experience with the Lord Leads to Joy for All

1 JOHN 1:3-4

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our [some manuscripts your] joy complete.

Christian fellowship is more than an activity “at church”; it is a lifestyle of mutual support and growth with other believers throughout the week. Such fellowship is the natural outgrowth of our relationship with Christ as we share our personal encounters with the living Lord, leading to true joy for all.

LORD, as we meet together, enrich our fellowship with You and each other and fill us with joy. Pray that God would use us to infuse joy into the life of our brothers and sisters.

Wednesday, January 14

Fellowship – More than a Casual Get Together

ACTS 2:46

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

Christian fellowship is more than an activity “at church”. As we study, pray, and share through fellowship, our common experiences lead us to become one in heart and soul. As we come to unity in Christ, it is only “natural” that this unity is expressed in sharing our resources with fellow believers.

LORD, increase our desire to fellowship with other believers and open our eyes to see opportunities to invite others to join us for food, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Help us to see needs that we can meet inside and outside of the body. Pray that small groups that will facilitate closeness and encouragement will begin, especially in homes. Pray that we loosen our grips on the things of this world. Pray we understand further what it means to be the church.

Thursday, January 15

True Fellowship Leads to Outward Expressions of Inward Growth

ACTS 24:32

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

As we study, pray, and share together through fellowship, our common experiences lead us to become one in heart and soul. As we come to unity in Christ, the fruit of the Spirit flows out of our hearts and into the practical things of life. One of the marks of the Spirit is generosity combined with concern for our fellow believers. Giving becomes the normal way of life for us.

Ask the LORD to bring us to a more perfect unity, whereby we are willing to share all we have with the other members of our fellowship. Pray for the fullness of the fruit of the Spirit. Pray that giving is advanced as people grow in that grace.

Friday, January 16

Maturity Seen in a Life Marked by Generosity

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-5

3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor[b] of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

A commitment to Christ is demonstrated not only in our generosity, but ultimately in the surrender of ourselves to Him. 2 Corinthians 8:5 reminds us that the greatest offering we can give is wholehearted devotion to the Lord as faithful of all God-given resources—time, talents, and finances.

LORD, bring each one in our fellowship to wholehearted devotion to You. Grant us the wisdom to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness and turn away from things that will not last. Help us to value your kingdom, the oppressed, the nations to the point that we give out of love for Christ. Help us to discern truly eternal treasures to lay up.

Saturday, January 17

Fellowship – A Key to the High Calling of Christ

1 PETER 4:1-2

4:1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Through study, prayer, and fellowship, we encourage one another in understanding that all we have and are is for the purpose of advancing God's kingdom. We are all stewards, faithfully discharging our God-given resources—time, talents, and finances.

Let us pray we know God's will as we steward these resources and we devote all we have to the LORD through our fellowship together.

Pray for us as a body that stewardship of all our resources would be evaluated. We need to look at finances and budgets, people and man hours, discipleship markers, buildings and facilities and property, everything—How does God want us to administer these things?

Sunday, January 18

Pursuing Christlike Maturity

EPHESIANS 4:11-14

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

Christlike maturity does not occur accidentally. Maturity in Christ is intentional, Spirit-led, and church centered. As a body, we are called to move beyond spiritual infancy and pursue the fullness of Jesus Christ together. May we be reminded that maturity is a shared calling for all of us, some of which involve: unity of faith, a deep knowledge of Jesus Christ, and a life where we are progressively shaped into His likeness.

Pray that God awakens in us a renewed hunger to grow; not only individually, but as one body. Pray that Christ Himself would be our measure, our standard, and our great pursuit.

Pray for visible fruit of the likeness of Jesus, compelled by our inner transformation.

Monday, January 19

Kingdom Service: The Servant Heart of Christ

MARK 10:45

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The heartbeat of Kingdom service is the humility of Jesus Christ. Jesus, who is the Eternal King, bent low, washed others' feet, embraced suffering, and gave His own life in sacrificial love for sinners. If our Savior chose service over the throne in His earthly ministry, we must examine the posture of our own hearts as we live life daily in submission to Him, as our Lord and our Savior.

Pray that our church becomes a community where the life of Jesus Christ is visible through the way we love, help, lift up, sacrifice, and give. May service become not just something we do; but what we are known for in our community.

May we continue to grow in our submission to Christ.

Tuesday, January 20

Kingdom Service: Equipped for Every Good Work

EPHESIANS 2:10

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

We are not saved by good works; but, we are most certainly saved by faith, and works are a direct result of our salvation. This truth transforms how we view and experience genuine ministry. God has already prepared opportunities, assignments, and moments of obedience for Western Heights. Our role is not to invent a new mission but to walk in God's already prepared and established mission.

There is no such thing as a Christian without a purpose or calling. And there is no such thing as a church without a God-given assignment. Pray today that Western Heights will rediscover its calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Pray that our hearts would be awakened to the good works prepared specifically for our congregation. Ask the Holy Spirit to make us sensitive to His leadership and bold in obedience. May we gladly embrace every opportunity to reflect the goodness of Christ in our households, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and city.

Wednesday, January 21

Spiritual Transformation: Renewing the Inner Life

HEBREWS 10:22-25

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind in Christ Jesus."

Transformation begins in submission and full surrender. The call to present our bodies as a living sacrifice is a call to give God what He desires most. He desires our lives. True transformation is not superficial change but an inward renewal that reshapes our desires, attitudes, habits, and our ways of thinking.

As a church, we must resist the subtle and convenient pressures of the world that seek to mold us into its image. Instead, we must allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds through the Word, worship, repentance, and obedience. Pray that Western Heights becomes a place where transformation is normal; where believers are shaped more into the beauty and character of Jesus on a daily basis. Pray that our minds would be renewed, our hearts purified, our motives examined, and our whole community aligned with the will of God.

Thursday, January 22

Spiritual Transformation: Conformed to Christ

JOHN 15:4-5

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Spiritual transformation does not come through effort alone; it comes through abiding. Jesus makes this truth extremely clear. Fruit is produced only through connection to Him. The life of Christ flows into the believer who remains close, humble, dependent, and yielded.

At Western Heights, we must examine whether we are abiding or simply attending; connected or just simply active; bearing fruit or just staying busy. Programs do not produce transformation, proximity to Jesus does. Pray that our church learns the holy art of abiding. Pray that we hunger for the presence of Christ more than the work of Christ, knowing that the work flows from His presence. Pray for fruit, real fruit, that comes from life in the Vine. This will produce in us holiness, love, joy, purity, patience, compassion, and faith.

Friday, January 23

Leadership Training: Faithful Stewards of the Gospel

2 TIMOTHY 2:2B

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrusted to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

The health of the church depends not only on mature believers but on faithful leaders who pass on the good news of the gospel with accuracy, integrity, and courage. Paul's instruction to Timothy is to be the pattern for the church today: faithful disciples training faithful disciples who will train others after them.

At Western Heights, we must pray for mature believers and leaders who are humble, teachable, and trustworthy. Leadership is not a position, it is stewardship. As we pursue Christlike maturity, we must cultivate leaders in every generation in our church. Pray that God raises up men and women who will shepherd, teach, disciple, serve, and lead with Christlike maturity and character. pray for our pastor, elders, deacons, teachers, volunteers, and emerging leaders. Ask the Lord to multiply trustworthy laborers who will advance the gospel for years to come.

Saturday, January 24

Leadership Training: Servant Leaders Who Build the Body

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."

The goal of leadership in the church is not to control but to equip. God gives leadership so that the saints, who embody the whole congregation may be strengthened and empowered to do the good work of ministry. A healthy church is not built by a few leaders serving many people; it is built by many people who are equipped by faithful leaders.

As Western Heights moves forward in its HOPE vision, we must pray for an equipping culture; a church where every believer discovers their spiritual gifts, embraces their calling, and participates fully in the work of ministry. Pray that God forms servant leaders who build others up rather than build themselves up. Pray that all of our leaders model humility, unity, clarity, and courage. Pray that every member of Western Heights becomes a working part of the body, contributing to the maturity and mission of the whole local church.

Sunday, January 25

To Reach Out

PROVERBS 24:11-12

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Behold, we did not know this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?"

Outreach is a term we use to describe the action of reaching out to another for their benefit. Sometimes, the "another" doesn't even know their situation is perilous. The one reaching out knows the other is in a harmful situation, and unless rescued, it will indeed get worse.

Someone reached out to you and shared the gospel, the good news, about how you could have a right relationship with God and be sure that when death occurs, you will reside in heaven, forever blessed. When you think about it, you are very thankful that person reached out to you.

Now, the God of heaven has commissioned you (MATTHEW 28:19-20), has given you power (ACTS 1:9) to represent Him as His ambassador (2 CORINTHIANS 5:20) to be an agent of reconciliation (2 CORINTHIANS 5:18) to help others be reconciled to God. In other words, to help someone have a right relationship with God and be forever blessed. To follow God in obedience and make this happen, you must prayerfully prepare.

Pray that God would make us a church that is prepared to share good news. Pray for a willingness to share to be pervasive in our church family. Pray for fears to fade, apathy to be abolished, procrastination to be put down, for courage to be given, determination to flourish that the truth of the gospel may be shared.

Monday, January 26

Be Prepared

1 PETER 3:15

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Being prepared to help someone in their time of need takes moral, mental and physical readiness. Morally, you must believe it is your duty, in this case, a duty given to you by God. Mentally, you must understand how to do it; how to help someone who faces a specific danger. Physically, you must exercise and be healthy in order to help when the need arises.

Above all, in your preparation, the closer you draw to God, the more you will want to do His will. God saves people because He loves them (John 3:16). To be effective you must have the same attitude. When you love others, you will not want them to perish. Instead, you will want others to experience His love and you will persevere in sharing it. How privileged we are for God to entrust us with such a marvelous responsibility.

Pray for our closeness to God. Pray for intimacy in our relationship with the Lord so that we may be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit to share with others. Pray that we would be able to desire His will for our lives and the lives of others.

Tuesday, January 27

Multigenerational Faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Routines, business, lack of intentionality and thoughtful introspection can lead to a loss of the reverent awe of who God is, what He has done, and the preeminence He commands. Pray that we meditate upon the person of Christ. Pray that we remember his presence in our lives when we first began to walk with Jesus. Pray that our church would reflect a body where Christ is revered in the eyes of everyone in our midst.

Wednesday, January 28

I Was Blind, but Now I See!

JOHN 9:25

He answered, whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

A testimony is a solemn declaration or affirmation made to establish or prove a fact, often related to God's revelation and truth. A personal testimony in the Christian sense, is the story of God's work in a person's life that led to their salvation or other work in their life. It is one of the most effective tools a person has to share their faith. Life transformation testifies and verifies, "This happened to me!" The Apostle Paul used his testimony effectively when after his arrest, God gave him opportunities to speak before "the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel" (ACTS 9:15).

Pray for every believer at Western Heights to learn to share their testimony, be able to write it down and prepare to share it at any God given opportunity. Pray that when testimonies are shared eyes are opened and unbelievers see Christ. Pray for the ability to see the open doors to share. Pray for ministries here at the church to be intentional about giving opportunities to share.

Thursday, January 29

The Plight of the Unbelieving

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Logically, to cure a problem, one must understand the problem. In this case, unbelievers have been supernaturally blinded from the light of the gospel by the "god of this world," namely Satan. Additionally, the word of the cross is foolishness to unbelievers. They simply do not understand. We must understand this and then seek to know what we must do to resolve. God must be involved. God is sovereign and Satan has limited power. God is able to break through the barriers and shine the light of Christ on unbelievers. No one is able to come to God unless God calls him first (JOHN 6:44, 65). We must understand that we do not save anyone. We must humble ourselves and allow God to work through us. It's God's power that saves (ROMANS 1:16).

Troup County has an estimated 58,000 people who are not in a church on a given Sunday morning. In the US there are at least 230,000,000 adults who are not believers. There are about 7.2 billion people who are lost among all the peoples of the world. Pray that God opens their eyes, grants repentance, draws them to himself. Pray for a burden for the plight and destination of those who do not know Christ. Pray for a deadly seriousness in Western Heights to advance the cause of the gospel in a dark world full of people who need Jesus very badly.

Friday, January 30

The Essentials

ACTS 1:8

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."

We tend to view this text as concentric circles that gradually grow bigger moving out from Jerusalem. However, our HOPE strategy identifies Worldwide Mission as a mark of true discipleship, the goal and mission of our church, and the totality of Christ's mission in the world. It includes everything from your home to the thousands of people groups on the planet. We must take the gospel outside these walls; across the hall, across the street, across town, across Georgia, across the US, across the world. There are people all around us and to the ends of the world that needs Christ. There is only one way to a relationship with the Father.

Pray that a passion will rise for evangelism. Pray that we will have continual training in evangelism. Pray that we will regularly share the gospel through all the ministries of our church and our lives. God will save, but not apart from the delivery of the gospel message. Pray that we will have a regular ministry to actively pursue lostness in Troup County. Pray that the percentage of believers will rise and unchurch will significantly go down in our county because of us. Pray for our international work. Pray it will grow from it's infancy in person, and back to a higher level for the Cooperative Program, Operation Christmas Child, Lottie Moon, etc. Pray that we would see the fruit of our labor.

Saturday, January 31

Commitment to HOPE

MATTHEW 14:28-29

*28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.*

Will 2026 be a pivotal year for our church? It is a time where we will determine if we are truly committed to the HOPE strategy, to making disciples, to staying the course, to embracing the purpose of mission of the kingdom of God. Will we rise to the occasion? Will we cast aside the things that we have allowed to hold us back? Will we be willing to sacrifice? Will we reorganize our priorities to do what must be done? Are we truly looking for God to visit us and wreck our lives upon his altar and do as he pleases? Are we willing to step out into a stormy sea in the darkness and go to Jesus?

Pray that we are step out in faith. Pray that God visits. Pray we will be obedience when he does. Pray that we would be willing to walk through any door that is open for us. Pray for the uncommitted, that God will work in their lives and bring forth passion for him. Pray that the barriers to commitment come down. Pray that our church family with demonstrate the determination to follow Jesus wherever he leads without reservation.

