



Women Of The Word

Welcome

We cannot merely desire to please God; we must also actively pursue Him. These words were on my little daily calendar recently and caused me to stop and think. What is a relationship without active participation? I can think of my husband multiple times a day, but if I don't purposely interact with him, our marriage will certainly suffer. Further, I know that I love my children dearly and that I'm proud of them, but if I don't tell them, how will they know?

Our spiritual lives are like this to. I can think happy thoughts about God, but if I don't pick up my Bible and read it or bow my head to thank Him for all the ways He blesses me or seek His guidance when making decisions, how will my relationship with Him grow?

Blessings,
Melanie Woltje,
Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

Genuine Faith - Vanessa Wisdom

A few weeks ago, two of my girls came home from college and brought their boyfriends along for a weekend visit. I walked into our cabin after work and by the front door there were four pairs of shoes. All four pairs of shoes were the same style, just different sizes. This caught my attention. As I stood there staring at these shoes, Romans 12:2 came to my mind. *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."*

God's Word warns Christians to be set apart and not conform to the behaviors and customs of the world. We are to look different than the worldly culture, to be a peculiar people (Titus 2:14). Now I know that my two daughters and their two boyfriends all purchasing and wearing the same trendy style of shoe is not exactly what Paul was writing about. But it does make me think of how often we are subtly influenced by what the world around us says is attractive and acceptable.

Regarding this conformity to the world, Pastor John MacArthur says, "Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world's masks. They want to enjoy the worlds entertainment, fashions, vocabulary, music and many of the world's attributes--even when those worldly things clearly do not conform to the standards of God's Word.

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Guest Article, Continued

That sort of living is wholly unacceptable to God." So, I'd like to challenge us all to do as 2 Corinthians 13 :5 commands and "Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves."

Does your daily living look like the world?

Do you put worldly ideals into your mind by the forms of entertainment you partake in?

Do you seek to look like the world outwardly by your appearance and possessions?

Does your vocabulary sound like the world?

Is your living acceptable and pleasing to the Lord?

May we be desirous to look more and more like Christ, and less and less like this world!

Love you much,
Vanessa

10 FUN FALL ACTIVITIES

Take a hayride

Leaf Scavenger Hunt

Camp out in backyard

MAKE S'MORES

Drink Apple cider

Buy a Mum

Visit a Fall Festival

Eat a caramel apple

Bake pumpkin pie

Jump in a leaf pile



Bible Studies

Sundays @ 5:00 pm - Church - Old Testament Expedition Study - This study is open to men and women to discuss our Old Testament Reading Plan.

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am - Joan Little's Home (26675 P Rd) - Topic Varies

"Worship: From Eden to Eternity" - Starting September 9 - Mondays @ 6:30 pm & Wednesdays @ 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall



Upcoming Events

Monday, September 9 - Fall Bible Study Begins

Saturday, September 28 - Fall Cookout @ Lassey's

Tuesday, October 22 - GNO @ Trail's @ 6:15

Saturday, November 2 - Teaching Event

Saturday, November 16 - OCC Shoebox Packing Party

The 2nd Tuesday of each month we meet @ Jhett's @ 11:30.

These dates are subject to change.

Do not conform
yourselves to the
standards of
this world
Romans 12:2

First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

Contact Us: womensministry@fbcholton.com



Spiritual Disciplines: Personal Prayer



Prayer is a gift. It is an invitation for God's people to commune with Him. He speaks to us through the Bible and invites us to respond to Him through prayer. The spiritual discipline of prayer is an outworking of knowing who God is. The practice of prayer is fueled by knowing who God is as revealed in His Word—to know Him as the only one who can truly meet all needs. It is a response to knowing He is a kind and generous giver. It is in response to relating to Him as a child relates to their father, in need of His care, provision, and work on their behalf.

There are many passages in Scripture that denote the expectation of believers to pray. According to 1 Thess. 5:17, we are to “pray constantly” and in Col. 4:2, to “devote yourselves to prayer”. There is an implication of prayer being an assumed life posture for the believer. When we pray, we are acknowledging our utter dependence on God, which puts God in His rightful place. When we behold God as God, we are further compelled to pray!

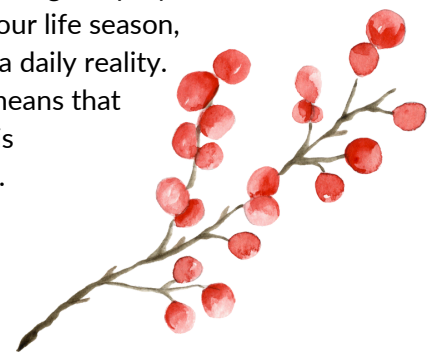
Prayer is not a mindless task that we complete to appease God. Praying is actually participating in sacred communion with God. For believers, prayer should be as natural as breathing. Yet, many of us reduce prayer to quick sayings before meals or random reflections before drifting off to sleep. Scripture gives a vision of prayer as a deep devotion of people longing to grow in Christlikeness and as a sacred expression of their union with Him. In prayer, we are actively adoring God for who He is, confessing our sins, giving thanks, expressing deep cries of lament and grief, and seeking comfort from the Comforter, along with wisdom, strength, grace, and more. In prayer, we acknowledge that we need God to do any good thing.

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus offers His disciples a structure to guide their prayers. Because the two accounts in Scripture of the Lord's prayer are not identical, we can deduce that Jesus was setting forth a principle for prayer rather than expecting a rote recitation. Jesus offers the Lord's prayer in response to the disciples' request to be taught how to pray. It is clear that prayer is something that is learned. It is a discipline that we must grow in through intentional practice.

The framework of the Lord's prayer is simple: there are God-centered petitions followed by need-centered petitions. First, we acknowledge who God is. He is a relational God, and He is, above all things, worthy of worship. By beginning our prayers with this acknowledgement, we are placed in a posture of humble reverence which then appropriately shapes the rest of our prayers. We set our eyes on eternity first, knowing that everything else will then fall into proper perspective. This does not mean that we shy away from bringing our very real, personal needs before the Lord. Jesus teaches His disciples to bring their physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual needs to the Father. It glorifies God when we look to Him to meet all of our needs.

Additionally, Jesus teaches that our prayers should not be doused in many words with little meaning. Prayers are not to be reduced to tradition and repetition. Our prayers are deeply personal. We can use our own words, but we are not confined to our own words. We are invited to pray Scripture. We can learn how to pray by reading the prayers of the Puritans. We can journal our prayers. There are many ways to seek God in prayer. No matter our life season, we strive in prayer and endeavor to make communing with the Lord through prayer a daily reality. We make a plan, use God's Word to guide us, and believe that our prayers are the means that God uses to spiritually prepare us to receive the things He has for us. We trust in His sovereignty but act on the belief that our prayers matter and move the heart of God.

Additional reading... Matthew 6:5-14, Luke 11:1-13, James 5:13-16
(Growing in Grace: Knowing and Loving God Through Spiritual Disciplines)



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