

# LOVE GOD'S WORD & PRAYER

## Daily Bible Reading

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer*. We strongly believe that every growing disciple of Jesus needs to be regularly hearing from God through His word and personally speaking back to God through prayer. If regular Bible reading is not yet a habit of yours, this is a great way to get started!

**We are encouraging everyone to continue our Daily Bible Readings.** We will provide devotional thoughts and helpful prayer points on the passages. The weekend material will prepare you for the upcoming Sunday sermon as well as provide some discussion help for Faith Groups.

*We encourage you to set aside at least 15-20 minutes a day for reading and prayer. If you fall behind, just start on the current day. Try to develop the habit of reading at the same time and place. Have a journal and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts and insights. For additional Bible reading plans, check out [faithsf.com](http://faithsf.com). Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!*

## Monday, September 5

Read 2 Samuel 22:1-51

**THINK:** Have you written a song or poem? Have you ever put into words the story of God's faithfulness and grace to you? David's song is jammed with vivid imagery (take note of all the metaphors). Try putting into words your own story of God's faithfulness to you. Like David, chronicle the amazing grace God has shown you. If it helps, use some of the thoughts and images you find here in chapter 22. Yes, this will take some time, but your song/poem will be a treasured memento, a keepsake.

**PRAY:** Now take the poem you have written and turn it into a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God. Be personal. You have much to be thankful for and now is the time to declare it to God! Humble yourself and express your worship to the Great King of the Universe. As David would do, grab your lyre and sing it!

*Today is Labor Day. Thank God for your job, your career, or whatever means God has used to faithfully provide for you.*

## Tuesday, September 6

Read 2 Samuel 23:1-39

**THINK:** This text vividly describes David's "mighty men." What are the accomplishments that stand out to you? To whom does the writer give the credit for their exploits and valor? Consider all the Scriptures: who are the mighty men and women of faith that you admire? Then think of your own life: who are the people of great faith in Christ that have modeled walking by faith for you? What about them has impressed you? Yet "the Lord worked the victory!"

**PRAY:** Thank God for models of great faith in Christ. Thank him for your own Hebrews "Hall of Fame of Faith" or II Samuel "mighty men (and women!) of valor" whose lives have deeply impacted your own walk of faith in Christ. Perhaps after praying to thank God for them, send a note to someone you admire who is still living, telling them of your appreciation. Pray for admirable men and women of faith to model a Christ-centered life for your grandchildren, children, and the young people of our church. *Pray for our Elder Council who serve faithfully at both South and West.*

## Wednesday, September 7

Read 2 Samuel 24:1-39

**THINK:** What was it that so displeased the Lord? Dr. John Sailhamer writes, "David's numbering his armies is related to the injunction not to "acquire great numbers of horses for himself" Deut.17:16. It was the "prohibition of trusting in a large army for security rather than in the Lord" (CBC, p.249). God sent a judgment upon David's nation. What was it? How was it averted eventually? Ponder the implication of David's statement in 24:24. How might that relate to us today? Ponder Luke 14:25-33.

**PRAY:** Praise God for sending his Son as our Savior, for surely our worship did cost the Father a great price, the life of his own Son. Express your love to God, and desire to serve him faithfully the rest of your life. What has the Lord called you to do? What spiritual gifts has he given you for the upbuilding of his church? Commit your way to the Lord, including the faithful fulfilling of your calling and gifts. Pray for our church as we launch into fall ministry in this season of *Anticipating Change. Ask God to lead us.*

## Thursday, September 8

Read Romans 1:1-17

**THINK:** Romans 1:1-7 is **one sentence!** Take time to ponder each phrase, for layer upon layer each phrase builds upon the previous one. How would you define *the obedience of faith*? “All the nations” (v. 5) includes the Gentiles, a major theme here (see v 14). Do you have a Christian friend through whom you are mutually encouraged by each other’s faith? Have you ever memorized Romans 1:16? Do so, and add v.17! It is Pastor Dana’s life verse. What do you think it means to live by faith?

**PRAY:** Rejoice in the triumph of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ask God to help you walk in the obedience of faith today and every day. Tell God of your willingness to have a positive spiritual impact on others today, especially to encourage other believers. Tell God also that you are not ashamed of the gospel and are willing to share it with those in your sphere of life. Pray by name for people you love who need Jesus—your Sacred 7. *Pray for our pastors today: Dana, Jayson, Dave, Thomas, and Jimmy.*

## Friday, September 9

Read Romans 1:18-32

**THINK:** What is the wrath of God? Who should be concerned about it? Why are all people subject to judgment without excuse? What is clearly known to them? What is the evidence that people without God are fools? What is the sad exchange? How is homosexuality (and other sexual sins) a sign of people exchanging the truth of God for a lie? When you read through the extensive list of sins, which ones grab your heart and bring conviction? Consider how our society today no longer condemns these things but approves them. We need a spiritual awakening!

**PRAY:** Confess to God any sins from this passage that brought conviction. Thank God that forgiveness is available through the Lord Jesus Christ and his shed blood on the cross. Ask God to bring spiritual awakening in our land, so that rather than approve of such sins, we would repent and turn from them to God. Rejoice in prayer that the believer has no need to fear God’s wrath, though the truth of it should cause us to tremble with humility and concern for others who are lost. *Pray for our Faith children and youth!*

## Weekend, September 10-11

Read: South – Psalm 135, West – I Corinthians 1

If you've fallen behind this week, consider using these extra days to catch up. You can also prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday's worship service. Read the planned sermon text above and the thoughts below in advance of Sunday morning's message. If you are in a Faith Group, consider discussing the questions below together.

**THINK:** Beginning next Sunday, both campuses will be in I Corinthians for our new series, *Saints Together*. South concludes *Knowing the Holy* this week with Pastor Thomas preaching on God's sovereignty from Psalm 135. Pastor Jayson will launch into I Corinthians at West with the first 9 verses.

Prepare your heart to receive the proclaimed word by reading the passage and considering, "What is God's message to me from this text? What is the main point the writer is conveying to me as the reader? How can this Scripture truth transform and help our church family?"

**PRAY:** Pray for the men tasked with proclaiming God's word this Sunday. Pray also for Pastor Dana, who is teaching four sessions on prayer this weekend in Manson, IA at the family camp of Morningside Baptist Church of Sioux City.

Ask God to make his word for you "a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." Tell God that you want to be not just a hearer of the word, but a doer as well. "Increase my faith, Heavenly Father, and shape my heart and mind to do your will."

**FAITH GROUP:** Share as a group: how did this Sunday's passage most impact your thinking? What is on your mind since hearing the message?