

# 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, March 6

Read Psalm 7

**THINK:** There is much blunt language in this Psalm about the enemy. But first, notice that God is for the Psalmist a refuge (v.1) and a shield (v.10). Is he your shield and refuge? Also notice that the Psalmist recognizes that his own iniquity may be part of the problem (vv.3-5). He is not naïve about his sins. Nevertheless, he pulls no punches about the evil of his enemy (v.14). They need to repent. But wicked people seem to flourish. It feels like the righteous are being defeated. Yet, the enemy will fall into his own pit! His own snare will entrap him (vv.15-16).

**PRAY:** Declare to the Lord that he is your refuge and shield! Express your confidence in his everlasting care and promised faithfulness. Is there sin in your life that you need to admit? Tell the Father. Is there an enemy crouching at your door? Tell the Father! There is no reason to hold back. You need help; God is your helper. In light of v. 17 that closes this Psalm, pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all that he has done. *Pray for West Campus elders.*

## Tuesday, March 7

Read Psalm 8

**THINK:** To fully grasp the multiple layers of truth in this song of praise, read also Hebrews 2:6-8. This Psalm is a celebration with 3 layers: of God's glory and majesty seen in all creation (vv.1-3), of humanity created in the image of God with unique responsibility (v.4ff.), and of the coming Son of Man/Messiah, who we know to be Jesus Christ. The Hebrews writer clearly thinks of Psalm 8 as messianic, with its ultimate fulfillment being the Lord Jesus, yet it also rejoices in our dignity as unique creations and in the vast wonder and beauty of all that God has made. *Hallelujah!*

**PRAY:** This is a glorious song. Why not sing it? Yes, make up your own tune and sing away! In the very least, pray this Psalm of praise to God, line by line, phrase by phrase, rejoicing in creation, in humanity as created by God, and in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Truly, "How majestic is your name in all the earth!" Our country is going through deep division and much bitterness. Let this Psalm remind you that God is God! He is on the throne! *Pray for South Campus elders.*

## Wednesday, March 8

Read Psalm 9

**THINK:** The Psalmist looks in multiple directions in Psalm 9:

*He looks back* and with thanksgiving recalls God's wonderful deeds, help and protection from his enemy. He is helped to recall that God hasn't left him to the ruin of his opponents. The wicked will not triumph.

*He looks up* to see that yes, God is on the throne (v.7) and make no mistake, God will judge in righteousness and equity. He will not fail the oppressed, the needy, nor anyone who puts their trust in him. Are we trusting in God? He will not fail us!

*He looks ahead* to the final end of the wicked. Judgment will come. The Lord will indeed arise, judge, and put the nations in their place. Therefore, you who trust in the Lord, rejoice and praise him!

**PRAY:** First, *look back* at all that God has done for you. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving! Be specific. What has your Heavenly Father done for you? Rejoice in your salvation. Then *look up* and know that God sits enthroned. He will not be thwarted. The wicked may seem to flourish for a time, but God is not mocked. Finally, *look ahead* to your destiny as a child of God. Praise God, and be thankful, for every good gift that Jesus secured for you, including eternity. *Pray for our youth group.*

## Thursday, March 9

Read Psalm 10

**THINK:** Psalm 9 was a good reminder of God's eternal kingship, and his judgment on the wicked, necessary since this Psalm expresses that sometimes God seems far away. Life is hard. The wicked appear to flourish; they do evil things. Where is God? The wicked fool thinks, 1) There is no God; 2) God will never see what I'm doing; and 3) God will not hold me to account (vv. 4,11,13). But the Lord is King forever and he will judge the wicked and uphold the cause of the fatherless and the oppressed. Don't be a fool!

**PRAY:** How do you see wickedness flourishing? Tell the Lord. How do you feel oppressed? Pray about it now. If God seems silent, express that to him. But then praise him as well, knowing that silence for a season does not mean you are forgotten or that those who seek to harm you will succeed. Rejoice that you are a child of God and have a future and a hope in Christ Jesus. *As we continue this season of Anticipating Change, pray for the Search Team.*

## Friday, March 10

Read Psalm 11-12

**THINK:** A continuation of the series of Psalms regarding troubled times for King David, these two Psalms read like a commentary on our present moment in time. The wicked shoot their arrow at the upright; the foundations are trembling; it seems like the faithful have vanished; lies are more common than truth. The Lord may test his people, but he detests wickedness and violence. The Lord is in His holy temple. He sees and knows. His response will come- "I will now arise"-and when he does, he will punish those who do evil and save the needy and upright. His word is truth. Count on it.

**PRAY:** Think of the needs of our own nation and world and cry out to God today. Let your own prayer echo the words of these Psalms: distress over the deeds of the wicked while echoing the cries of the needy. Pray God's truth into our present moment: ask God to rise up and bring relief in his time. Ask God for courage and faith to wait with endurance for the day of Christ's appearing and for increasing faith to stand firm when the foundations are trembling. **Hope in God.** *Ask God to greatly bless as West Campus transitions to their new identity as Risen Hope Baptist Church this Easter.*

## Weekend, March 11-12

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

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:** Certainly a most challenging passage to understand and even more challenging to apply to our lives today. To keep it simple: Paul places a greater value on speaking God's words to the ears of people (prophecy here in this passage) than the speaking of mysterious tongues without interpretation. His goal is to edify (build up) the believers and to declare the gospel to the unbelievers. He does not deny tongues but places cautions and limitations on them.

Ponder this passage and prepare your heart to hear it preached.

**PRAY:** Pray for our pastors preaching on this passage. Pray for our church to be a place where believers are edified and strengthened in their faith, and where the biblical gospel is proclaimed clearly and with faithfulness. Ask God to protect our body from harmful excesses while also believing wholeheartedly in his power and glory and saving grace.

**FAITH GROUP:** Share any experience you have with those who speak in tongues (perhaps friends or family members, or even your own experience). How does that experience align with this biblical teaching? These are not easy questions. But we can share and seek to be biblical and pray for faithfulness to the word of God.