

**The Vision for 2025**  
*The Urgency of Prayer*  
Hebrews 4:14-16

This past year we have seen God do some amazing things! We have had 6 salvations & baptisms. We have gained new members. We've had 3 individuals called to ministry. The Holloways answered the call to ministry at First Baptist Nicholson, and Mike Magee is preaching some Sundays at Emmanul Baptist Church, in Nicholson. We will license Bro. Mike to the gospel ministry in February. We've had a rich past, but God is paving the way for a righteous future for Oak Hill Baptist Church. I feel that we must get back to a fundamental spiritual discipline to continue forward. This is the spiritual discipline of prayer.

C.H. Spurgeon on prayer: When asked which is more important, prayer or reading the Bible, Spurgeon responded, "What is more important: Breathing in or Breathing out?"

Spurgeon said that those who live without prayer or seldom read the Bible will have a dry and barren heart. He also said that those who spend time in prayer and meditating on the Bible will have an overflowing heart. He acknowledged that the countless thousands of individuals saved through his preaching were saved through the ministry of prayer that was happening by faithful individuals gathering in the boiler room, praying that souls would be saved!

We have a great privilege that the saints of the church must utilize: the privilege of prayer. We can boldly approach the throne of grace!

**We Have A Savior that is More Than Capable (Heb 4:14)** "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."

**We Have A Savior that is Compassionate (Heb 4:15)** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

**We Have A Savior that We can Confide in (Heb 4:16)** "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

**How can we Confide in Christ? Luke 11:1-4**

- a. Pray every day. "When you pray..." (1 Thess 5:17) "pray without ceasing."
- b. Pray exalting God. "Father, hallowed be your name."
- c. Pray with expectation that He will supply your needs. "Give us each day our daily bread..." (Eph 3:20-21) "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
- d. Pray with earnest confession of your sins. "forgive us our sins..."
- e. Pray to escape temptation. "lead us not into temptation..." (1 Cor. 10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be

tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

### **Top 7 Concerns for Prayer in 2025**

1. For the lost to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:1-4). You know that this is my heartbeat! I want all to come to Christ! ***“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”***
2. For the saved to share and take a stand. (Luke 10:2, Acts 4:18-20; 31, Romans 10:14-15). ***Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”***
3. For a serious commitment to the local church. (Hebrews 10:24-25). ***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 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.”***
  - a. Time (1 Peter 4:10) “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:”
  - b. Talents (Romans 12:6-7) “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;”
  - c. Tithes (2 Corinthians 9:7) “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
4. For struggles and sickness. (James 5:13-16). ***“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”***
5. For strengthened marriages and families. (Proverbs 10:1; 22:6) ***“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.” Proverbs 10:1***
6. For strengthened pastoral ministry. (Ephesians 6:18). ***“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”***
7. For battling spiritual warfare. (Ephesians 6:10-18). ***“Put on the full armor of God...”***

### **How will we apply this vision?**

1. Make a commitment to personal prayer time.
2. Regularly contribute to Wednesday Night prayer meetings.

3. Intentionally connect through small group prayer meetings, (Sunday School, Women's, or Men's Groups, etc.)