

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in*

*his wonderful face,*

*And the things of earth  
will grow strangely dim*

*In the light of his  
glory and grace.*

 **TURNING POINT**  
CHURCH of League City, TX

Welcome to . . .

# Turning Point

CALL US FAMILY! CALL IT HOME!

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name*

Psalm 100:4

Praise and thanksgiving are part of every level of prayer. They are continuous as we walk in the light. To come before God with thanksgiving is no different than coming before our earthly parents with an attitude of gratitude. Nothing disturbs a parent more than a child who is always demanding, forever complaining, and never satisfied. How would you feel if you've given as much as you can as a parent and your child still wants more, more, more? On the other hand, how would you feel toward the child who snuggles up and says, "Thanks for being who you are. I just love you and I know you're doing the best you can for me." What a great parent-child relationship. Praising God is acknowledging His attributes. I try to be aware when I pray that God is the ever-present, all-powerful, all-knowing, loving heavenly Father. I try to keep the knowledge of God's presence foremost in my thoughts. No matter where I go, He is with me.

Prayer: Father God, teach me to practice the awareness of Your presence and accept the sufficiency of Your attributes.

# MAY 15, 2022

## SUNDAY – MAY 15

10:00 am           Worship Service  
                        Children's Church  
                        Ladies' Monthly Meeting

## WEDNESDAY – MAY 18

10:00 am           Intercessory Prayer

## SUNDAY – MAY 22

10:00 am           Worship Service  
                        Children's Church

## MORNING OFFERING

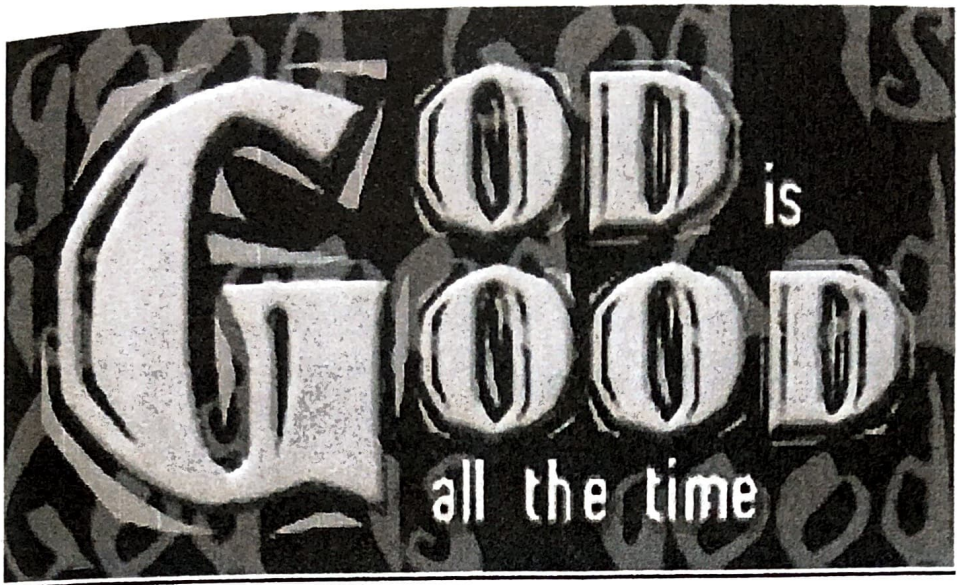
*The offering today will go to our  
Sound and video fund.*

## SPECIAL PRAYER

Dahlia Hall  
Lauretta Maxwell  
Patsy McCarley  
Meri-Lyn Evans

Bonnie Hatfield  
Carollon Kivch  
Raye Murphy  
Cheryl Zielke

# !!! ATTENTION !!!



*We will be having our end of the season Ladies' meeting here at the church tonight at 6:00 pm. Please come and enjoy the Word with us.*

The reason people can't hold you down is because God still has something for you to do. You have an assignment. His mercy is not going to give up on you.

***ONLINE GIVING! Just Google "Turning Point Church League City" to find our website, click "Giving" (upper right on home page) and follow the easy directions***

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 15**                      **Worship Service**  
                                     **Children's Church**  
                                     **Ladies' Monthly Meeting**
- May 18**                      **Intercessory Prayer**
- May 22**                      **Worship Service**  
                                     **Children's Church**

**AND MORE TO COME . . . .**

**Turning Point Church**  
**400 Hobbs Rd., Ste. 111**  
**League City, TX**  
**281-332-5728**  
**Pastor Jerry Hatfield**  
**[www.tpcoflc.org](http://www.tpcoflc.org)**

## Let Us Pray... Without Delay!

Steve Burchett

They didn't complain. They didn't doubt. They didn't even strategize. Once Peter and John reported their imprisonment and the threats they had received for preaching the gospel, they immediately prayed with a gathering of believers in Jerusalem (see Acts 4:23-31). As I once heard, "Prayer was their first choice, not their last chance."



Here's what they asked from God: "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (vv. 29-30).

God responded right away: "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness" (v. 31).

### *Fooling the Israelites*

If only the Israelites would have been as wise as these first century believers. God had promised them Canaan. However, once the Israelites were in the Promised Land, they were to drive out the "Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites" (Deuteronomy 20:17). But in Joshua 9, the Gibeonites (who were Hivites [cf. 11:19]) deceived the Israelites by leading them to believe that they had journeyed from a foreign land. Their worn-out sandals and ragged clothes duped the Israelites. You can imagine the Jewish leaders conferring with one another: "These people are obviously not from Canaan—just look at them. Even their bread is crumbly and their wineskins are old and cracked." They unwisely made a covenant with the Gibeonites to let them live.

Three days later, the truth came out, and the negative consequences followed quickly: "Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders" (9:18). Problems would also arise in the future. The Lord had told Israel not to make a covenant with these nations, "lest they make you sin against me" (Exodus 32:33).

Why did this happen? How did they make such an unwise decision? Joshua 9:14 provides the answer: "So the men [of Israel] took some of their provisions, *but did not ask counsel from the Lord*" (emphasis added). Like

the believers in Acts 4, they should have prayed immediately, but they didn't even pray at all.

### ***A Foolish Young Pastor***

I didn't make prayer a priority in an extremely trying incident that occurred early in my first pastorate. A large group of long-time members left the church for non-disciplinable reasons. They resigned their membership on a Tuesday, and we had our monthly members' meeting the next day.

Where did I go wrong? I very proudly went into the Wednesday meeting and informed the remaining members about those who were leaving. I then forcefully declared that we needed to remove them from the membership right away. I was so quick to tell them what "God wanted," without much prayer at all (other than praying briefly at the beginning of the meeting). I also paid little attention to the fact that people were hurting and confused since many of the people who left were longtime, close friends with those who stayed.

How foolish!

What would have been the right course of action? I should have walked into the meeting that night, explained what happened the previous day, and then said, "We need God right now. We need the wisdom that He promises to give to those who ask for it. We're going to take the rest of our time together and pray."

### ***What About You?***

When the difficult situation arises in your life, do you pray immediately, or only after you are done complaining? When the life-changing decision is before you, are you quick to ask God for wisdom? Since you learned of the disease, have you cried out to the doctors more than to God?

If you are a leader in your church, do you make prayer a priority? Is there a significant amount of time for it in your gatherings? Do you spend more time making announcements to the people than talking to God? And when the controversy comes in the life of your church, what happens first—a strategy session, or a prayer meeting?

*"Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."* (John 16:24)