

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Florene Howze—health problems
- ♦ Hannah Lawson—undergoing tests
- ♦ Brenda Ray—eye problems
- ♦ Jim Ward—much better lately

Others in Need

- ♦ Janet Andrews—cancer
- ♦ Kallie Autmann—severe burns
- ♦ Belinda Crawford—eye issues
- ♦ Bob Duke—health problems
- ♦ Randy Emerson—broken leg
- ♦ Freddie English—kidney issues
- ♦ Jerry Madden—improving
- ♦ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Bobby Williams—brain tumor surgery 2/26
- ♦ Roy Wooten—skin cancer

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Please pray for those suffering from the results of the recent storms.
- ♦ Those mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, and the church worldwide.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Events



May 3-8
Our Gospel Meeting with Joel Wheeler preaching

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—David Howze (Sun.)
Mark Howze (Wed.)

Serving the Lord's Supper
Head: Mark Howze
Helpers: Justin Derrick, Wilfred Derrick, Caleb Howze

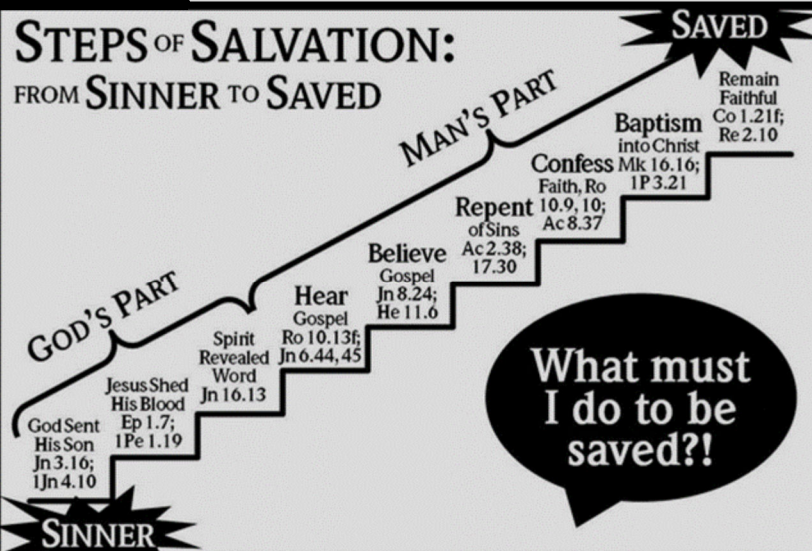
Lord's Supper PM
Head: Leo Derrick
Helper: Ethan Howze

Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn

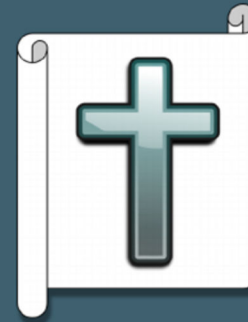
Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
(Romans 6:17).



"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of
The church of Christ in Baker, FL

March 8, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
P.O. Box 285
Baker, FL 32531 USA
850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

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Some Ideas About Leading Prayers in Public

Roger Campbell

When Paul wrote to the Corinthian saints about their activities when they were together, he mentioned saying "Amen" when someone gives thanks, that is, affirming one's agreement with what is said in a prayer (1 Corinthians 14:16). It is scriptural for God's people to pray when they come together in a public forum.

Having been a member of the Lord's body for the last forty-three years, I have heard thousands of public prayers. In a "loaded" week at Green's Lake Road, including prayers offered to open or close a Bible class on four different days of the week, I hear up to eighteen (18) public prayers in one week's time. On a number of occasions in my life, out of necessity I have led up to five prayers in one assembly. I say all of that to emphasize that I have a pretty good feel for what our public prayers sound like. Let me share some Bible-based and common-sense ideas about leading them.

Why do we have someone lead our prayers? Why not just have everyone "let 'er go" and pray simultaneously out loud? First, God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). Second, in regard to assembly activities, God charges us, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). Third, God gave instruction through Paul, "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8, NKJV). While a male leads the prayer, all others present, including males and

females, follow along in their heart.

What might a prayer include? There is no order required, but a prayer could include the following items, with the principles applying to private and public petitions: *praising God* (1 Chronicles 29:10,11), *thanksgiving* (1 Thessalonians 5:17,18), *general requests* – asking for God’s blessings (Philippians 4:6), *specific requests* for people or activities (Romans 15:30,31), and *confession of sin* (1 John 1:9).

Speak so that others can hear and understand: If you whisper, God still can hear you, but the rest of us cannot. Those who lead prayers absolutely must **speak up** . . . speak loud enough for those present to hear you. I know that in a conversation between humans, it can come across as being rude behavior to speak too loudly. However, when leading a public prayer, you must **give it plenty of volume**. No, that does not show disrespect to God, plus, if we cannot hear what you are praying, we might as well just scrap the plan of having a leader and ask everyone to say a silent prayer.

Also, when you pray, open your mouth and **speak clearly**. If you mumble or rattle off your words too quickly, some of us cannot understand what you are saying. Again, if there is no understanding, there is no point in having someone “leading.”

Be yourself: Be as comfortable as possible in your prayers. Talk in your normal tone of voice, not some automated “prayer voice.” Say things in the way that *comes natural for you* to say them. Do not think you must mimic the words, phrases, or styles that other brothers use in their prayers.

Leading prayer for a specific occasion: If we are asked to lead prayer for a specific matter, do not forget to pray about that thing! When a new apostle was going to be chosen, the disciples prayed about that specific matter (Acts 1:21-26). If you are asked to give thanks for a meal, make sure to thank God for the food! (Acts 27:33-36; John 6:9-11). If you are afraid you might forget it (and it does happen), try saying it at the very outset of your prayer.

Spiritual emphasis: While a prayer offered in a worship assembly might touch on a wide variety of topics, in general, the thrust of our prayers ought to be heavily tilted toward spiritual matters . . . things such as magnifying God (Psalm 19:14), godliness (1 Timothy 2:1,2), evangelism (Colossians 4:2-4), and recapturing scattered sheep (Matthew 9:36-38). As Jesus said, in all things our appeal should be for God’s will to be done (Luke 22:42).

To whom should we pray? Our petitions should be addressed to God the Father. Jesus said, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name*” (Matthew 6:9). Jesus also told His apostles, “. . . *that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you*” (John

15:16). Here is God’s will for our prayers: “*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 5:20).

Christians should be praying not simply to *the Godhead*, but to God *the Father*. Jesus is the Mediator between us and the Father (1 Timothy 2:5), and we are to pray in His name, meaning by His authority. Our prayers are not addressed to deceased saints, to the Holy Spirit or to the risen Savior, but rather to the Father.

How should we address God? There is no exclusive wording found in the Bible. At times Jesus began a prayer by saying, “Father . . .” (John 17:1). He also addressed Him with the words “Holy Father” (John 17:11). As we already observed, the Christ taught His followers to approach God by saying, “*Our Father in heaven*” (Matthew 6:9, NKJV), which would be the same as “Heavenly Father.” We could begin a prayer with, “Holy God . . .” If I open my prayer with the words, “Dear Lord,” that has a biblical basis: we see the disciples praying to one whom they called “Lord.” The context makes it clear that they were praying to the Father. Look: they spoke to (1) “Lord” about (2) the Lord’s holy child/ servant Jesus (Acts 4:24,27). Jesus was one being, and the one to whom they prayed was *someone else* – His Father. If I pray to “Lord,” those who hear me need to know that I mean I am talking to the Father.

Lord’s Supper prayers: If you are leading a prayer for the Lord’s Supper [also called “breaking bread” (Acts 20:7) and “the communion” (1 Corinthians 10:16)], consider thanking God for His love, thanking Him for the sacrifice/death of Jesus, thanking God that Jesus willingly died for us on the cross, or thanking God for the power of Jesus’ blood. By all means, make sure to thank God for the bread (or the cup/fruit of the vine) (Mark 14:22-24). Remember, because we are speaking to the Father, we should say something like, “Thank You for the death of Your Son” rather than, “We thank You for dying for our sins.” The Father did not die on a cross.

Leading a closing prayer: Why not thank God for allowing us to come together to study and/or worship? Why not ask Him to bless us as we leave our gathering to head back out into society? Why not express again a desire to live for His glory? There is no Bible instruction about how long or short “an opening prayer” or “closing prayer” ought to be.

If the idea of leading a public prayer makes your knees shake, your heart race, or your voice quiver, you are not alone, my friend. Remember this: those saints in that gathering whom you are leading to bring thoughts and praise before the throne of God, every single one of them is pulling for you. They all are on your side. So is God.