



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

April 13, 2021

## Lord, Hear My Prayer

Tim Dooley

In Psalm 143:1 David pleads, *“Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.”* We all want our prayers to be heard and answered but the sad fact is many simply do not know how to pray. It is not uncommon in regard to prayer to hear folks say they don’t know what to say or how to say it. Even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1).

While Jesus answered His disciples with the model prayer (and the outline He sets forth for us there is indeed a great place to start) I want us to consider something Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 7:7–8 Jesus applies important factors that, if followed, will benefit us with regard to prayer. Jesus said, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* The application of this in line with our subject of prayer is that our prayer should be...

1. **SIMPLE.** Jesus said, “Ask.” Asking is a prerequisite for receiving. Verse eight says, *“For everyone who asks receives.”* James said, *“You do not have because you do not ask”* (James 4:2). Prayer is not as complicated as men often teach or think. Keep it simple, talk to God.
2. **INTENSE.** Jesus said, “Seek.” Seeking is a precondition of discovery. Again, in verse eight Jesus says, *“he who seeks finds.”* Through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord said, *“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart”* (Jeremiah 29:13). Prayer should be a pouring out of ourselves to God.
3. **PERSISTENT.** Jesus said, “Knock.” Knocking is the persistent action by which the divine storehouse of God’s blessings is accessed. Notice again Jesus says, *“to him who knocks it will be opened.”* We often think of persistence in prayer in the framework of repeatedly asking God for the same thing, but may I suggest that persistence here may have more to do with Paul’s instruction to, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How persistent are we in prayer?

While these will help us in aiding in the Lord hearing our prayers there is one other crucial factor that must be mentioned. Above all else, in order for the Lord to hear and answer our prayers, we must be right with God! James 5:16 says, *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* 1 Peter 3:12 declares, *“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”*

If you are not in a right relationship with God today you need to understand that your sins are hindering the ears of the Lord from hearing your prayers. Isaiah 59:2 proclaims, *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”*

Jesus died for every man on the cross, became our advocate, so that we might have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18). If you will come to Him in obedience, repentance, confession, and baptism for the remission of your sins, He will cleanse you and open His ear to you. If you are a Christian who has fallen away, if you will repent and ask His forgiveness, you can once again enjoy the privilege of saying, “Lord, hear my prayer,” and the assurance that He will.

## Hear Chad Thompson

Chad Thompson will be with us Sunday evening, April 18th at 6:00 p.m. to deliver a presentation on the work being done at Apologetics Press. Chad and his wife Sandy have been married for 20 years. They have three boys, ages 17, 15, and 13 and live in Henderson, Tennessee.

Chad is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University. In addition to his work of promoting and raising support for Apologetics Press for the past 10 years, Chad has also taught middle school Physical Education in Adamsville, Tennessee for 22 years.



## Growing by Going Beyond

Lance Cordle

**Introduction.** We have all seen a toddler crawling around a room, eagerly eying furniture that can be used for leverage when the time comes for “pulling-up.” We have also seen, that toddler reach the pull-up stage and move to walking “with no holds.” We rightly praise and encourage such behavior. We know that growth is only achieved by going beyond present circumstances. What we sometimes forget is, that we (adults) need to grow also. That growth, though it may be imperceptible to the eye, is still real growth. Let us consider some things we need to move beyond in order for us to grow spiritually.

**Beyond Our Own Expectations.** Our achievements will only be as high as our highest goals. If we aspire to be pew-warmers only, that is all we will be. Our minds will not be engaged in the private study of the word of God and our faith will not be challenged by the word’s clash with the world in our daily life. We dare not be content with “just being religious.” Here is a challenge for us: *“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children”* (Ephesians 5:1). That ought to raise our goal.

**Beyond Our Hurts, Losses, and Failures.** There is no doubt about it, in this world we will have tribulation (John 16:33), or trouble. Persecution is to be expected (2 Timothy 3:12). Further, physical accidents and health failures occur regularly, as does death. Christians are not immune to any of these things. Therefore, when these occur in our lives, we must deal with them in a realistic, optimistic manner. This in no way minimizes the importance of our own health or the personhood of those we love. However, if we cannot accept the loss of something or someone that/who is truly gone from this life, we will suffer serious mental and spiritual consequences.

**Beyond the Expectations of Others.** We all have certain limitations. They may be in our physical makeup or circumstances. However, we can move beyond some of those limitations. For example, we may hold a job that pays minimum wages. However, that does not mean that we, or the job, are insignificant. We can work enthusiastically at any job we may hold (Ecclesiastes 9:10). We can do the best we can with what God has given, and be satisfied in the realization that we have done so.

**Conclusion.** Growth, by its nature means moving beyond the present circumstance to even better circumstances. If we approach it in that manner, even the most disheartening of circumstances can be faced with courage and optimism. Let us go beyond...and grow.

# YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; Wed. @ 6:30

## PRAYER LIST



**Masey Kate Adams** had an MRI Monday on her knee.

**Jason Jennings** will have gallbladder surgery April 23rd in Tupelo.

### Continue to Remember:

Betty Boren, Kathy Clayton, Audrey Clement, Shane Crotts, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmert, Madison Hardy, Luke Jennings, Gloria Jones, Sue Marques, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Susie Robertson, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Charles Ulmer, Sarah Grace Wise

### Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Bill Lyon

### Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals



## WORK DAY

A work day has been planned for this Saturday, April 17th at 8:00 a.m. We will be cleaning and organizing the up-stairs offices, the annex building and the fellowship building. Ladies, we need your help!



## AREA EVENTS

- Gospel Meeting at the Nettleton church of Christ April 18th—April 21st. Kaleb Hall from Fayette, Alabama is the speaker.
- Gospel Meeting at the Amory church of Christ April 18th—April 21st. Caleb Colley from Jacksonville, FL is the speaker.

Check the flyers in the back of the auditorium for times and additional information.

### I've Learned

It's hard to get in shape spiritually if you only work out on Sunday.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- April 18. .... Colleen Dooley
- April 18. .... Kurt Clayton
- April 19. .... Thomas Wall
- April 20. .... Lynn Harrison



## RESPONSE

*Peggy Miller* responded to the invitation Sunday, asking for encouragement and prayers of the church to live as Christ would have her. We are so encouraged by her example.

## YOUTH EVENTS

- NAYPE (New Albany Youth Prayer & Evangelism) will meet Wednesday, April 14th following services.
- A bonfire for the Youth will be Friday, April 16th at the Grigsbys at 7 p.m. Eat before you come.
- There will be a Youth Devo Sun. night, April 25th at the fellowship building. *Kim & Greg Clayton* will host.
- May 1st 7th-12th Youth trip to Topgolf.

## GOLF OUTING

A golf outing is scheduled for May 15th around 9:00 a.m. This is for everyone. We currently have enough spots for 20 golfers. Please sign the list on the table in the foyer. We will play at the Ole Miss Course and the cost will be approximately \$40.00 for green fees/cart. It will be a scramble format with a few twists thrown in. Sign up quickly as spots will go fast!

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Volume 15

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

## MINISTERS

Tim Dooley.....859-486-4215  
 Shaler Grigsby...Youth/ Assoc.  
 .....256-263-9137  
 Office.....662-534-4649

## ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762  
 Tim Dye.....316-2527  
 Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 Phil Young.....316-2059

## DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420  
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195  
 Jason Jennings.....801-3260  
 Mark Jennings....731-609-3309  
 Randy Wall .....316-9255

## TO SERVE

Communion.....Steve Todd  
 Scripture.....Steve Hill  
 A.M. Prayer.....Mark Jennings  
 Closing.....Perry Jones  
 P.M. Prayer....Kevin. Simmons  
 Closing.....Hunter Jennings  
 Greeters.....P & P Young  
 Lock.....Roger Clayton  
 Usher .....Roger Clayton  
 Security ..... Mark Jennings  
 Wed. Open 21st .....T. Wall  
 Wed. Close 21st... M. Jennings

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....105  
 Sunday A.M.....122  
 Sunday P.M.....88  
 Wednesday.....92  
 Contribution.....\$4,218.00  
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

Church of Christ  
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148  
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652  
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## GOD IS STILL LOVE

Traveling through the country, a man noticed the weathervane on the roof of a farm building that bore the phrase, **“God is Love.”**

He was troubled about it and asked the farmer, “Do you think God’s love is as changeable as that weathervane?”

“You miss the point, sir,” replied the farmer. “It is on the weathervane because no matter which way the wind is blowing, God is still love!”

~Author Unknown

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love”. 1 John 4: 7-8*

*“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:16*