**Memphis Prayer 365 Guide**

**August 9, 2022**

**PRAY GOD’S PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN HOPE**

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 15:13).

What is so important about hope? Before we can answer that, we must define what hope is. Hope is more than, “I hope things get better. I hope things improve.” No, biblical hope is a “confident expectation.” Here’s how Max Lucado puts it: “Hope is the confidence that God will change it, them, or you!”

As we live, love, give, and invest our time and our lives, we must do it with the resolute confidence that God will move! He will not leave you alone. He will change it (the situation), them (the people you are praying for), or you. He will not fail to move! We need that confidence! Too often we go through the motions when we ought to be anticipating a miracle! Vance Havner said most of our church services start at 11:00 a.m. sharp and end at 12:00 p.m. dull!

Listed to this prayer promise from the book of Psalms, *“Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning, I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly”* (Psalm 5:3, NLT). We should come to God expecting Him to answer!

However, this way of living is not a “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” life. It is not “get yourself pumped up” for the day. It flows from the Holy Spirit.

Paul instructs us in Romans 15:13 that the only way we will *“abound in hope,”* is *“by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* However, that is something that God wants to do, for He is *“The God of hope.”* As you begin your prayer time today, pray this prayer, “God, I try to be faithful in praying, but sometimes I feel like I am going through the motions. But God, today, I am asking You, who have revealed Yourself as the God of hope, to fill me with great joy and peace as I pray. I believe You are able to do this! Lord, I am not looking for a feeling, I am living in faith! Lord, I am asking You to fill me, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that I am abounding, overflowing, in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then, Lord, I will pray the way I should, and Your Kingdom will come in me, the people I know and minister to, and the place where You have planted me. I praise You God! Amen!”

**PRAY THAT WE WILL BE A CATALYST FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN MEMPHIS AND BEYOND**

This is the greatest need in Memphis and beyond. Every battle we fight is a spiritual battle! Paul tells us, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Ephesians 6:12). Our greatest need is to be the people of God experiencing the power of God flowing through us.

* Pray that God will revive His people. *“Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?”* (Psalm 85:6).
* Pray that we will walk in both the fear of God and in the faith that God will respond to believing prayer. *“Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy”* (Habakkuk 3:2).
* Pray that God will both revive present leaders and also raise up new spiritual leaders, men and women who know that the Living God is the only answer. *“Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. Then we shall not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. O Lord God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved”* (Psalm 80:17-19).

**PRAY THAT SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS WILL BE BROKEN**

In the prayer for Memphis, which we put here every month to pray, you’ll remember these words, “Demolish every stronghold of pride, violence, racism, poverty, crime, sexual immorality, drug abuse, sickness, religious formalism, fanaticism, legalism, liberalism, and traditionalism.” Strongholds are developed in lives, families, churches, and the culture where the truth of God is ignored or rebelled against, and sin is not forsaken.

* Pray that we will realize that both the problems and the solutions to what we face are spiritual. Drugs, violence, poverty, pornography, and intolerance all have their root in rebelling against God. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds”* (2 Corinthians 10:4 ESV).
* Pray that we will engage in spiritual warfare. Resist does not mean ignore. Resist means to stand against. “*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”* (James 4:7-8).
* Pray that we will clothe ourselves with the armor of God. “*Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (*Ephesians 6:13-17).

**PRAY THAT GOD WILL BRING HEALING TO OUR LAND**

Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord our Healer, is the One we look to. *“See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand” (*Deuteronomy 32:39). He and He alone is our ultimate refuge.

* Pray that we, as Christians and as a nation, will do our part (repenting, humbling ourselves, praying) in living out God’s will so that we might experience healing. “*If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (*2 Chronicles 7:14).
* Pray that God will supernaturally protect and heal His people. “*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers*” (3 John 2).

**PRAY THAT SCHOOLS WILL OPEN IN A SMOOTH WAY**

SCS (Shelby County Schools) are planning to open August 8. Please pray for SCS and the surrounding school districts to have God’s wisdom as they reconvene.

* Pray that teachers and administrators will have wisdom to lead wisely. *“Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was a widow’s son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze. So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work*” (1 Kings 7:13-14).
* Pray that parents and students will walk through these days with their eyes fixed on Jesus. *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

**PRAY FOR MEMPHIS**

Please take time to verbally pray for our city using this prayer as a guide.

Heavenly Father, thank You for Memphis. Thank You for strategically locating our city in the middle of this nation, so we can be a catalyst for revival and spiritual awakening. Please pour out Your Spirit on Memphis, Shelby County, the Mid-South, and beyond. Help every Christian and every Bible-believing, Jesus-loving, gospel-preaching church to love God, love people, share Jesus, and make disciples. Demolish every demonic stronghold of pride, violence, racism, poverty, crime, sexual immorality, drug abuse, sickness, religious formalism, fanaticism, legalism, liberalism, and traditionalism. Replace them with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, blessing, mercy, grace, hope, healing, liberty, and freedom. Destroy the stronghold of religion in Memphis that has a form of godliness but denies the power thereof. Give us churches that believe in the Bible and preach salvation only in Jesus Christ. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in Memphis on Earth as it is in Heaven. Bring pastors, lay leaders, and congregations together as we pray for this city. Bless our governmental leaders, schools, and economy. Please send good jobs to Memphis. Keep casinos, strip clubs, and occultic activity out of Memphis. Do a work of revival in Memphis that can only be explained by Your presence and power, and do it all for Your glory. Call Your people to fervent, united, visible, extraordinary prayer. May the latter glory of Your Kingdom in Memphis be greater than the former, and please grant Memphis Your peace. Do exceeding and abundantly beyond all that we can ask or think. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

**PRAY FOR POLITICAL LEADERS** We have been commanded to pray, *“for kings and all who are in authority”*(1 Timothy 2:2).

* Pray those who are saved will lead with righteous values and will share the gospel of Christ with other political leaders.
* Pray that the pressures of leading will cause lost politicians and judges to call on Jesus to be saved.

# President of the United States: **Joe Biden**

# Vice President of the United States: **Kamala Harris**

# Supreme Court Justices:

# **John G. Roberts, Chief Justice of the United States**

# **Clarence Thomas**

# **Ketanji Brown Jackson**

# **Samuel A. Alito**

# **Sonia Sotomayer**

# **Elena Kagan**

# **Neil M. Gorsuch**

# **Brett M. Kavanaugh**

# **Amy Coney Barrett**

# Governor of Tennessee:

# **Bill Lee**

# Tennessee Senators:

# **Marsha Blackburn**

# **Bill Hagerty**

# West Tennessee Congressmen:

# **Steve Cohen**

# **David Kustoff**

# **Memphis/Shelby County Elected Officials:**

Mayor: City Court Clerk:

## Jim Strickland Myron Lowery

Director of Police: Shelby County Mayor:

## Cerelyn “CJ” Davis Lee Harris

## Director of Fire Services: Shelby County Sheriff:

## Gina Y. Sweat Floyd Bonner, Jr.

**City Council:**

District 2: Super District 8-1:

## Chairman, Frank Colvett, Jr. JB Smiley, Jr.

## District 1: Super District 8-2:

## Rhonda Logan Cheyenne Johnson

District 3: Super District 8-3:

## Patrice J. Robinson Martavius Jones District 4: Super District 9-1:

## Vice Chair Jamita Swearengen Chase Carlisle

District 5: Super District 9-2:

## Worth Morgan J. Ford Canale

District 6: Super District 9-3:

## Edmund Ford, Sr. Dr. Jeff Warre

## District 7:

## Michalyn Easter-Thomas

## Shelby County Commissioners:

District 11: District 5:

## Chairman Eddie Jones Michael Whaley

District 13: District 6:

## Pro Tempore Brandon Morrison Willie F. Brooks, Jr.

District 1: District 7:

## Amber Mills Tami Sawyer

District 2: District 8:

## David C. Bradford Mickell M. Lowery

District 3: District 9:

## Mick Wright Edmund Ford, Jr.

District 4: District 10:

## Mark Billingsley Reginald Milton

District 12:

**Van Turner**