



# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The SBAOC Semi-annual Meeting will be held at Rockport Baptist Church on Saturday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be a combined in-person and livestream through Teams. Those participating via Teams should contact Terry Coker to register.
- First Baptist Church of Saint Francis, Kansas, is seeking a Preaching Elder. See page 2 for more details.

## HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

By Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

“That your prayers be not hindered.”—1 Peter 3:7

To many persons this discourse will have but little reference because they do not pray. I fear also [that] there are some others whose prayers are so worthless that if they were hindered, it would be of no very material consequence. It is even possible that their being forced to omit them [would] arouse them out of a self-righteous lethargy. Merely to bow the knee in formality, to go through a form of devotion in a careless or halfhearted manner is rather to mock God than to worship Him. It would be a terrible theme for contemplation to consider how much of vain repetition and heartless “prayer-saying” the Lord is wearied with from day to day. I would, however, most solemnly remind those who do not truly pray that the wrath of God abideth on them. He who never seeks for mercy has certainly never found it.

Conscience acknowledges it a righteous thing with God that He should not give to those who will not ask. It is the smallest thing that can be expected of us that we should humbly ask for the favors we need. If we refuse to do so, it is but right that the door of grace should be closed so long as men refuse to knock. Prayer is no hard requirement: it is the natural duty of a creature to its Creator, the simplest homage that human want can pay to divine liberality. Those who refuse to render it may well expect that one of these days when in dire extremity they begin to bemoan their folly, they will hear a voice from their insulted God, saying, “I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded...[Therefore,] I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh” (Pro 1:24, 26)...If a sinner will not plead the name of Jesus to which the promise of forgiveness is appended, if he will not bend his knee in penitential prayer and ask for pardon at the hand of God, none will wonder that he perishes for his folly. None will be able to accuse the Lord of too great severity when He casts away forever all prayerless souls. O, you who never pray, I tremble for you! Would to God you would tremble for yourselves, for there is cause enough for it.

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### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

*“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SBAOC Semi-annual Meeting**  
—Saturday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. at Rockport Baptist Church. The meeting will be a combined in-person and livestream through Teams. Those participating via Teams should contact Terry Coker to register.

**Grace Bible Conference—April 19-21.** Rockport Baptist Church, Arnold, MO.

**Missions & Evangelism Conference — May 3-4.** Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, KS. This conference is free to attend, but please register for planning purposes at [trinitybaptist-wamego.org](http://trinitybaptist-wamego.org).

**Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 17-21.** Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Registration is closed for this camp.

**Theology Camp—July 8-12.** Logan Valley Christian Retreat, Ellington, MO. For youth grades 7-12. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Contact Terry Coker for more information at [Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com](mailto:Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com).

**Leadership & Laity Conference—July 25-27.** Hosted by Mount Zion Community Church, Arkansas City, KS.

*If you have a conference or event that you would like listed here, please contact us by email: [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com).*

## FBC ST. FRANCIS, KS, SEEKING PREACHING ELDER

The First Baptist Church of St. Francis, Kansas is a reformed SBC congregation. We are passionate about God's Glory, God's Word, Christ's Church, and the spread of the Gospel to all peoples. Our desire is that our church would help people grow in God's grace and the knowledge of Christ.

We are seeking a man to serve as the Preaching Elder of our church. The Pastor Search Committee prayerfully searches for the man God has chosen to be our serve as our pastor. The Preaching Elder will serve with the other elder in leading the Church. In addition to the normal duties of an elder in pastoral care, the primary duties of the Preaching Elder are to prepare and deliver expository sermons on Sunday Mornings and teach at the Sunday evening service. As a member of the church, he should participate in Church activities including AWANAS.

Our church willingly cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention through our local association, the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, and The Spurgeon Association of Churches. In addition to holding to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the officers of the church practice good-faith subscription to the 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith. All officers are to submit to and defend the doctrinal standards of the church.

We prefer a candidate with a seminary degree from a reputable, conservative seminary. However, we will consider all applicants. The successful candidate must be a man with a servant's heart that meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Tim 3:1-17, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3, be able to rightly divide the Word of God and minister to the needs of the Church.

If you are interested, please submit each of the following:

- Cover letter- Introducing yourself and your interest in this position.
- Narrative of your salvation testimony- Outline how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Resume - Your ministry experience, educational background, and at least three work related references and three personal references.
- Two sermons- including a sermon outline and a video or audio recording (a link to a host site if the files are too large).

Compensation package includes salary, an 1800 sq. ft. 4 bedroom parsonage with finished basement, a housing allowance, and other benefits. Health insurance, however, is not provided. The total compensation package equals approximately \$56,000 per year.

We desire to have the position filled as soon as God wills it. **All submissions should be sent to our Elder/Chairman of the search committee: Mr. Kelly Gienger at [kpgienger@gmail.com](mailto:kpgienger@gmail.com).**

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To those who do pray, prayer is a most precious thing. It is the channel by which priceless blessings come to them, the window through which a gracious God supplies their needs. To believers, prayer is the great means of soul enrichment—it is the vessel that trades with heaven and comes home from the celestial country, laden with treasures of far greater worth than ever Spanish galleon brought from the land of gold. Indeed, to true believers, prayer is so invaluable that [Peter used the danger of hindering it] as a motive why, in their marriage relationships and household concerns, they should behave themselves with great wisdom. He bids the husband “dwell” with his wife “according to knowledge,” and render loving honor to her, lest [it should hinder] their united prayers. Anything that hinders prayer must be wrong. If any management of the family, or want of management, is injuring our power in prayer, there is an urgent demand for an alteration! Husband and wife should pray together, as joint heirs of grace, and any temper or habit that hinders this is evil...

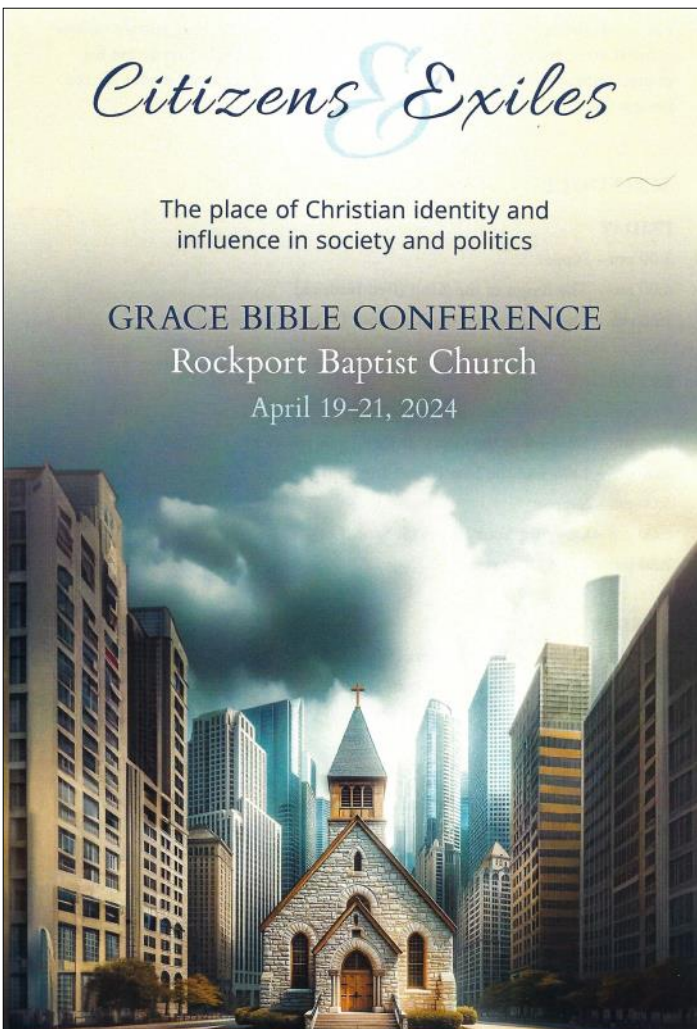
THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING HINDERED FROM PRAYER. That may be done by falling into a generally lax,

lukewarm condition in reference to the things of God. When a man becomes cold, indifferent, and careless, one of the first things that will suffer will be his devotion. When a sick man is in a decline, his lungs and his voice suffer; so when a Christian is in a spiritual decline, the breath of prayer is affected, and the cry of supplication becomes weak. Prayer is the true gauge of spiritual power. To restrain prayer is dangerous and of deadly tendency. You may depend upon it that, take it for all in all, what you are upon your knees you really are before your God...If you are a man of earnest prayer, and especially if the spirit of prayer be in you, so that in addition to certain seasons of supplication your heart habitually talks with God, things are right with you. But if this is not the case and your prayers be “hindered,” there is something in your spiritual system that needs to be ejected or somewhat lacking that ought at once to be supplied...

Prayers may be hindered, next, by having too much to do. In this age, this is a very common occurrence. We man have too much business for ourselves. The quiet days of our contented forefathers are gone, and men allot to themselves an increasing drudgery. Not content to earn as much as is necessary for themselves and families, they must have much more than they can possibly enjoy for themselves or profitably use for others...Many a man who might have been of great service to the church of God becomes useless because he must branch out in some new direction in business, which takes up all his spare time. Instead of feeling that his first care should be, “How can I best glorify God?” his all-absorbing object is to “stretch his arms like seas and grasp in all the shore”...The rich man in the parable had no time for prayer, for he was busy in planning new barns wherein to bestow his goods. Yet, he had to find time for dying when the Lord said, “This night shall thy soul be required of thee” (Luk 12:20). Beware, I pray you, of “the lusts of other things” (Mar 4:19), the [cancer] of riches, the greed insatiable that drives men into the snare of the devil. If it works you no other ill, it will do you mischief enough if thereby your prayers are hindered.

We may even have too much to do in God’s house, and so hinder our prayers by being like Martha, cumbered<sup>40</sup> with much serving. I never heard of anyone who was cumbered with much praying. The more we do, the more we should pray, and prayer should balance our service, or rather, it should be the life-blood of every action, and saturate our entire life...I fear that some of us would do far more if we attempted less and prayed more about it. I even fear that some allow public religious engagements to override private communion with God: they attend

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too many sermons, too many conferences, too many Bible readings, too many committees, aye, and too many prayer meetings—all good in their way, but all acting injuriously when they cramp our secret prayer...Praying is the end of preaching, and woe to the man who, prizing the means more than the end, allows any other form of service to push his prayers into a corner.

There can be no doubt, also, that prayer is hindered by having too little to do...I said we might do too much, and I could not balance that truth unless I added that a very large proportion of Christians do too little. God has given them enough wealth to be able to retire from business. They have time upon their hands, and they have even to invent ways of spending that time; yet the ignorant require instructing, the sick [desire] visiting, the poor need helping. Should they not lay out their abundant leisure in the service of God? Would they not then be quickened in prayer? I wish that all could say with one of the Lord's saints, "Prayer is my business, and praise is my pleasure"; but I am sure they never will until the zeal of the Lord's house shall more fully consume them.

Some people hinder their prayers, again, by a [lack] of order. They get up a little too late, and they have to chase their cork all the day and never overtake it, but are always in a flurry, one duty tripping up the heels of another. They have no appointed time for retirement, too little space hedged about for communion with God; and, consequently, something or other happens, and prayer is forgotten.— nay, I hope not quite forgotten, but so slurred and hurried over that it amounts to little and brings them no blessing. I wish you would each keep a diary of how you pray next week, and see how much or rather how little time you spend with God out of the twenty-four hours.

Much time goes at the table; how much at the mercy seat? Many hours are spent with men; how many with your Maker? You are [to some extent] with your friends on earth; how many minutes are you with your friend in heaven? You allow yourself space for recreation; what do you set apart for those exercises that in very truth recreate the soul?...

SECONDLY, WE MUST WATCH THAT WE BE NOT HINDERED IN PRAYER, WHEN WE ARE REALLY ENGAGED IN THAT HOLY WORK...Prayer can be hindered—very terribly hindered—in three ways: if we dishonor the Father to whom we pray, or the Son through whom we pray, or the Holy Ghost by whom we pray.

I say we can dishonor the Father. This can be done by

inconsistency of life: if children of God are not obedient to the Father's will they must not wonder if they find it hard to pray. Something will rise in the throat that will choke their pleading. You cannot pour out your heart acceptably unless you believe in your heavenly Father. If you have hard thoughts of God; if you have a cold heart towards Him and a [lack] of reverence for His name; if you do not believe in that great willing heart that is waiting to bless you, your [lack] of love, faith, and reverence will strangle your prayers. Oh! When a man is fully at one with the great Father; when "Abba, Father," is the very spirit of his soul; when he speaks to God as one in Whom he places implicit trust and to Whose will he yields himself up perfectly and Whose glory is his soul's delight—then is he on a vantage ground in prayer. He will win what he wills of God. If he is not so with God, his prayers will limp most painfully.

So, brethren, if we be wrong with Jesus through Whom we pray, if we are in any measure self-righteous, if we delight in self and forget our Beloved, if we fancy that we can do without the Savior, if, therefore, we pray like complacent Pharisees, our prayers will be hindered. If we are not like the Savior; if we do not make Him our example; if we have none of His loving spirit; above all, if we crucify Him afresh and put Him to an open shame, and if we are ungrateful for the [gifts] we have already received, our prayers will be hindered...

So, again, with the Holy Ghost. There is never a prayer that God accepts but the Spirit first writes it in our

hearts. True prayer is not so much our intercession as the Spirit of God making intercession in us. Now, if we

grieve the Spirit, He will not help us to pray; and if we attempt to pray for something that is contrary to the Spirit's

holy, gracious, loving nature, we cannot expect Him to enable us to pray in contradiction to the mind of God.

Take care that you vex not the Spirit of God in any way, especially by shutting your ears to His gentle warnings, His loving calls, His earnest entreaties, His tender [cautionary advice]. If you are deaf to the divine Comforter, He will be speechless to you. He will not help you to pray if you will not yield to Him in other matters.

Here let me interpose a remark. The Lord will hear any man's prayer who asks for mercy through the mediation of the Lord Jesus. He never despises the cry of the contrite. He is a God ready to hear all those who seek reconciliation... If they will repent and cry for mercy through

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Jesus Christ he will hear their cry and will save them; but if they are not first reconciled to Him, their prayers are empty wind. A man will grant his child's request, but he does not listen to strangers. He will listen to his friends, but not to enemies...Yet more, God does not hear all his children alike or alike at all times. Not every believer is mighty in prayer...When children of God find that their prayers do not succeed they should search, and they would soon discover a reason why their prayers are hindered.

First, there must be holy living in a believer if his prayers are greatly to succeed with God. Listen: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jam 5:16). Note that point of a righteous man. Listen to our Savior (John 15:7): "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." There is an if there. If you do not do Christ's will, He will not do your will. This is not legal: it has nothing to do with the Law, but it is the gospel rule of Christ's house that obedience should have for its reward power in prayer...It is impossible for God to patronize a guilty professor of religion by giving him success in prayer. The blind man whom Jesus healed most truly said, "If any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (Joh 9:31).

In addition to obedience, there must be faith. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb 11:6). "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (Jam 1:6)...Without faith, it is impossible to please God in prayer or in anything else. It is the very backbone, sinew, and muscle of intercession.

Thirdly, there must be holy desires, or else prayer will be a failure. And those desires must be founded on a promise...So the successful prayer is the desire of a holy heart, sanctioned by the promise. True prayers are like those carrier pigeons that find their way so well: they cannot fail to go to heaven, for it is from heaven that they came. They are only going home.

Furthermore, if prayer is to speed, there must be fervor and importunity. It is written, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth

much," not the dead-and-alive prayer of the mere professor —not the prayer of one who does not care whether he is answered or not. There must be eagerness, intensity, the pouring out of the heart before God...You must resolve to have it with this boundary only— "the will of the Lord be done"— and you will succeed.

There must be, next, a desire for God's glory. That is the white of the target; and if we do not shoot towards that, the arrow will avail nothing! We must earnestly desire what we ask because we believe it will glorify God to give it to us. If we are wholly living unto God, our prayers will run side by side with His purposes, and none of them will fall to the ground. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psa 37:4).

We must also have holy expectancy, or we shall hinder prayer. The man who shoots must look to see where his arrow goes. We must direct our prayer unto God, and look up. Eyeing the Lord Jesus in all, we must look to succeed through the merits of the Redeemer "If we believe that he heareth us, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of him."

God grant us grace as Christians to walk with God in the power of His Spirit, resting alone on Jesus; and may He make each one of us mighty in prayer. A man, whom God has taught to pray mightily, is one with God's mind and is God's hand moving among the sons of men. When he acts, God acts in him.

From a sermon delivered on Lord's Day morning, September 13, 1871, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington.

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**the Triune God** in Missions and Evangelism  
*Conference*  
**May 3-4, 2024** **FREE**

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Asst. Professor of Theology and  
Christian Ministry  
Sterling College

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Pastor  
Mercy Hill Church  
Olive Branch, MS

**Dr. Caleb Lenard**  
Equipping Pastor  
Grace Life Church  
Ankeny, IA

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## PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

*The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.*

*We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.*

