

# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Gleanings from select scripture passages in the Books of Ephesians and Colossians

by Dr. Ken Harmon



#### WRITER'S BIO

Dr. Ken Harmon retired from FBC Newberry after serving the church for 30 years. He is trained in the Revitalization/Replanting process of the North American Mission Board, SBC, and is actively pursued by churches seeking a great interim pastor. He is a key member of the Revitalization Team of the Lexington Baptist Association (SC).

# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 1	Pray for Lost Church Members
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3:16-	19
	"So that Christ may dwe	ell in your hearts through faith " Ephesians 3:17a (ESV)
	the church and have lead Christians. They may hamay be active in the chart they have never been c	s have truly put their faith in Christ. Some grew up in arned the Bible and how to talk and behave as ave joined the church and even been baptized. They urch as adults and even hold leadership positions. But onvicted of their sin and repented. Or they just as to surrender to Christ's lordship. They are not them?
	Christ, pray for those in Christ will overcome the God would give them s true condition. Ask tha righteousness, and judg that when the gospel is repent. Pray that they	convicted of your sin, repented, and put your faith in your church who may not have done so. Pray that e power of Satan in the lost persons' lives. Ask that piritual enlightenment so that they will recognize their t the Holy Spirit will convict them of sin, gment and that God will draw them to himself. Pray shared, they will hear, personally understand, and will then have the courage to make their decision incentive for other lost church members to do
	Prayer	
		not have a judgmental attitude. Then pray that those in your church will come to repentance and accept Savior.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 2	Strengthened by the Holy Spirit
Day 2	Ken Harmon
Read Ephes	
Read Lphes	10115 3.10
	ording to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be
strengthened	d with power through his Spirit in your inner being"
	pend billions of dollars on weight control, personal trainers,
	ines, and power diets. The goal is outward fitness. We want
	es and well-developed minds. These are good goals for our
	s. But we also should strive for inner fitness—to be strong
	uch fitness gives an eternal benefit.  B says, " for while bodily training is of some value, godliness
-	every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for
the life to co	
	y speak about a person's "core" strength. We are to build the
	uscles on it. What gives us core strength spiritually? God's Holy
Spirit within	us!
We are stren	gthened spiritually by God's power. This inner strength is not
something w	e produce on our own, either by good deeds or religious
	is given to us by God. The Holy Spirit gives us strength when we
	ions or when we struggle with problems. As believers we have
	the Holy Spirit to turn from temptation, live lives pleasing to
	bout Jesus, and minister to the needs of others. Your church has be the family of God, a house of prayer for all people, and the
	st in your community.
	st in your community.
Pra	yer
Pray that you	ı will be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your
	Pray the same for your fellow church members.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 3	Rooted and Grounded in Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3:17k	
	" that you, being roo	oted and grounded in love"
	"Grounded" is the lange which the whole buildir that enables it to withst structural core of a skys during earthquakes. In	ral term meaning the bed in which plants are set. uage of architecture and indicates the strong base on ng is built. Think of the inner strength of an oak tree tand the forces of wind and nature. Think of the scraper that enables it to stand straight and tall even Christ, we can have a core strength that can ne all the opposing forces that we might encounter.
	the foundation on which but the love God showed not a love we can produs. It is a love which he	is both the ground in which we grow spiritually and th our Christian lives are built. This is not human love, ed in giving Jesus to die on the cross for us. This is uce ourselves. Rather it is a love that God has given to lips us grow spiritually, enables us to minister in Jesus' as to live life to the fullest.
		ability, unity, fellowship, and power of your church rounded in love? Imagine how attractive such a place ide the church.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that you and your grounded in the love o	fellow church members will all be rooted and f God.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	D 4	
	Day 4	Know the Vastness of Christ's Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Ephesians 3	:17b-18
	-	nay have strength to comprehend with all the saints what length and height and depth "
	length, and height taken in adultery, a multitude, little chi denied him. His lo	Il wants us to grasp the meaning of the breadth, depth, of Christ's love. It is wide enough to reach the woman in unclean leper, questioning Nicodemus, the hungry ldren, those who crucified him, and Simon Peter who we is wide enough to wrap his arms around you and draw, deliver you from hell, and bring you to himself.
		enough to go to Bethlehem, to Jerusalem, to Gethsemane, ne grave, and out of it.
	make him or her a despair, rebellion, o obedience, and ligl	ough to reach the most foul, mean-spirited sinner and child of God. It is deep enough to reach you in your sin, or darkness and draw you into his forgiveness, hope, nt. It is deep enough to go with you as you walk through adow of death—as you face your own death or when you
	ever thought you cand love more than	ough to raise you up so that you can be more than you could be, do more than you ever thought you could do, n you ever thought you could love. It is high enough to take you God's blameless, beloved child.
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that everyone the love of Christ is	in your church will know how wide, long, high, and deep s.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 5 Know Personally Christ's I	
Read Ephesians 3:19	rmon
" and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge"	
Here is a question to ponder: How can you know something that surpass knowledge? What did Paul mean when he spoke of knowing the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge? Maybe he meant that we can never comprehend with our human minds the vastness of Christ's love.	
But maybe he meant something else. Maybe he was speaking of head knowledge versus heart knowledge; the knowledge that comes by experiencing something personally rather than just knowing about it. It is know with my head the knowledge that a wife loves her husband and do certain things for him. But it is quite a different thing to have my wife with by me and run her hand over my shoulder, or smile at me when I enter the room, or say "I love you" as she gives me a hug.	oes alk
Likewise, we know the love of Christ in our experiences of being loved by him. We understand Christ's love when we have been convicted of our sand experienced his forgiveness. We grasp it when we have the burden our guilt taken away and when we catch a glimpse of what heaven is like understand it when we see our prayers answered. We comprehend it mass we share it with others in words of witness or acts of kindness, whether with believers or unbelievers.	of e. We ore
Prayer  Pray that you will know experientially the love of Christ and that your fell church members will know it as well.	low
CHUICH HEIMEIS WIII KHOW IT AS WEII.	

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 6	Pray for Abounding Love
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:3-11	
	"And it is my prayer that yo	ur love may abound more and more, " Philippians 1:9a (ESV)
	and several other converts. him financial and moral sup	e church in Philippi with a woman named Lydia The church was loyal to Paul and provided for poort. The church was very dear to him and prayed for them in verses 9-11 suggest things we our church.
	speaking of the Christ-like I Seminary professor Frank S good, regardless of the cos	love would abound more and more. He was love, which in the New Testament is called <i>agape</i> . tagg said it means to relate to others for their t or consequences to oneself. It is the opposite of ng other people, not because they are lovable, but
	efforts. It is the result of the "God's love has been poure	we can produce in our lives through our own e Holy Spirit's work in us. Romans 5:5b says, ed into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has w in our love for one another as we permit God to
	for one another, help one a	ow into us and through us, we will be concerned inother, forgive one another, and destroy the no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5).
	Note: such love is to aboun	d. It is not stingy but over-flowing.
	Prayer	
	Pray that you and your fello like of love.	ow church members will be abounding in Christ-





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 7	Knowledge and Discernment
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:9	
	"And it is my prayer th knowledge and all disc	at your love may abound more and more, with cernment,"
	God because of what t God from our experier until we have experien	efers first to knowledge about God. We know about the Bible teaches us about Him. We also know about nees with Him. We do not understand much about God ced God's forgiveness of our sins and His making each the understand the depth of God's love.
	others. How do you se love or through the ey the love of God throug	d the love of God, you can then show God's love to ee others? Do you see them through the eyes of God's es of jealousy, envy, or anger? If you have experienced gh the mercy and grace He has given you, then you see es of love and extend to them mercy and grace.
	understand them. We desires, and their feelin ways Jesus loved peop "untouchable," to shur caught in adultery by rand to the hungry mul	th discernment. If you really love someone, you try to should be informed about their real needs, their ngs, opinions, and concerns. Think about the different ale. He expressed His love to the leper by touching the need Zacchaeus by eating with Him, to the woman not condemning her and advising her to sin no more, titude by feeding them. We should always be willing scerning love toward others.
	Prayer	
	_	of your congregation, yourself included, will abound ympathetic, and accepting love for each other.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 8	Approve What is Excellent
	Ken Harmon
Read Philippians 1:10a	
" so that you may approve w	hat is excellent, "
discern their real needs so that thinking about discerning value to be judgmental of people, we ideas and behaviors are valuable some bad, some true and some	nment in relationship to people. We are to we can love them effectively. Today we are in ideas and behaviors. Though we are not are to judge ideas and behaviors. Some e, and some are not. Some are good and false, some add to life, and some take away. ke sure something is true, moral, and
"approve what is excellent" can differ." You cannot approve wh things that differ. The idea is to Sometimes the believers in Phili likely, as was true in the church	at is excellent. The Greek phrase translated means "to prove by testing the things that at is excellent unless you can distinguish the be able to distinguish what is vital. ppi had quarrels with each other. More than at Corinth, they were quarreling over a giving a call to approve what is excellent,
Churches quarrel over the color	uarrel that really do not matter? Many do. of carpet, who should clean up after a social, s. Things that do not matter a bit to a lost
Prayer	_
inconsequential arguments that	elievers will not get caught up in hinder both the work and the fellowship of ere will be approval of what is excellent in

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 9	Be Pure and Blameless
		Ken Harmon
	Read Philippians 1:10	
	" be pure and blameless for the da	ay of Christ,"
		a of Philippi. Since other metals can be lect made with gold can vary according bject. Pure gold is highly valuable.
	As believers, our lives are to be pure. to drink, pure food to eat. Why, then what in impure, sinful, and polluting? bride of Christ. Yet sometimes we flir immoral behaviors. Would you want	The Bible depicts the church as the rt with other gods and engage in
	that we are made blameless before G our Savior. See Colossians 1:22. Now things without grumbling or disputing innocent, children of God without ble twisted generation, among whom you	we are not without fault. Remember food because we have accepted Jesus as consider Philippians 2:14-15, "Do all g, that you may be blameless and
	Remember, we are living in light of the When He comes back, He should find Lamb and living in harmony with one	d us ready for the marriage supper of the
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Pray that you and your fellow church blameless in our relationships with or	·

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 10	Filled With the Fruit of Righteousness
	Ken Harmon
Read Philippians 1:	11
" filled with the fr the glory and praise	uit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to of God."
the fruit of righteous of Christ. Paul wante my own that comes Christ, the righteous	members of the church in Philippi would be filled with sness. Paul knew that we are made righteous by the worked to be found in Christ "not having a righteousness of from the law, but that which comes through faith in ness from God that depends on faith " (Philippians ousness before God because he gives it to us when we
us begins to produce it clear, "I am the vin	to actually make us righteous. That happens as Christ in the the fruit of righteousness through us. John 15:5 makes e; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in the rs much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
engaging in church a program. It comes fi His life through us. N	ior is more than just doing good things for others or activities. It is not obeying rules or a self-improvement rom having Jesus in our hearts and allowing Him to live When that happens, the resulting righteousness will not praising each other. Instead, it will result in glory and
Prayer	
you. Pray the same for	abide in Christ and to allow you to let Christ abide in or your fellow church members. Then you will begin to isness church that brings glory to God.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES	
	Day 11 Knowledge of God's Will
	Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:9
	" asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will" (ESV)
	In chapter 1 of Colossians, we have another prayer that Paul prayed for one of his churches, this one the church at Colossae. In some ways his prayer is similar to one the one for the Philippian Christians, but there are differences.
	In verse nine, Paul prayed that the Colossians would have a knowledge of God's will. Some say we cannot know God's will. But God makes his will very plain in the Bible.
	We find God's will in the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-39): we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbor as ourself. Jesus tells us in John 6:40 that everyone who believes in the Son should have eternal life. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) give us ten things that are the will of God. As believers, we are to make disciples of the people around us and assist others to make disciples around the world (Matthew 28:19-20). Paul's letters tell believers the will of God concerning their relationship with one another. Believers are to live in harmony with, love, honor, accept, encourage, serve, be kind and compassionate to, and forgive one another.
	To be filled with the knowledge of God's will, turn to the Bible. It is full of what God's Will is for us and for others.
	Prayer
	Pray that you and your fellow church members will continually gain knowledge of the Will of God as you hear and read God's Word. Ask that all of you will not just know but do the Will of God.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 12	Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding
	Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:9	
" in all spiritual wis	dom and understanding, "
spiritual wisdom and u lost our fear of the Lo of wisdom; all those w	ost Americans, even church going ones, have little understanding. At the heart of the issue is that we have rd. Psalm 11:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning tho practice it have good understanding." Proverbs Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of it."
are all going to heave hell. We forget that w Chasing passing thing gaining worldly things	e our own rules and ignore God's laws. We assume we in and cast aside consideration of the judgment and we will all have to give an account of ourselves to God. Is and ignoring eternal things, we are in danger of and losing our own souls. The remedy? Fearing him soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).
for forgiveness and sa	ear the Lord so that they can repent and turn to Christ Ivation. Believers need to fear the Lord because we will nt of ourselves to Him.
	r fear of the Lord? Remember, He is burning holiness. ne into His presence because Jesus lets His or us.
Prayer	
respect for Him and H matters casually. Only	examine your own life and see if there is a lack of lis power. Make sure you are not treating eternal then, pray for yourself and your fellow church itual wisdom and understanding that guides your

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 13	Walk Worthy of the Lord
		Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:10	
	" walk in a manner worthy o	of the Lord, "
	name. Unfortunately, many be things such as pride, pornogra	ny of the Lord, a life that brings value to his elievers do not do so. They get caught up in phy, greed, anger, selfishness, and prejudice. like the everyone else. Therefore, unbelievers Christians.
		life) in a manner that honors Christ. He used hirty times in his epistles. He is calling us to
	person on the move. There is churches. A man I know becar and returned to his home chur back. You will find that nothin a church or an individual Christ	n and progress. A Christian should be a to be growth in the Christian's life and in me a missionary. After thirty years he retired rch. A church member said to him, "Welcome g has changed." What a terrible indictment of tian! A church should change to reach more ntinually be growing more Christlike. Anything worthy of the Lord.
	Prayer	_
	the Lord. Ask that your lives wi show the beauty and power of	elievers in your church will live a life worthy of all not be a hindrance to unbelievers but will Christ. Pray that your church will be willing to elievers rather than just stay the same because

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 14	Fully Pleasing to Jesus
		Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:10a	
	" fully pleasing to Him: .	"
	[God the Father]." He set th	always do the things that are pleasing to Him he example for us. Paul told us in Ephesians 5:10, ing to the Lord." In 2 Corinthians 5:9 he said, "we im."
	wonderful years together. S more precious that rubies."	three weeks since my wife died. God gave us 51 She was truly the Proverbs 31 wife who was "far Because I loved her, it was my goal to please her. Is her goal to please me. If we love Jesus, it will
	your own list. In the ESV tra the phrase "fully pleasing to to do the things he listed no the knowledge of God, bein	nvolve? Using the Bible, you could probably make anslation of Colossians 1:10 there is a colon after thim." I think Paul was suggesting it pleases God ext: bearing fruit in every good work, increasing in a strengthened with God's might, having y, and giving thanks to God.
	praying for your fellow chur	s that praying is pleasing in God's sight. Keep sch members as you continue through this guide, our good and gracious God.
	Prayer	
	Pray that you and your fello please Jesus.	w church members will make it your goal to

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 15	Fruit Bearing
	Ken Harmor
Read Colossians 1:10b	
" bearing fruit in every good work"	
In John 15 we have Jesus' teaching on bear grape vine. In these verses Jesus tells us: w fruit and be pruned to enable us to bear m must abide in Him (vv. 4-5); and by bearing	re will be cut off if we do not bear ore fruit (v. 2); that to bear fruit we
If you owned an apple orchard and several what would you do? You would get rid of Lord. To do so, we must abide in Jesus. Whe has pronounced us clean when we confremain in Him so that He will bear fruit thro	them. We are to bear fruit for the e are attached by grace to Jesus; essed our sins. But we must
A grapevine must be pruned to bear grape spiritual fruit. Sin must be pruned way. So meaningless pursuits that may not be evil be Attitudes such as jealousy, pride, greed, and Sometimes God prunes churches. Churche country clubs" where the focus becomes a comfortable, and have things our way.	should distractions and but keep us from bearing fruit.  d self-centeredness must go. s can devolve into "spiritual
What are the fruits that need to be produce peach trees produce peaches, and believers. We are also to produce the fruits of the Spirof righteousness (Philippians 1:11).	s should produce other believers.
<u> Prayer</u>	
Pray that the members of your church will a produce the fruit He expects through them	





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

D 16	
Day 16	Growing in the Knowledge of God
	Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:11	
" and increasing in	the knowledge of God;"
Rather it is growing in person's character as y knowledge of my wife me. We grow in our kr	cition of growing in the knowledge of God's Will.  a knowledge of God himself. You learn more about a ou spend time with him or her. I grew in the by living with her and experiencing how she treated nowledge of God by living our lives in his presence. Fout his character, ways, faithfulness, forgiveness, and
God says, "I will put my hearts. And I will be the shall each one teach hi the LORD," for they shal	ophet Jeremiah understood this. In Jeremiah 31:33-34 I law within them, and I will write it on their leir God, and they shall be my people. And no longer is neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know I all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin
God personally. You control know all the facts about Jesus said in John 17:3, true God, and Jesus Ch	istian life is not just knowing about God. It is knowing an know about bread and still starve to death. You can it Christ and Christianity and remain spiritually dead. "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only irist whom you have sent." It is a relationship, not a i. Do you know the Lord or just know about Him?
Prayer	
Pray that you and your	fellow church members will truly know the Lord.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 17	Strengthened with God's Power
	Ken Harmon
 Read Colossians 1:11	
" strengthened with a	all power, according to his glorious might,"
The cars race downhill s gravity to move. Contra	ap Box Derby on TV. It is a youth racing program. ince they are completely unpowered, relying on st that with the Indianapolis 500 or NASCAR races. m have hundreds of horsepower.
down-hill. But following	elievers, Satan wants us to spend our lives coasting the Lord Jesus is an up-hill race. Where do we get by that pleases him and bears fruit for him?
that Jesus' followers hav us who believe accordin	-God supplies the power. Ephesians 1:19-20 tells us the "the immeasurable greatness of His power toward g to the working of His great might that He worked Him for the dead and seated Him at His right hand"
from the dead is able to to live triumphantly for	rrection power! The same power that raised Jesus make us alive together with Christ and empower us Him. No longer do we need to slowly coast downhill. e power to enable us to live lives that count for h and in the world.
Prayer	
Pray first that you will op your life. Ask that those	pen yourself to the power of God in every part of in church with you will open themselves to God's church full of empowered believers would be like.

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# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 18 Endurance
Ken Harmon
Read Colossians 1:11
" for all endurance"
When I was in high school, I ran cross country. A cross country race at that time was somewhat like a mini-marathon, only you were running through the country side and not on streets. In such a race, endurance is more important that speed.
Living the Christian life takes endurance. Endurance is the believer's stance toward the difficult circumstances of life. Just living in this fallen world means that we likely will face difficult times in our marriages, through illness, in economic struggles, or even in our relationships in the church. We will also struggle with temptations and the allure of worldly things. If we follow Jesus faithfully, seeking to live out the will of God, we will be challenged by those who do not understand our commitment. In the face of all these things we need endurance. Endurance means keeping on even when the way is difficult and painful.
Perhaps Hebrews 12:1-2 says it best: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
Luke 18:1 shows us the secret of enduring (not giving up): "And he [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."
Prayer
Pray that the people who make up your congregation will have endurance, will pray, and will not lose heart.





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

NOTES		
	Day 19	Patience
		Ken Harmon
	Read Colossians 1:11	
	" so that you may have patience"	
	Two thoughts come to mind when we think of patien patiently waiting on the return of the Lord Jesus. Jam "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being receives the early and the late rains. You also, be pat hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."	nes 5:7-8 instructs us, ne Lord. See how the patient about it, until it
	The second has to do with how we relate to others. With them. People, even our fellow church members, unpleasant, thoughtless, and even cruel. Later in Colo on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, one another," (Colossians 3:12-13a). We are to be with" one another in the best sense of that idea.	can be grumpy, ossians Paul writes, "Put patience, bearing with
	Think of how many times you have disappointed or fathrough what you did that you should not have done should have done. He has been patient with you ove same patience to your brothers and sisters in Christ	or did not do what you
	<u>Prayer</u>	
	Ask God to grant you and your church family patienc Lord and strength to be patient with each other.	e to wait in hope for the





# "Praying for Fellow Believers"

Day 20	ΣУ
Ken Harm	•
Read Colossians 1:11b-12b	
" with joy; giving thanks to the Father, "	
A boy was visiting his grandfather. His grandfather was known as a very religious man, and was strict, rigid, and dour. After being in his presence awhile, the boy wandered out to the barn and the first animal he saw was a long-faced mule. The boy said, "I see you have grandpa's religion too."	
Too many church members see their religion as a burdensome obligation rather than the joyful experience the Bible shows it to be. Look at a concordance and be amazed at how many times the Bible speaks of joy or being joyful.	
Here are just a few examples: "In your presence there is fullness of joy," Psal 16:11; "God my exceeding joy," Psalm 43:4; "reap with shouts of joy," Psalm 126:5; For the ransomed of the Lord, "Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads," Isaiah 35:10; Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" John 15:11; Paul said to to Thessalonian Christians, "You are our glory and joy" 1 Thessalonians 2:20; and Peter said, "Though you do not see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible" 1 Peter 1:8. Even when we are filled with sorrow, Jesus reminds us our sorrow will be turned into joy (John 16:20), and that we can even rejoice in persecution (Luke 6:23).	/ he nd h
Look around you in a worship service and evaluate the amount of joy you see. Examine your own life; how much joy is there?	
Prayer	
Pray that your life, the lives of your church family, and your whole church we be filled with joy.	ill



