

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH FOCUS

August 2026

Pastor's Message:

LET US PRAY

This Month at RBC

2	"Ask The Pastor"
	Communion 6 pm
9	Leaders Meeting 5 pm
22	Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am Outreach 9 am
30	B2B Services & Potluck Lunch 10 am (There will be no 6 pm service)

I was struck by this quote I heard from a pastor who pastored for 33 years. "We don't pray very much. We pray at meals, maybe.... We may whisper prayers before a tough meeting that we're walking into. We may throw Him a kiss as we crawl into bed. But we don't set aside significant, regular, daily, disciplined time to pray in those ways much. And we don't think it's worth it to meet with others to pray, by and large. And we wonder, 'Why is my faith weak?' 'Why is my hope feeble?' 'Why is my passion for Christ small?' I hate the devil. I hate the way he is killing some of you by persuading you **it's legalistic to do regular, set-aside, disciplined praying**. I hate the devil and the way he's killing you, that it is legalistic to be as regular in your prayers as you are in eating your food, in sleeping, in Internet use... If we don't eat, we starve. We don't drink, we die of thirst. If we don't exercise a muscle, it atrophies. If we don't breathe, we suffocate. And just as there are physical means of life, there are spiritual means of grace. It's so simple. And so many of you trying to live your life without breathing, eating, drinking, exercising... and you wonder, what's wrong? 'It's Your fault! [blaming God] It's not His fault!'"

It's not God's fault, it's our fault! Because we do not pray! We do not call upon God and ask for strength,

It's not God's fault, it's our fault! Because we do not pray! We do not call upon God and ask for strength, wisdom and guidance. We *are commanded to pray*—"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The duration of prayer is to be without *ceasing*. There are three clues which help us understand what Paul means here. First, our prayer is to be done in an attitude of *dependence*. When Paul wrote, "pray without ceasing," he intended that we practice dependence on God *all the time*. Dependence is the very essence of prayer. You are calling on the Lord because you're dependent on Him for everything—wisdom in decision-making, and strength to do and accomplish His purposes for you.

Second, our prayer is to be done in a state of *default*. Years ago, when we finally settled in our place, I was able to get the girls bikes working. I was in my study and I could hear their yip-yapping as they rode their bikes in the backyard. Then suddenly, one sister said, "Oh no! My tire is flat!" Do you know what their *default* was? One of the other sisters said, "Go, tell Daddy! Can you come and fix my tire?" Kids teach us that their default asking for help is Daddy. In the same manner, we ought to have the default of praying to our Abba Father in heaven!

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Men's Breakfast

Saturday August 22 | 8 am



Outreach

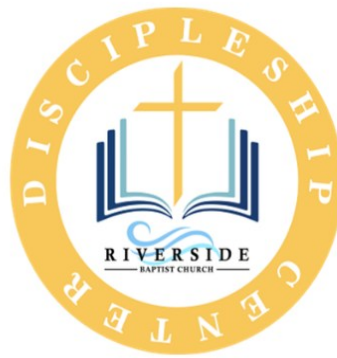
Saturday August 22 | 9 am





Men's Prayer

Attention RBC Men!
Join your brothers in Christ
every Tuesday and Friday
at 4:30 pm in Pastor's
office for a special time of
prayer & worship.



Discipleship Center

Come check out the DC!
Books, Bible Studies, and
more...there's something
for everyone!

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

Morning Worship Service 10am
Children's Discipleship
(2nd & 4th Sunday)
Choir Practice TBA
Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm
Kids Night Out 7pm

HAVE A GREAT
Summer



On Summer Break

**Men's & Women's
Bible Studies**

Adventure Club

Discipleship Class

Youth Discipleship

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail

RIVERSIDE
—BAPTIST CHURCH—

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Pastor: Christian Torres



**Children's
Discipleship
Ages 3-11**

**2nd & 4th
Sundays**

HOMEBUILDERS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Carried And Called To Follow

Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead. There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

The Marks Of A Leader

Leaders should aspire to look like small boys in August. If you raise children or grandchildren, you know that by the end of August, they've been running around all summer in their shorts, sneakers and T-shirts. You also know that their knees and their elbows are always skinned, their shins always black and blue, and that they have the marks of the summer's fracas on their faces. A 6-year-old boy at the end of summer is my picture of a leader.

I got that picture from David Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Many years ago he told me that leaders need to learn not to inflict pain, but to bear pain. It seems to me that if you're bearing pain properly as a leader, whether you're a preacher, a college professor, a parent or a teacher, you ought to have the marks of the struggle. One ought to have bruised shins and skinned knees.

—Max DePree, Leadership Jazz

Let Us Pray

(Continued from front page)

Third, our prayer is to be done with *discipline*. What is the nature of discipline? It is in the fact of repetition and consistency and persistency. The apostle mentions this word in his letter to the Romans (see 1:9).

Moreover, I want to answer for you the question: *why we ought to cultivate a culture of prayerfulness in the house of God, in our own houses, and even in public settings?* **Because of the command of God.** Paul's exhortation is in the present, second person, imperative verb. Therefore, it is in an imperative sense—a command of God. The implication for us is: when we don't pray without ceasing, we are actually in direct violation of the command of God.

Because of the confirmation by Christ. In the *Gospel of Luke*, we find Christ confirming the command of God to pray without ceasing. "And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1; cf. 3:21, 5:15-16, 6:12, 9:18, 28).

Because of the co-ministration of the Spirit. The co-ministration of the Holy Spirit is found in His intercessory ministry for us. Look at how the apostle addresses our incompetence and incapability in the ministry of prayer. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*" (Romans 8:26-27). Therefore, my beloved brethren, pray without ceasing.

Because of God's Grace,



Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher