

**Friday**, September 2: Read [2 Timothy 1:9](#), [Romans 8](#)

*“It is by grace that we are saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not of works, lest any man should boast,”* ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)). If you read further in [Ephesians 2](#) you realize we are God’s handiwork to do good works, which God has prepared for us to do. When recalling Samson’s life keep this in mind. Although Samson did not act wisely at times, God set him apart to judge Israel and to set His people free from the Philistines. God accomplished His will. Samson paid a price for his sinful ways. How can we avoid similar pitfalls and accomplish God’s purpose for our lives? Read [Psalm 119:11](#) and recall Samson last act *“and he pushed with all his might...”* Let us push with all our might.

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola Africa), **Ivan & Kim Hoyt** (Argentina), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Nate & MaryBeth Brace** (Kentucky), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Randy & Kari Ash**, **John Smith** (CEF), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (S. Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (YWAM), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes).

### **Specific Concerns:**

- **BOLD Faith** initiative in September
- **Tijuana Mission Trip** that is set for November 20-26

### **Pray this weekend:**

- Review of the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- Note any ongoing concerns to pray for the week.
- Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.



## Spiritual Disciplines

### Reading Assignments

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters of the Bible according to the date.
- Underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.
- Think about what you’re reading. Ask:
  1. How does this apply to me?
  2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
  3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

## Weekly Readings

**Monday**, August 29: Read [Judges 11](#), [Hebrews 11](#)

Ask yourself in what ways was Jephthah spot on with regards to faith? How does [Heb. 11:6](#) prove true? Read [Romans 14:22-23](#) and ask how Jephthah’s vow was out of sorts with faith? In what way did Jephthah sin? (Missed the bull’s eye as an archer shoots at a target, or did he shoot at the wrong target altogether?) Have you ever tried “sweetening the pot” so to speak with God, promising something in return if He would bless your endeavors? Does sweetening the pot diminish faith? (“...faith the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.” [Heb. 11:1](#))

1. My relationship with God.
2. My life roles
3. My personal needs/weak areas
4. Goals and objectives

**Tuesday**, August 30: Read [Proverbs 21:1, 30-31, Ezra 1](#)

Application 2 from Pastor Jim's message asks, "Can you trust God to work out His plan in a crooked generation, even with flawed leadership? How are we to be involved in realizing God's plan for our lives, the lives of family members, the church and Branch County? Is it good enough to simply say, "God's will be done"? ([1 Tim. 2:1-3](#), [Jeremiah 29:7](#), [Matt. 6:5-14](#), [Proverbs 16:1-3](#)).

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

**Wednesday** August 31: Read [Romans 12](#), [Prov. 20:24-25](#), [Phil. 2:12-18](#), [Mark 4:18-19](#)

Recall yesterday's devotional reading about trusting God to work out His plan. Do you know what part you play in His plan? You can be sure that God is working His plan in the world and in your life. We may not be aware of it but we can be sure of it. Therefore, what are we to be about? What desire of the heart has God given you? What are your gifts? Find someone who can pray with you and encouraged you to "work out your salvation," and to make it a reality.

**Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

**(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

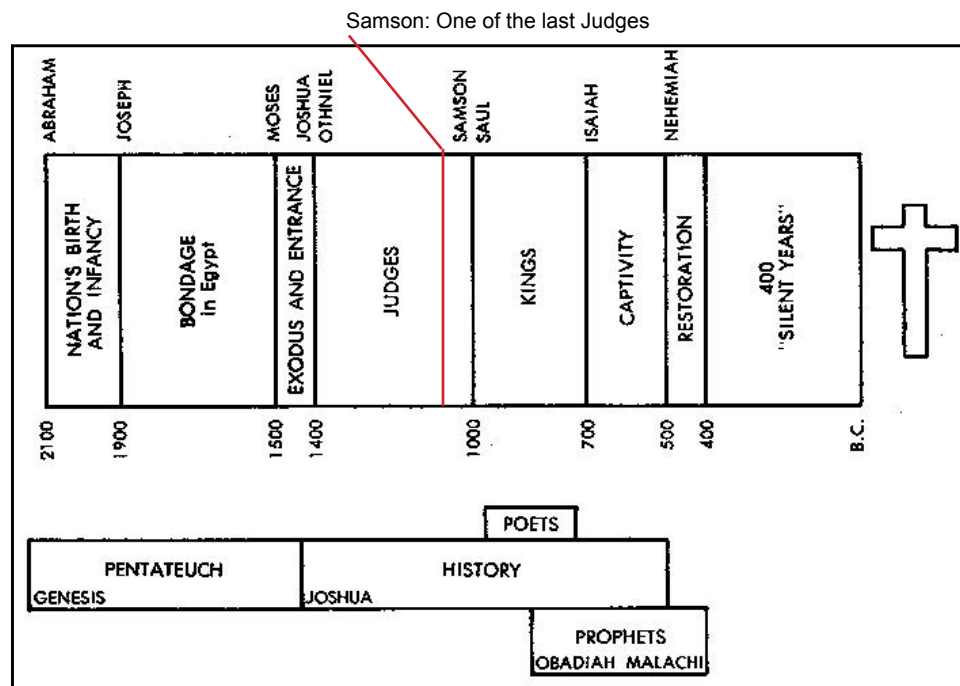
- Pastors: Pray for God's grace & guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for the Youth and children's ministries here at BGCC.
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people.
- Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future Pray for God's clear leading in 2016 and beyond.

**Thursday**, September 1: Read [Hebrews 11](#)—"Faith in Action"

"Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor," [Proverbs 29:23](#). When looking at Samson's life we see a "man's man." He is a hunter, a warrior and loves beautiful women. He meets the characteristics of a Greek hero cult. His character flaws cause his demise. However, there is a lot more to the man and to the story. Read Psalm 120 and ask "How does this describe Samson's last act in Judges 16: 23-30?" What does Samson's last word, "[Sovereign Lord, remember me](#)", reveal about his understanding of God (Judges 16:28).

**Pray for "My World"**

- Neighbors • People at Work • Others God bring into my life
- Continue to pray for the nation, our county and area churches.
- Thank God for "THE CALL" prayer event and the response of our area churches. Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.



<http://hkbible.com/OldTestamentSurvey/5.htm>