

Friday, January 17: Read [Ephesians 4:16](#)

This verse highlights how every church should operate. Notice Christ, not the pastor or a church board is the head. Pray that Bethel Gilead would continually look to our head for guidance, help and grace. Next, the body is joined and held together. People are committed to being there, being part of supporting and helping one another. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move all of us to a greater sense of community and togetherness. We need one another! Note the role of love in the church. Not coercion by guilt or fear, but genuine love and concern drives us as a congregation. Pray that love would be our main incentive for serving Christ as a local church fellowship. Finally, notice that each part does its work in edifying the body. Ask God to make us a church where every member is a minister. (See also [1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#)).

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), , **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezowski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia), **William and Salma Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)

Week of
January 12
2020



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and 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.*

Monday, January 13 Read [Ephesians 4:1-8](#)

Let's go back to our calling as we start the week. Review Paul's words at Ephesus. Personalize them. What is my calling? Am I living worthy of it? How well do I reflect each of the 5 virtues in verse 2? Note the same in [Colossians 3:12-14](#).

How am I modelling the unity of the Spirit? Note [John 17:20-23](#). Am I united with other believers besides the people at Bethel Gilead? Do Christians from other churches know that I support them? Do they sense my encouragement rather than feeling that I'm competing with them?

Finally (verse 7-8), do I know what my gifting is and am I using my gift to serve others? If not, what do I need to do next?

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for 2020

Tuesday, January 14: Read [Ephesians 4:9-10](#)

Let's pause to consider the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The text says he descended and ascended. How low did he go? (Note [Philippians 2:5-8](#), [Hebrews 2:14-18](#)). And, how high has Jesus Christ ascended? (Note [Ephesians 1:9-10, 20-27](#), [Philippians 2:9-11](#), [Colossians 1:15-19](#)). What do we learn about Christ's present position of power and glory from these verses?

Now, check yourself. Are you presently fully submitted to Jesus Christ as Lord over all your life? Is there any area of your life that needs to be placed back under his headship (leadership)? If so, take some time to pray. Willingly acknowledge his Lordship and submit all of yourself and all you possess under his rightful rule and leadership. Ask him to help you to so live each day -- fully submitted to Jesus Christ as head.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday January 15: Read [Ephesians 4:11-16](#)

Go back once more and reinforce your understanding of how spiritual gifts operate within the church. According to verses 12, 13 and 16, what should be the outcome of God using gifts within the body of Christ? See also [1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:1-5](#). How is God using your spiritual gift to strengthen, encourage and edify other believers? If you are not sure, what do you need to do next to better develop and use your spiritual gift? Check in with Pastor Jim if you have any questions about this?

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. Leadership: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#)).
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.

5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others, especially through the Kingdom Assignments and the upcoming Kingdom Projects.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, January 16: Read [Ephesians 4:13](#)

What exactly is spiritual maturity? Notice in this verse the different ways Paul describes it: unity in the faith, knowledge of the Son of God, whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Does this describe you? This is God's purpose for gifts in the church -- to build people up in Christ-likeness! How are we doing? Where are we falling short? See also the following verses: [Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23](#), [James 1:2-4](#), [Hebrews 5:11-6:3](#), [Colossians 4:12](#).

Let's take a cue from Epaphras and pray for one another that we might stand firm in the will of God and become mature and fully assured in our faith.

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors • People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Hope Outreach, Forgotten Man Ministries, Foster Closet of Branch County, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons.
- America -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.