

**Friday**, May 15: Read [2 Corinthians 11:16 - 12:10](#)

The Apostle Paul begrudgingly admits the depths of suffering and adversities he has faced as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Even so, he is obviously not impressed with himself or with what he's been through. Notice his admission of weakness which ultimately acknowledges the sufficiency of God's grace and power. Now skip back to chapter one of [2 Corinthians](#). Read verses 8-11. The key to perseverance is finding your moorings in God in the worst of life's storms. The principle lesson Paul points us to today, as was true for him then, is our basic need to rely on God. And not just any God, but the God who raises the dead (verse 9); the God who delivers from deadly perils (verse 10); the God of all comfort (verse 4) and the Father of compassion (verse 3). Can you see God like Paul did? Maybe, like him, our present difficulties and even sufferings will expand our perspective of God. I hope so!

**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), **Brendan and Ashley Camp** (Columbia)

Week of  
May 10  
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**, May 11: Read [Isaiah 36-37](#)

The book of Isaiah highlights King Hezekiah's reign with a four chapter interlude midstream through his book. It's for good reason. Hezekiah models faith in God in the face of death. Read chapters 36 and 37 with an eye on ancient Israel and the other on modern America. Note Hezekiah's refusal to act in fear or doubt. Instead, he inquires of the Lord first through the prophet Isaiah, and then in personal worship at the temple. God assures him of his protection and again reminds the King of his (God's) ultimate sovereignty. There's great comfort for all who truly seek the Lord and who are reminded above all thing, that the Lord is God!

**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**, May 12: Read [Isaiah 38](#)

Chapter 38 takes us from a national crisis in Israel to a personal crisis in terms of the king's own health. Again, notice Hezekiah's repentant, humble and sincere devotion to God. Apparently, his prayers have leverage with God because Isaiah delivers the turnaround response from the Lord. Read carefully Hezekiah's psalm of thanksgiving (verses 10-20). Like King David, he gives us a sound pattern of prayer and praise, one that we could follow in our own afflictions. By the way, God hasn't moved an inch. What he did do for the nation and the King back then, he could so do for us and for our country today. Perhaps we need more Isaiahs and Hezekiahs in our present national crisis.

**Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.**

## **Wednesday** May 13: Read [Joshua 7](#)

Going back to the era of Moses and now Joshua, read carefully this account of how the corruption and disobedience of one man cost the nation the lives of many and their first defeat in the battle for the promised land. Don't underestimate the influence of sin. It's wages are still death in some form or fashion. We must beware of moral compromise, whether in a family, in a church, in business, government or in national affairs. The "Achans" of this world can still act a spoilers in God's workings. They need to be taken seriously, perhaps not by death, but definitely by eliminating their influence in all things Christian. Otherwise, we could become vulnerable, just like ancient Israel.

**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 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**, May 14: Read [1 Samuel 3, 7](#)

At the tail end of one of the most tumultuous periods of Old Testament history, the judges, God raises up the final judge of Israel -- Samuel. He is more than a judge, he's a prophet of God. He will inaugurate the kingdom years by anointing the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David. Read about his calling as a young boy and then skip forward to the revival that comes to the nation at one of its lowest moments. "Ebenezer" is a standard rock of Israel that we as Americans could just as well erect. The Lord has helped us to this point in history. We can, and should, trust him for our future years.

**Thursday: Pray for "My World"**

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

- **Neighbors** • People who live around me.
- **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?
- **Community** -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through the Coronavirus crisis.
- 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 and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- **America** -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the Coronavirus outbreak to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ.