



# 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting Daily Guide

## INTRODUCTION

# 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting



As our church has asked God for guidance on solutions for our future growth, we would be remiss if we didn't seek His continued wisdom and direction as we move forward. Starting August 24 and for the next 39 days, we are asking our members to join in praying for His wisdom, His provision, and His guidance as we follow in obedience. Below are forty days of prayer prompts for specific things we are asking God to provide and do as we watch His plan unfold. Every day, we can pray the following things together as a church family:

- **Pray for unity.** As one body with many parts and functions, ask the Lord to grant us unity of heart as we move forward. Request His guidance to bring clarity where it is needed to prevent confusion, which is often the cause of disunity. (1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-3)
- **Pray for God's intervention and His plans.** Ask God to help our church and staff see obstacles and interruptions as His protection. Pray that He helps us develop strong trust in His plans for our own. (Psalm 33:11)
- **Pray for wisdom in the minds and hearts of those sitting at tables where key decisions are being made.** What man lacks in understanding, the Lord can provide through His Spirit. (Proverbs 2:6-8)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting

## 1. Preparing your heart for the journey.

- **Acknowledge God's Ownership:** Recognize that everything belongs to God, and any resources gained through the fundraiser are His to use for His purposes.
- **Examine your motives:** Make sure your desire for the new building is motivated by a sincere wish to glorify God and help others, not by personal gain or recognition.
- **Confess and repent of sin:** Humbly admit any disobedience or unrighteousness and seek God's forgiveness and cleansing.
- **Surrender completely to Jesus:** Commit to follow God's guidance throughout, trusting His plan and provision.
- **Cultivate a spirit of expectation:** Believe that God can do immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine.
- **Prepare for spiritual opposition:** Recognize that spiritual warfare might intensify during this period and depend on the Holy Spirit's power to overcome temptation and discouragement.

## 2. Fasting options and approaches.

- **Consider your physical health:** It is important to evaluate your physical health before engaging in any type of fasting. Consult a healthcare professional before making significant changes to your diet or routine, especially if you have existing health conditions.
- **Focus on spiritual discipline:** Fasting is a spiritual discipline intended to draw you closer to God. It can involve abstaining from certain foods, activities, or habits to create more time and focus for prayer, meditation, and seeking God's will.
- **Understand the purpose:** Fasting is not about manipulating God, but humbling yourself before Him, seeking His will, and drawing closer to Him.

- **Define your fast:** Determine what you will abstain from for the 40 days, which may include specific meals, sweets, entertainment (social media, TV), or non-essential activities. Select something that you will truly miss. View it as a sacrifice for these forty days.
- **Purposeful fasting:** Use the time and resources gained from your fast to intentionally seek God through prayer, Bible reading, and acts of service.
- **Focus on God's Word:** When hunger pains or desires for what you've given up arise, turn to Scripture for encouragement and spiritual nourishment.
- **Repent and seek forgiveness:** Confess any sin and accept God's forgiveness. Seek forgiveness from those you have offended and forgive those who have hurt you.
- **Surrender to Jesus as Lord:** Refuse to obey your worldly nature and commit to following Jesus wholeheartedly.
- **Begin with an expectant heart:** Believe that God hears your prayers and is faithful to answer.
- **Prepare physically:** If doing a food fast, consider eating smaller meals leading up to the fast to ease the transition.

### 3. Daily prayer points and focus.

- **Set aside dedicated time:** Schedule a specific time and place each day for prayer, Bible reading, and reflection.
- **Alignment with God's Will:** Pray for clear guidance and direction from God regarding the building project and its purpose.
- **Provision and Resources:** Ask God to bless and multiply the giving of the congregation and to raise the necessary financial resources for the building.
- **Unity and Spirit of Generosity:** Pray for a spirit of unity among the congregation and for joyful, cheerful givers who understand the biblical principles of stewardship.
- **Protection and Peace:** Pray for divine protection over the leaders and Strategy Team from spiritual warfare, and for peace to reign in the hearts of all involved.
- **Reaching the Lost:** Pray that the new building will serve as a tool to reach the lost, care for the needy, and transform lives for God's kingdom.
- **Praise and Thanksgiving:** Express gratitude for God's faithfulness and provision, even before the fundraising goals are met.

## 4. Additional considerations.

- **Journaling:** Document your thoughts, reflections, and prayers throughout the 40 days to track your spiritual growth and remember God's faithfulness.
- **Acts of Service:** Look for opportunities to serve and bless others as an expression of your faith and love for God.
- **Follow-up:** Continue to cultivate a life of prayer and stewardship after the 40 days, applying the spiritual lessons learned.



**Pray for what is to come in ministry through First Baptist Cleburne, both now and in the future.** Pray that our church will not be in a “wait mode” regarding what is to come, but that we will anticipate the opportunities today to continue to grow His Kingdom in our current state. (Galatians 6:9-10, 1 Peter 4:10)

# 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting

**Sunday, August 24 – Day 1: Isaiah 66:1-2**

Pray that, as we enter this new season, we would have a fresh realization of God's immense power and believe that nothing is impossible for Him.

**Monday, August 25 – Day 2: John 17:20-21**

Pray for us to have a spirit of humility and hearts that are in harmony with God's will for our church and for the future decisions our church will need to make regarding Phase 1a, Phase 1b, and beyond.

**Tuesday, August 26 – Day 3: Matthew 25:34-36**

Pray for the church staff that they will listen to the Lord and lead with unity and effective communication, enabling us to work together to achieve a facility that will help our church maximize its ministry within the church and the community. Thank the Lord for our support staff team members, who enable us to work with greater capacity and engage more effectively in ministry within our community and church.

**Wednesday, August 27 – Day 4: Psalms 127:1**

Pray that a spirit of hospitality would characterize our church and that our future facility would be a place where the light is always on, where the stranger is welcomed, and where the lonely find a family.

**Thursday, August 28 – Day 5: Jeremiah 32:17**

Pray for the members of the Strategy Team to have inspiration to design a facility of beauty and function that reflects the heart of Christ in the community and draws the community in to seek answers only found in Jesus.

**Friday, August 29 – Day 6: Romans 16:3-5**

Pray for all groups meeting in our church and in homes, that they would be a place where we can experience community, transformation, discipleship, and impact through missions.

**Saturday, August 30 – Day 7: Philippians 4:4**

Pray for the joy of the Lord to overflow in our congregation. Ask God to help us exhibit that joy to our community throughout the week. Ask God to allow that joy to be evident in every worship service as we express our praise and worship to the Lord.

**Sunday, August 31 – Day 8: Ephesians 6:19**

Pray for Pastor Cliff that he would have wisdom, power, endurance, joy, and peace in all circumstances. Please pray that the sermons Pastor Cliff preaches will result in a life-changing experience for the people who hear them.

**Monday, September 1 – Day 9: Ephesians 5:22-33**

Pray that God would strengthen and protect marriages in our church. Pray that our future facility would be a place where marriages are restored and invigorated.

**Tuesday, September 2 – Day 10: John 17:14-15**

Pray against attacks from the enemy who will try to divide us and discourage us during this season of progress. Praise God that He already has the victory.

**Wednesday, September 3 – Day 11: Psalms 144:12**

Pray for Kerri Abbott and the students in our youth ministry. Ask that the Lord would strengthen and enliven their faith. Pray that the students know that they, too, have a part in giving and sacrificing to help fund the new facility.

**Thursday, September 4 – Day 12: Acts 4:29-31**

Pray for Sam Patty and our Senior Adult Ministry. Pray for those who participate that they will be encouraged and strengthened to continue to serve in our church and community. The work of a Christian never ends – there is no retirement from serving the Lord.

**Friday, September 5 – Day 13: Mark 12:29-31**

Pray that God would give us a heart for our neighbors. Ask that the Lord would break down the barriers that keep us from reaching out and help us to love them well. Ask the Lord to help you be bold in inviting someone to church this coming Sunday to attend with you and your family.

**Saturday, September 6 – Day 14: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

Pray for those who are hurting in our congregation, that God would reach out and comfort them. Pray for fresh eyes to look at the people you pass. Ask the Lord to help you begin making affirming comments to those around you. Pray that others see this same comfort when they encounter members of First Baptist Cleburne.

**Sunday, September 7 – Day 15: Hebrews 12:1-3**

Pray that God would help you throw off the sin that so easily entangles you and help you fix your eyes on Jesus so that God can make you more like Him. Ask God to convict you of specific sins that hold you back. Confess those sins and make specific plans to break free from sinful patterns in your life.

**Monday, September 8 – Day 16: Isaiah 41:10**

Pray that our church will continuously operate in faith, not in fear. Pray that we are a church that boldly approaches God to strengthen us when our faith is weak. Pray that our bold faith is a testimony to those who are watching us both as a church body and as individual members of First Baptist Cleburne.

**Tuesday, September 9 – Day 17: Ephesians 2:6-10**

Pray that our new facility would give us a greater capacity and opportunities to fulfill our vision in the Cleburne area. Pray that sharing the Gospel will always be more important than a building to hold the people, but that people will invite others into the building to hear the Gospel.

**Wednesday, September 10 – Day 18: Matthew 19:13-15**

Pray for Leighton Martinez as she leads First Baptist Preschool and for Debbie Goulding as she leads the kids' ministry at First Baptist Cleburne. Pray that the kids in our church enjoy coming to church and are introduced to the truths of the gospel every time they come. Ask God that our new building would be a place where generations of our kids say "Yes!" to following Jesus.

**Thursday, September 11 – Day 19: 1 John 1:1-5**

Pray for our staff as they create resources to invite people into our congregation and as they help us share the gospel through visual means. Ask the Lord to use the resources and graphics developed by our staff to point people to Jesus and to bring them into fellowship at First Baptist Cleburne.



**Friday, September 12 – Day 20: John 4:24**

Pray for Brandon Treadway and our Music Ministry. Pray for all our volunteer leaders in this ministry. Pray for Wednesday nights to be meaningful times of musical and spiritual preparation for Sundays. Pray that there would be times of authentic fellowship and discipleship. Pray that Sunday morning services will be filled with worship that is grounded in the Spirit and the Truth.

**Saturday, September 13 – Day 21: Psalm 119:62**

Pray for our adult ministry teams. Ask God that we would be a church that hungers for God's word. Pray that adult Bible studies would be times of refreshment and growth in the word.

**Sunday, September 14 – Day 22: Philippians 4:19**

Pray that God would supply all that we need (money, wisdom, patience, joy, volunteers, etc.) out of His infinite resources and that we would trust Him to do it. Ask the Lord how He intends for you to respond in obedience to serve at church, being part of His plan for supplying leadership needs at First Baptist Cleburne.

**Monday, September 15 – Day 23: 1 Peter 5:1-3**

Pray for our deacons and their families. Ask God to give our deacons an eagerness and passion to serve the flock. Pray that God reveals to our deacons areas in their lives where they can model servant leadership as they reflect Jesus in their service to our church and community. Ask God to give them greater sensitivity to know how to support our staff as they lead during a critical time in the life of our church.

**Tuesday, September 16 – Day 24: Luke 9:47-48**

Pray for our family ministry volunteers. Ask God to give them a love for the preschoolers, children, and students at First Baptist Cleburne. Pray that as they prepare to teach their groups, the Lord will allow them to first find personal application. Then ask that He would give leaders creativity and strength as they teach the passage to their groups, as they lead their participants to live out the application of the lesson each week.

**Wednesday, September 17 – Day 25: Jeremiah 29:7**

Pray for the community around First Baptist Cleburne. Ask God to move our church family to do good in our community and to seek to be a blessing to our neighbors. Pray that God will bring people in this community to Himself and that our church will be ready to receive them, with seats available in both the sanctuary and our Sunday School Small Groups. As you celebrate the greatest gift of Jesus today, ask God to help you point others in this community to Him.

**Thursday, September 18 – Day 26: John 8:36**

Pray for David Dean and the Celebrate Recovery program. Pray for the men and women who are seeking to find freedom from addiction. Pray that addictions would be broken in our church and that our future facility would be a place where people continue to find acceptance in a church family and find freedom from addiction in Jesus.

**Friday, September 19 – Day 27: Psalms 84:10**

Pray for the Welcome Team at First Baptist Cleburne. Pray that our greeter team would continue to serve with joy and be expectant that the Lord would bring those who need to hear the gospel through the doors of our church. Pray that every member would greet those around them with warmth and acceptance.

**Saturday, September 20 – Day 28: Ephesians 4:1-3**

Pray that grace and peace would characterize our church as we encounter any potential problems that might arise in this season of seeking solutions and wise counsel. Ask God to provide solutions when questions arise and to bring unity that surpasses our understanding.

**Sunday, September 21 – Day 29: 2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

Pray for every member at First Baptist Cleburne to have sensitivity to the Spirit as they seek direction regarding their giving to the Legacy of Faith Fund. Ask God to give every member, regardless of age and income, a spirit of generosity as we pray about giving.

**Monday, September 22 – Day 30: Matthew 28:19-20**

Ask God to give our church a local, national, and global mindset regarding kingdom work. Ask God to use our church and facility to raise future ministers, missionaries, and church planters that can be sent out from our community.

**Tuesday, September 23 – Day 31: Matthew 11:28–30**

Pray for our church to find rest in Jesus. We hope that our future facility will be a place of restoration and refreshment for the weary. Pray for those seeking architectural and financial solutions for our new facility to rely on the strength of the Lord and His solutions, rather than man's solutions.

**Wednesday, September 24 – Day 32: Revelation 7:9**

Pray that God will increase the diversity in our church family, that First Baptist Cleburne will be a place for people of every race, class, age, and background. Ask the Lord to help people in our congregation invite others into fellowship with us as they meet new people in the community during the week.

**Thursday, September 25 – Day 33: Acts 2:42–47**

Pray for our Adult Sunday School Leaders. Ask God to help them not only focus on the Scripture passage each week but also to help group members engage in fellowship and discipleship. Ask God to give leaders sensitivity to reach out to those who are missing and to address the barriers that would keep people away from fellowship.

**Friday, September 26 – Day 34: Deuteronomy 6:6–7**

Pray for First Baptist Cleburne parents. Ask God to give them patience, strength, wisdom, and joy as they love their children and train them up in the Gospel. Ask God to help dads lead their families spiritually. Ask God to help moms not to grow weary in caring for their children and discipling them.

**Saturday, September 27 – Day 35: Romans 5:1–5**

Pray for the GriefShare ministry and its leaders. Pray that the participants find hope, healing, and comfort that can only come from Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, September 28 – Day 36: Ephesians 6:18**

Pray that our future facility would be a safe place for people to share their burdens and confess their sins. Ask that each member of First Baptist Cleburne listen to each other and bear each other's burdens through prayer and action to meet others' needs.

**Monday, September 29 – Day 37: Matthew 5:23–24**

Pray that we would be quick to reconcile with one another when we have been wronged. Pray that no roots of bitterness would be allowed to fester.

**Tuesday, September 30 – Day 38: Lamentations 3:22-23**

Pray that God would be glorified for His incredible faithfulness to us. Reflect on how God has answered your prayers or how He has spoken to you during this season of prayer.

**Wednesday, October 1 – Day 39: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

Pray for fresh realizations of the gospel among our members, that we would never take the gospel for granted. Pray that we would have a heart for the unchurched and disenfranchised and be quick to share the gospel with others in word and deed.

**Thursday, October 2 – Day 40: Hebrews 12:14**

Pray for continued prayer and alertness as we continue to intercede for our church, its leaders, and our future facility in the months ahead. Continue to make every effort to live in peace with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask God to allow those in our community to see Christ in all members at First Baptist Cleburne.

**Legacy of Faith Banquet**

Sunday, October 5 @ 6:00 p.m.

In the church gymnasium

RSVP by scanning the QR Code

